

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE AND STRUCTURE

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## Abstract

The English major offers excellent preparation for advanced work in graduate or professional school and for a wide array of options in business and industry. Students considering graduate school in English should confer with their advisors to be sure they have planned an appropriate curriculum. Since most graduate schools require at least one modern language and some require a classical language as well, the student should be proficient in at least one foreign language at the time of graduation. There is only one major in the department: the English major. Students may choose to emphasize either creative writing or literature, but the department is firmly committed to the mutual support and dependence of the two emphases, both of which engage the student in reading, writing, and critical and creative thinking. Every effort is made to insure that students who elect the one emphasis will both contribute to and learn from those who elect the other.

A degree in English language and literature is designed to get you reading books, analyzing theories, critiquing prose and verse, and taking a more critical look at the signs and words surrounding us every day. The aim is to get students thinking creatively and analytically about the English language; this differs from other modern language degrees as it is intended for students already proficient in written and spoken English. An English degree can focus equally on the literature and language sides, while others specialize in one or the other; this will usually be clear from the course title. A course with a focus on English literature typically allows students to study literary texts from throughout history.

## Introduction

M.A. in English Literature can be completed as a terminal degree or as a stepping-stone to a Ph.D. program. Master's programs can offer a thesis or non-thesis option; non-thesis students typically must take a comprehensive exam. Ph.D. programs require a dissertation and are typically tailored to a student's area of interest, like American or British literature, and graduates of these programs generally pursue careers in academia or look for post-doctoral fellowships.

In order to enroll in a bachelor's program, students must have earned a bachelor's degree and typically need proficiency in a foreign language. Doctoral programs require the same, only with a master's degree prerequisite.

Often you'll start with modules covering a diverse range of literature from different periods; for instance, you could be reading Shakespeare one week and Virginia Woolf the next. Your reading will require you to study and analyze passages, relating texts to their cultural, social, historical and political contexts.

An English language-focused degree will train students to analyze the workings of the English language outside of literature, including language-based communication in all kinds of forms and contexts. This could include analysis of casual spoken conversation, text speak, advertising methods or the uses of language in specialized legal and medical discourse.

## Course structure

Those looking to study English will most likely enjoy both independent and group study, but you can expect majority of time spent gaining your English degree to be undertaken solo, as much of the course will require you to commit to long periods of reading and research outside of class.

Because of this you'll find yourself spending more time working at home or in the library than you will in seminars and lectures. Average hours of contact time with professors and fellow students vary, but you can expect approximately 10-12 hours a week in your first year and slightly longer in your following years as you take on a heavier workload. The rest of the time you are expected to conduct independent study and research for assignments as well as tackling the reading list. This solo work is often intensive, even in university holidays, and can take up around 20-30 hours a week.

## Graduate Curriculum Overviews

Graduate degrees in English literature are available at the master's and Ph.D. levels. Students can earn a master's during the course of their Ph.D. program or complete each degree separately. Learn about these programs, as well as career options.

### Master Of Arts In English Literature

The curriculum for a master's program in English literature is designed to sharpen writing ability, critical thinking skills and understanding of literature and theoretical concepts. Master's degree students take classes alongside Ph.D. students. Students often specialize in an area of interest. Classes may be offered in the following topics:

- Literary research methods
- Critical theory
- Women's literature
- Ethnic studies

- Victorian literature
- The Romantic movement

## Employment and continuing Education Information

Graduates of master's degree programs in English literature usually apply for Ph.D. programs in English literature in order to work in academia as instructors or researchers. Others may apply for MFA in Creative Writing programs. M.A. graduates who wish to become teachers can consider applying to an Ed.S. (Educational Specialist) degree program or obtain teaching certification in their state. Postdoctoral research opportunities are available for Ph.D. graduates. Fellowships are granted to postdoctoral researchers to allow them to conduct academic research and write for publications. Participation in a postdoctoral research fellowship usually increases opportunities for a tenure-track faculty position. Master's and Ph.D. programs in English literature teach a wide variety of analysis, research, and practical skills relating to writings in the English language, whether contemporary or historical. Jobs are typically in the writing or academic fields, with other degree and research opportunities for graduates.

Undergraduate English programs at Case Western Reserve are deliberately designed to allow a wide degree of student choice in creating a particular course of study. This flexibility is particularly evident at the 300 level of course offerings. Required courses buttress the major at the beginning and the end, but between them the student, in consultation with an advisor, selects courses that disclose a coherent, intellectually interesting program. To this end, students are encouraged to become reflective about their reasons for course selections, reasons such as challenging oneself in a new area, filling out a body of knowledge on a particular topic, investigating the history of an issue or mode of writing, or completing work taken in another department.

## Course numbering and level

- 100-level courses are designed primarily for first-year students and at the moment consist entirely of writing courses and tutorials aimed toward fulfilling the University writing requirement.
- 200-level courses are considered to be introductions to various aspects of English studies, and they are usually meant also to serve as general education courses, i.e. ones that might usefully be taken by a student with no particular plans for further work in the area. The courses are open to and in many cases ideal for first-year students.
- 300-level courses are the heart of the department's undergraduate offerings, aimed particularly although by no means exclusively, at majors and minors.
- Note that many of the courses with a 300-level number may be taken more than once, as the topics vary from year to year.

- Note also that the department's many "topics" courses can be taken more than once, when the current topic differs from what you may have previously taken.
- A few 300-level courses are offered every year, notably the writing workshops in journalism, poetry and fiction; the foundational survey courses in British and American literature; and the Shakespeare courses. However, many others are scheduled only once every two to three years. Your faculty advisor can usually tell you the tentative schedule of courses two or three semesters ahead, and it is often important to seek out this information in planning your schedule.
- Many 300-level courses in literature or film are cross-listed at the 400 (i.e. introductory graduate student) level. With the permission of the instructor, senior majors (especially those applying to graduate school in English, film or related subjects) may enroll at the 400-level, where additional readings, extra class meetings and more advanced writing assignments are usually assigned.



## Plan, Models, and Guidelines

Some English majors (and also minors and CSE sequence students) pursue concentrations and thus have specific guidelines to follow. Students can, for example, pursue a concentration in film, focus on creative writing, or seek secondary school certification. For others, however, there are far more potentially useful or relevant courses available than any one student could take, and there are far more differences among students' interests and plans. The groups with the fewest external restrictions and guidelines are those seeking a broad liberal arts background, especially those expecting to enter the workforce after getting the B.A. or those heading for postgraduate study in such fields as law, medicine, journalism, business, and so on. Students expecting to go to graduate school in English or directly related fields have somewhat more directed guidelines.

## Creative Writing

Creative writing students usually begin with the 200-level creative writing courses and then enroll for two or more semesters in one or the other of the primary writing workshops (ENGL 303 and 304, each of which can be taken more than once). For the most advanced students ENGL 406 (Advanced Creative Writing) is available in alternate years. Depending upon their other interests, writing students are also encouraged to take courses in which they read widely in literary history, including contemporary literature, and to study the literature of some language other than English. Ambitious creative writing students who are interested in completing their Capstone Requirement in creative writing should sign up for an appropriate English creative writing capstone course.

## Students a General Program

Most liberal arts students should select courses that will best help them become more sophisticated writers (especially but not exclusively of analytical and discursive prose), sharpen their abilities as readers (especially readers capable of analyzing texts in multiple ways and from different perspectives), and understand in some depth at least one earlier time in cultural history. Reading knowledge of another language is highly desirable, as is the ability to speak and write it. Students primarily interested in the humanities and arts should keep in mind the advantage of studying related topics in different disciplines. Courses in art history, classics, history, modern languages, philosophy, religion and theater can often be especially valuable.

### English Guidelines for graduate students

Students thinking of graduate school should normally take 36 or 39 hours of English, rather than the minimum of 30, and they should ideally also plan to take substantial coursework in related fields, classics and modern languages and theater especially and also art history, history, philosophy, and religion. In particular, they should strive, by the time of graduation, to attain fluency in a foreign language, especially a modern European language, and some acquaintance with its literature. GRE examinations in English literature typically ask some questions about classics of European literature, which the student is expected to be familiar with in translation. Within the English Department, students should normally be sure to take a course in literary theory and criticism (ENGL 387, normally), at least one Shakespeare course and one from another major authors category, several courses that encourage them to learn the methods of literary research and scholarship, and one or ideally two courses in each of the broad historical periods before the 20th century .

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- UGC Document on LOCF English 1 Learning Outcomes based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) for English Literature (B.A. Hons.) Undergraduate Programme practices and process with clarity demonstrate a coherent and systematic knowledge of the field of English literature.
- and Bhasha literatures in English showing an understanding of current theoretical and literary developments in relation to the specific field of English studies. display an ability to read and understand various literary genres and stylistic
- variations and write critically cultivate ability to look at and evaluate literary texts as a field of study and as part of
- the wider network of local and global culture demonstrate a critical aptitude and reflexive thinking to systematically analyze the
- existing scholarship and expand critical questions and the knowledge base in the field of English studies using digital resources. display knowledge to cultivate a better understanding of values – both literary values
- that aide us in literary judgment and also values of life at all stages; apply appropriate methodologies for the development of the creative and analytical faculties of students, their overall development of writing, including imaginative writing. UGC Document on LOCF English 16 recognize employability options in English studies programme as part of skill
- development and as career avenues open to graduates in today's global world such as professional writing, translation, teaching English at different levels, mass media, journalism, aviation communication and personality development channelize the interests of the students and analytical reasoning in a better way and
- make more meaningful choices regarding career after completion of graduate programme to enable students to develop an awareness of the linguistic-cultural richness of India
- as an important outcome of English literary studies in India UGC Document on LOCF English 17 Programme outcomes TABLE I : CORE COURSES (14) Indian Classic al Literat ure European Classical Literature Indian Writing in English British Poetry and Drama:
- 14th to 17th Centuries American Literature Popular Literatur e British Poetry and Drama: 17th and 18th Centuries British Literature: 18th Century British Romantic Literatur e British Literatur e: 19th Century Women 's Writing British Literature: The Early 20th Century