

# 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

As an English literature major, you must complete a minimum of 40 credits of major coursework with a grade of C- or better, with the exception of ENGL 419 How to Read Anything, which you must complete with a grade of C or better. You may not use ENGL 401 First-Year Writing, ENGL 415s, "Literature and..." courses, or ENGL 444 classes to satisfy major requirements.

A minimum of six courses must be completed at the 600 level or higher.

Code	Title	Credits
Coursework must meet the following distribution requirements (a single course may satisfy multiple requirements):		
ENGL 419	How to Read Anything <sup>1</sup>	
Select two 500-level literature courses (select from list below)		
Select two pre-1800 literature courses (select from list below)		
Select two post-1800 literature courses (select from 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 (select from list below)		
Select one course that investigates Anglophone literature in a global or transnational context (select from list below)		
Select one course in a specific genre including, poetry, memoir, nonfiction, drama, fiction, and film with the exception of ENGL 533 (select from list below)		
Capstone:		
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar	

<sup>1</sup> This must be completed with a minimum grade of "C." *ENGL 419 How to Read Anything is the only 400-level class that may count towards the English literature major.*

Code	Title	Credits
<b>500-level Courses</b>		
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 #515W	American Literature I Conquest and Nation: First Contact to the Civil War	
ENGL 516W	American Literature II Money, Migration, and Modernity: Huck Finn to Beloved	
ENGL #517	Black Creative Expression	
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 Latinx Literature and Culture	
ENGL 575	Sex and Sensibility: 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 595	Literary Topics	

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Pre-1800 Literature Courses</b>		
ENGL 512	British Literature I Age of Heroes: Beowulf to Dr. Faustus	
or ENGL 513W	British Literature II Age of Revolutions: Shakespeare to Austen	
ENGL 595	Literary Topics (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 657	Shakespeare	
ENGL 693R	Special Topics in Literature (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 751	Medieval Romance	
ENGL 753	Old English	
ENGL 756	Chaucer	
ENGL 758	Advanced Shakespeare	
ENGL 758R	Advanced Shakespeare	
ENGL 759	Milton	
ENGL #767	Literature of the Restoration and Early 18th Century	

ENGL 780	Drama of Shakespeare's Contemporaries: Will and Company
ENGL #783	English Novel of the Eighteenth Century
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar (if topic is appropriate)
ENGL 787R	English Major Seminar (if topic is appropriate)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Post-1800 Literature Courses</b>		
ENGL 514W or ENGL 516W	British Literature III: Revolts, Renewals, Migrations American Literature II Money, Migration, and Modernity: Huck Finn to Beloved	
ENGL 595	Literary Topics (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 609	Ethnicity in America: The African American Experience in the 20th Century	
ENGL 636	Literature and the Environment	
ENGL 650	I Hear America Singing: Studying American Literature and Culture	
ENGL 681	Contemporary African Literature	
ENGL 690	African American Literature	
ENGL 693R	Special Topics in Literature (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 738	Asian American Studies	
ENGL 739	American Indian Literature	
ENGL 743R	American Literature, 1865-1915: The Birth of the American Empire	
ENGL 749R	Major American Authors	
ENGL 773	Literary Modernisms: Return, Revolt, Recycle	
ENGL 774R	Modern & Contemporary British Literature: New Departures	
ENGL 775	Modern Irish Literature: A Changing Landscape	
ENGL #777	The English Novel in the World	
ENGL 782	Modern and Contemporary Drama	
ENGL 784	English Novel of the 19th Century	
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 787R	English Major Seminar (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 797R	Special Studies in Literature (Race & Racial Theories) (if topic is appropriate)	

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Race, the Construction of Race, and Racial Theory Courses</b>		
ENGL 440A	On Race in Culture and Society	
ENGL #517	Black Creative Expression	
ENGL 549	In the Groove: African American Music as Literature	
ENGL 550	Introduction to the Literature and Culture of Race	
ENGL 560	Introduction to Latinx Literature and Culture	
ENGL 585R	Introduction to Women in Literature	
ENGL 609	Ethnicity in America: The African American Experience in the 20th Century	
ENGL 650R	I Hear America Singing: Studying American Literature and Culture	
ENGL 690	African American Literature	
ENGL 693	Special Topics in Literature (subtopic R)	
ENGL 693R	Special Topics in Literature	
ENGL 738	Asian American Studies	
ENGL 739	American Indian Literature	
ENGL 743R	American Literature, 1865-1915: The Birth of the American Empire	
ENGL 749R	Major American Authors	
ENGL 758R	Advanced Shakespeare	
ENGL 774R	Modern & Contemporary British Literature: New Departures	
ENGL 778	Race and Gender in Film and Popular Culture	
ENGL 787R	English Major Seminar	
ENGL 797R	Special Studies in Literature (Race & Racial Theories)	

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Courses that Investigate Anglophone Literature in Global or Transnational Contexts</b>		
ENGL 581	Reading the Postcolonial Experience	
ENGL 681	Contemporary African Literature	
ENGL 773	Literary Modernisms: Return, Revolt, Recycle	
ENGL 775	Modern Irish Literature: A Changing Landscape	
ENGL #777	The English Novel in the World	

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Courses in a specific genre including poetry, memoir, nonfiction, drama, fiction, and film <sup>1</sup></b>		
ENGL 520	Dystopian and Post-Apocalyptic Fiction	
ENGL 555	Science Fiction	
ENGL 575	Sex and Sensibility: The Rise of Chick Lit	
ENGL 585R	Introduction to Women in Literature	
ENGL 616A	Studies in Film/Genre	
ENGL 616B	Studies in Film/Authorship	

ENGL 616C	Studies in Film/Culture and Ideology
ENGL 616D	Studies in Film/Narrative and Style
ENGL 618	Film Theory
ENGL 693R	Special Topics in Literature (if topic is appropriate)
ENGL 778	Race and Gender in Film and Popular Culture
ENGL 797R	Special Studies in Literature (Race & Racial Theories)

<sup>1</sup> With the exception of ENGL 533 Introduction to Film Studies

Please see your advisor if you have questions about other courses that might fulfill these requirements.

Candidates for a degree must satisfy all of the University Discovery Program requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of each individual major program. Bachelor of arts candidates must also satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement.

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.

## 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.