

English Literature



Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts

College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

The Program

A concentration in English at the University of Michigan–Dearborn focuses on the dynamic intersection of language, literature, and society as well as the identities and communities shaped by the intersection. Concentrators in the English discipline have the opportunity to explore the relationships between reading and writing printed text by becoming familiar with the strategies that writers use to shape conceptions of truth.

The primary goal of the English discipline is to help students develop sensitivity to the ways spoken and printed language frame how we conceive and discuss our identities throughout history. The UM–Dearborn English Faculty is committed to this goal by offering rigorous, comprehensive courses that contextualize language in terms of the various traditions and genres of English and American literature, the history of the English language, and the critical skills necessary to craft effective expository and creative writing.

Acknowledging the unique perspective provided by studying English language and literature in a part of urban America that offers vibrant multi-cultural experiences, the English concentration also exposes students to the future of English language and literature in the context of a global community both in – and beyond – Detroit. Therefore, concentrators in the English discipline may expect to develop a close relationship to the social ramifications of the written word and its potential for incorporating both communities and individuals into a larger, more internationally aware reading and listening audience.

Career Opportunities

- Editor, publishing
- Essayist, non-fiction writing
- Novelist
- Poet
- Biographer
- English education, teaching
- Copy writer, non-profit organization
- Copy writer, public relations
- Copy editor, proofreading
- Freelance editorial
- Archivist, library studies
- Cyber-publishing and editing
- Cultural theorist
- Journalist
- Bookseller and collector
- Literary studies
- Advertising
- Foundations for advanced programs in law and psychology

The Major

Degree-seeking students are required to fulfill the required courses in effect at the time admitted or readmitted to the program. Since these are subject to change, students should see an advisor for current requirements.

Prerequisites

Students are required to complete the following as a prerequisite:

ENGL 200 “Introduction to English Studies”

A required course that serves as the “gateway” to the Concentration with enrollment limited to 20 students per section, ENGL 200 exposes students to the terms of English Studies, literary criticism, and literary theory, knowledge essential to higher-level English courses.

Virtually all 300- and 400- level English courses require as prerequisites ENGL 200 and Composition 106 or equivalent. In addition, other prerequisites for a specific upper-level English course may be introduced by the instructor in the term in which the course is offered.

Requirements

All students majoring in English must complete 30 hours of course work in the 300 and 400 levels. Four of these courses are required upper-level surveys:

- ENGL 311 “Survey of British Literature, Beowulf to Milton”
- ENGL 312 “Survey of British Literature, Milton to 1900”
- ENGL 313 “Survey of American Literature, Colonial Period to 1900”
- ENGL 314 “Survey of Literature In English, 1900 to Present”

In addition to taking the four required survey courses listed above, students are required to complete at least six upper-level electives. Students may wish to group some of these electives in the tracks listed below. Please note that students are not required to select a track for these remaining courses. However, if they wish, students may designate a “track” by take three of their six electives in one of the four following tracks:

- British Literature and Culture
- American Literature and Culture
- Writing
- World English Language and Literature

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English majors, whether they elect a track or not, must also fulfill the following requirements:

- The English Discipline's "Diversity Requirement": English majors must elect one course with substantial inclusion of literature in English that expands the traditional Anglo-American literary curriculum.
- The "Historical Requirement": English majors must elect one course which addresses literature prior to 1800, not including ENGL 311 or 312 or 313.
- The Research Requirement: English majors must elect one course designated "Research Intensive," or and "Independent Studies in English" (ENGL 398/399).

Cognates

English majors must also complete at least 6 hours of cognate courses which are to be selected from upper-division offerings in history, philosophy, art or music history, linguistics, and humanities. Other courses that can be shown to be specifically complementary to the study of literature are sometimes approved by petition as cognates. Cross-listed linguistics and humanities courses may be elected either for concentration or for cognate credit, but not for both.

Minor or Area of Focus

A minor or area of focus consists of 12 hours of upper-division credit in English.

English majors may find a minor in business administration, computer sciences, foreign languages, women and gender studies, humanities, art, or music a valuable supplement to the concentration. Students should consult with an academic advisor before deciding to pursue a minor.

Secondary Certification Supplement

One of the following supplements is required for students seeking certification for high school teaching in English:

A major consists of 30 hours, including one upper-level writing course (English 300, 323, or 327) and two linguistics courses (English/Linguistics 280 and 461). The balance of the 30 hours for the major must be selected with the approval of the degree and certification advisors in accordance with the English concentration and certification requirements.

A minor in English for certification consists of 20 hours, including the same required courses in writing and linguistics, with the balance to be selected with the approval of degree and certification advisors.

Both the major and the minor have as a supplementary requirement, not included in the 30 or 20 hours, LIBR 470: Literature for Young People.

Faculty and Areas of Interest/Research

English faculty members are dedicated to classroom teaching and research in language and literature. They welcome the opportunity to counsel students both in specific academic programs and in general career planning.

Erik Bond, Ph.D., 18th-century British literature and culture, Restoration drama, London in literature, traumas and narrative.

Scott DeGregorio, Ph.D., Old English, Middle English, Anglo-Latin literature, medieval reception of the Bible and classics.

J. Caitlin Finlayson, Ph.D., Renaissance drama and pagantry, adaptations of Shakespeare in film and graphic novels, Medieval and restoration drama, book history and print culture.

Gloria House, Ph.D., creative Writing, spatial studies, and Detroit culture studies.

Michelle Jarenski, Ph.D., 19th-century American literature, visual culture, African American literature, women's and gender studies.

William Linn, Ph.D., creative writing, Anglo-Irish literature, 20th-century British and American literature, pedagogical theory.

Sheryl Pearson, Ph.D., 20th-century fiction, contemporary American novel, women's literature.

Melita Schaum, Ph.D., 20th-century literature, critical theory, creative writing, women's literature.

Jonathan Smith, Ph.D., 19th century British literature and culture, literature and science, and science and technology studies.

Deborah Smith Pollard, Ph. D., African-American literature and culture, especially emerging authors, Black sacred music with special emphasis on urban contemporary gospel.

For More Information

For more information about a degree in English language and literature:

English Discipline Representative
Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts
University of Michigan-Dearborn
301 I CASL Building
4901 Evergreen Road
Dearborn, MI 48128-2406
313-593-5433

To request an application or obtain more information about admission to the University:

Office of Admissions and Orientation
University of Michigan-Dearborn
4901 Evergreen Road
Dearborn, MI 48128-2406
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