ENGLISH LITERATURE MAJOR (B.A.)

https://cola.unh.edu/english/program/ba/english-literature

Description

The English literature major serves those students who want to focus particularly on the study of literature — its many forms and styles, its rich history and the range of approaches to its analysis. The English literature track is an especially attractive major for those who plan to go on to graduate school.

As an English literature major, a student will learn about various literary traditions, both British and American literature as well as traditions organized around other principles, such as post-colonial literature, women’s literature, African-American literature and genres like poetry and drama. Courses are designed to expose students to many different sorts of works and to help them develop questions and strategies of critical thinking that will make all kinds of literary expression meaningful. And the works students will study will provide many ways of looking at the world and enrich their quality of life. What’s more, students have many opportunities to hone critical writing and research skills and to practice the art of presenting research findings to a group, all skills in high demand in today’s workplace. The English literature major is an excellent way to combine development of interpretive and writing skills with an exciting, in-depth encounter with some of the very best writing ever produced in the English language.

Students interested in majoring in English literature should consult Carla Cannizzaro, Senior Academic Advisor, Department of English, 230F Hamilton Smith Hall, (603) 862-1313 or the director of the English literature program.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 128 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 32 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum GPA: 2.0 required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: Yes

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

*Major GPA requirements as indicated.

Major Requirements

- The required minimum overall GPA in major coursework is 2.0.
- English Literature majors may use one major-required course to satisfy one Discovery category requirement.
- Majors may only count one online course toward their English major requirements.
- English literature majors complete a minimum of 40 credits of major coursework with a grade of C- or better.

- ENGL 401, ENGL 415, or ENGL 444 may not be used to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of six courses must be completed at the 600-level or higher.

Code | Title |
--- | --- |
ENGL 419 | How to Read Anything | 1 |
Select two 500-level literature courses (see list below) |
Select two Pre-1800 literature courses (see list below) |
Select two Post-1800 literature courses (see list below) |
ENGL 714 | Critical Skills |
Select one American literature course at the 600/700 level |
Select one British literature course at the 600/700 level |
Select one course that addresses race, the construction of race, and racial theories in a U.S. context (see list below) |
Select one course that investigates Anglophone literature in a global or transnational context (see list below) 2 |
Select one course in a specific genre including, poetry, memoir, nonfiction, drama, fiction, and film (see list below) |
Capstone |
ENGL 787 | English Major Seminar |

1 Must be completed with a minimum grade of C. ENGL 419 is the only 400-level course that may count towards major requirements.

2 With the exception of ENGL 533 Introduction to Film Studies.

Code | Title |
--- | --- |
ENGL/LING 405 | Introduction to Linguistics |
ENGL 501 | Introduction to Creative Nonfiction |
ENGL 502 | Professional and Technical Writing |
ENGL 503 | Persuasive Writing |
ENGL 510 | Introduction to the Digital Humanities |
ENGL #511 | Major Writers in English |
ENGL 512 | British Literature I Age of Heroes: Beowulf to Dr. Faustus |
ENGL 513W | British Literature II Age of Revolutions: Shakespeare to Austen |
ENGL 514W | British Literature III: Revolts, Renewals, Migrations |
ENGL 516W | American Literature II: Money, Migration, and Modernity: Huck Finn to Beloved |
ENGL 518W | Bible as Literature |
ENGL 520 | Dystopian and Post-Apocalyptic Fiction |
ENGL #521 | Nature Writers |
ENGL 526 | Introduction to Fiction Writing |
ENGL 527 | Introduction to Poetry Writing |
ENGL 533 | Introduction to Film Studies |
ENGL 534 | 21st Century Journalism: How the News Works |
ENGL #549 | In the Groove: African American Music as Literature |
ENGL 550 | Introduction to the Literature and Culture of Race |
ENGL 555 | Science Fiction |
ENGL #560 | Introduction to Latin Literature and Culture |
ENGL 575 | Sex and Sensuality: The Rise of Chick Lit |
ENGL 581 | Reading the Postcolonial Experience |
ENGL 585 | Introduction to Women in Literature |
ENGL #585R | Introduction to Women in Literature |
ENGL 596 | Literary Topics |
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English Literature Major (B.A.)

Courses in a specific genre including poetry, memoir, nonfiction, drama, fiction, and film

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 796</td>
<td>Chaucer</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 758</td>
<td>Advanced Shakespeare</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL #758R</td>
<td>Advanced Shakespeare</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 750</td>
<td>Milton</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL #750</td>
<td>Drama of Shakespeare's Contemporaries: Will and Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 787</td>
<td>English Major Seminar (if topic is appropriate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL #787R</td>
<td>English Major Seminar (if topic is appropriate)</td>
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</tbody>
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Please see your advisor if you have questions about other courses that might fulfill these requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

All undergraduate English majors acquire the same core skills. These include:

- Proficiency in analytical writing, critical thinking, and public-speaking.
- Knowledge of important literary genres and subgenres
- Fluency in literary terminology.
- A broad understanding of British-and-American literature, from the medieval period in England and the moment of first contact in America to the present day.
- Demonstrated proficiency in writing an analytical essay that offers a sophisticated close-reading or explication of a literary text. This essay will have a clear thesis and proceed in a logical fashion, with interpretive claims supported by evidence from the text.
- Demonstrated proficiency in literary research and in writing an extended thesis-driven research paper in which sources are correctly and responsibly cited.
- Demonstrated understanding of how to read across the color line in the US and/or how to analyze literary works written in English from outside the UK and the US—from India, Africa, and the Caribbean, for example.