Department of English

Dr. Dabney A. Bankert, Department Head

Phone: (540) 568-6170
Location: Keezell Hall, Room 215
Email: bankerda@jmu.edu
Website: http://www.jmu.edu/english

Professors

Associate Professors

Assistant Professors

Mission Statement
The Department of English offers to all students, wherever their professional and vocational interests lie, skills in critical thinking, analysis and writing along with an appreciation of the great literary heritage of Western civilization, with particular emphasis upon British and American literature. The program also promotes global awareness and the appreciation of cultural diversity through numerous opportunities for world or multicultural studies. Our goal is that, through the humanistic study of a variety of literature, students will obtain a better understanding of themselves, their culture and other cultures with which they must invariably come into contact.

A senior requirement ensures that each major will have a final capstone experience through courses designed to integrate earlier training and focus it toward postgraduate needs and opportunities.

Goals
To build upon the skills introduced in the General Education program, the Department of English strives to:

- Provide students advanced instruction in writing styles ranging from expository and creative writing to literary criticism.
- Help students master advanced skills in analytical and critical thinking.
- Develop skills in research and information access.

Career Opportunities
Careers that involve critical thinking, document analysis or oral and written communication such as:

- Consulting
- Editing
- Graduate school in English, creative writing and composition
- Law school
- Public relations
- Publishing
- Research
- Teaching

Co-curricular Activities and Organizations
- Sigma Tau Delta (the National English Honor Society)
- gardy loo! (a literary magazine)
- Sister Speak (JMU’s feminist journal)

Degree and Major Requirements

Students majoring in English earn the B.A. degree unless they are completing an English major with an interdisciplinary focus or an additional major in a degree program other than the B.A. The minimum requirement for a major in English is 36 credit hours of course work in the major.

The department recommends that students choose a variety of courses covering contemporary and early literature, as well as period, genre and linguistics courses. In addition to core courses, English majors must take nine credit hours of English electives on or above the 300 level. Courses taken to fulfill General Education Cluster Two requirements may also fulfill requirements in the English major. Students may complete credit requirements by taking additional electives.

The minimum requirement for a major in English with an interdisciplinary focus is 36 credit hours of course work; 24 of these hours must be in English courses, with 15 hours at the 300 level or above. Twelve hours from another discipline or disciplines must be chosen in conference with the student’s adviser and approved by the department head. For more information about the interdisciplinary focus, contact a departmental adviser.

Degree Requirements

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education (^1)</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language classes (intermediate level required) (^2)</td>
<td>0-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy course (in addition to General Education courses)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University electives</td>
<td>26-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major requirements (listed below)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) The General Education program contains a set of requirements each student must fulfill. The number of credit hours necessary to fulfill these requirements may vary.

\(^2\) The foreign language requirement may be satisfied by successful completion of the second semester of the intermediate level of the student’s chosen language (typically 230) or by placing out of that language through the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures’ placement test.

Major Requirements

All students must include in their program the following core courses:

Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 299. Writing About Literature (^3)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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One course at the 300 or 400 level, pre-1900:
The courses selected must include the following:

Choose one from the following: 3
- ENG 235. Survey of English Literature: From Beowulf to the 18th Century
- ENG 247. Survey of American Literature: From the Beginning to the Civil War

Choose one from the following: 3
- ENG 221. Literature/Culture/Ideas
- ENG 222. Genre(s)
- ENG 235. Survey of English Literature: From Beowulf to the 18th Century

ENG 236. Survey of English Literature: Victorian Era through the 20th Century
ENG 239. Studies in World Literature
ENG 247. Survey of American Literature: From the Beginning to the Civil War
ENG 248. Survey of American Literature: From the Civil War to the Modern Period
ENG 260. Survey of African-American Literature

Choose one from the following: 3
- ENG 235. Survey of English Literature: From Beowulf to the 18th Century
- ENG 236. Survey of English Literature: Victorian Era through the 20th Century
- ENG 239. Studies in World Literature
- ENG 247. Survey of American Literature: From the Beginning to the Civil War
- ENG 248. Survey of American Literature: From the Civil War to the Modern Period
- ENG 260. Survey of African-American Literature

Choose one course at the 200 or 300 level 3
Choose five courses from the 300 level 15
Choose two courses from the 400 level 6

The courses selected must include the following:
One course at the 300 or 400 level, pre-1700:
- ENG 301. Old English Language and Literature
- ENG 306. The Bible as Literature
- ENG 311. Medieval Literature and Culture
- ENG 313. Sixteenth Century British Literature
- ENG 315. Seventeenth Century British Literature
- ENG 316. Early Modern Drama
- ENG 317. Shakespeare's Tragedies and Romances
- ENG 318. Shakespeare's Comedies and Histories
- ENG 319. Teaching Shakespeare
- ENG 320L. Shakespeare on the Page and Stage in London
- ENG 401. Advanced Studies in Medieval Literature
- ENG 402. Advanced Studies in British Literature before 1700

One course at the 300 or 400 level, pre-1900:
- ENG 301. Old English Language and Literature
- ENG 306. The Bible as Literature
- ENG 311. Medieval Literature and Culture
- ENG 313. Sixteenth Century British Literature
- ENG 315. Seventeenth Century British Literature
- ENG 316. Early Modern Drama
- ENG 317. Shakespeare's Tragedies and Romances
- ENG 318. Shakespeare's Comedies and Histories
- ENG 319. Teaching Shakespeare
- ENG 320L. Shakespeare on the Page and Stage in London
- ENG 321. Restoration and Eighteenth Century British Literature
- ENG 322. Restoration and Eighteenth Century British Drama
- ENG 325. Romantic Literature
- ENG 327. The Gothic
- ENG 329. Victorian Literature
- ENG 330. The Nineteenth Century British Novel
- ENG 342. Early American Literature

ENG 343. Antebellum American Literature
ENG 344. Late Nineteenth Century American Literature
ENG 352. The American Novel to 1914
ENG 401. Advanced Studies in Medieval Literature
ENG 402. Advanced Studies in British Literature Before 1700

One course from the Identity, Diversity and Power selections:
- ENG 358. Oral Literature
- ENG 361. African-American Fiction Writers
- ENG 362. African-American Poets
- ENG 363. Native American Literature
- ENG 368. Women's Literature
- ENG 369. Feminist Literary Theory
- ENG 370. Queer Literature
- ENG 377. Introduction to African Literature
- ENG 378. Studies in South Asian Literature
- ENG 379. Literature and Empire
- ENG 423. Advanced Studies in Gender and Sexuality in Literature
- ENG 431. Studies in Caribbean Literature
- ENG 432. Studies in African Literature
- ENG/SPAN 434. Latin American Literature in Translation
- ENG 466. Advanced Studies in Women's Literature

Two courses at the 400 level:
- ENG 401. Advanced Studies in Medieval Literature
- ENG 402. Advanced Studies in British Literature Before 1700
- ENG 403. Advanced Studies in British Literature After 1700
- ENG 405. Advanced Studies in Anglophone Literature
- ENG 407. Advanced Studies in American Literature
- ENG 408. Advanced Studies in African-American Literature
- ENG 410. Advanced Studies in Author
- ENG 413. Advanced Studies in Literature and Ideas
- ENG 414. Advanced Studies in Genre
- ENG 415. Advanced Studies in Textuality and the History of the Book
- ENG 417. Advanced Studies in Linguistics and the English Language
- ENG 420. Advanced Studies in Theory and Cultural Studies
- ENG 423. Advanced Studies in Gender and Sexuality in Literature
- ENG 430. Advanced Studies in Comparative Literature
- ENG 431. Advanced Studies in Caribbean Literature
- ENG 432. Advanced Studies in African Literature
- ENG 434. Advanced Studies in Latin American Literature in Translation
- ENG 439. Advanced Studies in Major Authors of Literature in Spanish
- ENG 466. Advanced Studies in Women's Literature

Other courses may be applied to these requirements via course directive. Students should consult advisers and the departmental semestery list about other options.

Recommended Schedule for Majors

Prior to declaring a major in English, students should consult with an assigned English adviser to plan a course of study tailored to their interests and goals. Students should contact the department office (Keenzell Hall, Room 215) to request an adviser. The following chart shows a typical four-year program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language courses</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education courses</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Second Year
Credit Hours
Two of three required courses from among GENG 221 - GENG 280 6
ENG 299. Writing About Literature 3
General Education courses 15
Foreign language courses 6

Third Year
Credit Hours
Remaining requirement from General Education 3
English 300-level courses 12-15
Other electives 15

Fourth Year
Credit Hours
English 300-400 level courses 12-15
Other electives 15-18

Concentrations

Majors may use their electives to concentrate in British, American, or world literature or creative writing.

British or American Literatures

In consultation with their advisers, students may choose nine credit hours of courses beyond the core offerings that lead to a coherent view of the scope and development of British or American literature.

World Literature

In consultation with their advisers, students may choose nine credit hours of courses beyond the core offerings that acquaint them with the scope of world literature.

Courses
Credit Hours
Choose three of the following:
ENG 305. Mythology
ENG 306. The Bible as Literature
ENG 430. Advanced Studies in Comparative Literature
ENG 431. Advanced Studies in Caribbean Literature
ENG 432. Advanced Studies in African Literature
ENG 433. Studies in Arabic Literature
ENG/FR 435. Studies in French Literature
ENG/GER 436. Studies in German Literature
ENG/ITAL 437. Studies in Italian Literature
ENG 302 and ENG 412 may also satisfy these requirements when the content of the courses is appropriate.

Creative Writing

Students with a strong interest in developing various writing skills should include in their program nine credit hours of electives from the following courses.

Courses
Credit Hours
Choose three of the following:
ENG/THEA 347. Playwriting
ENG 392. Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry
ENG 393. Introduction to Creative Writing: Fiction
ENG 483. Narrative Form
ENG 484. Poetic Craft and Creativity
ENG 493. Creative Non-Fiction
ENG 494. Advanced Poetry Writing
ENG 495. Advanced Fiction Writing

Teaching Licensure

Students interested in becoming teachers must meet specific curriculum requirements in their major as part of the undergraduate academic degree. English majors desiring secondary teacher licensure must complete READ 254, include among their core courses the surveys of both English and American literature (GENG 235, GENG 236, GENG 247 and GENG 248), and include among their electives the following:

Choose one of the following:
ENG 309. Traditional English Grammar
ENG 310. Modern English Grammar

Choose one of the following:
ENG 317. Shakespeare’s Tragedies and Romances
ENG 318. Shakespeare’s Comedies and Histories
ENG 319. Teaching Shakespeare
ENG 320L. Shakespeare on the Page and Stage in London

At least one course at any level in American literature
At least one course at any level in British literature
At least one course at any level in world literature

In addition to the general education and academic major requirements, English majors desiring secondary teacher licensure must be admitted to teacher education, complete the pre-professional program in secondary education at the undergraduate level and complete the graduate level Master of Arts in Teaching degree.

It is critical that students seeking licensure consult regularly with both their education adviser and their major adviser to support their progression through the programs. For a full description of the program in secondary teaching, refer to the Department of Middle, Secondary and Mathematics Education, in addition to the College of Education section of the catalog.

Minor Requirements

The minimum requirement for a minor in English is 18 credit hours. At least nine hours must be taken in courses at the 300 level or above. A General Education required course cannot double count as a minor requirement. A minor in English does not meet requirements for the Secondary Teaching License.

American Studies Minor

American Studies is a cross disciplinary program of study that promotes an enhanced understanding of the whole of American civilization, past and present through examination of the diverse aspects of our culture and changing patterns of ideas and values. Courses come from the departments within the College of Arts and Letters and students will take courses from within three groupings: Multicultural Studies, Ideas and the Arts, and History and Politics.

Creative Writing Minor

The cross disciplinary minor in creative writing is designed to give students an opportunity to develop their writing talents across a number of literary forms and communication contexts.

Film Studies Minor

The cross disciplinary minor in film studies is designed for students who wish to extend their critical understanding of visual communication and narrative form by studying how movies tell stories, convey information and influence audiences.

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