English

Dr. Dabney A. Bankert,
Department Head

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

Professors

Associate Professors

Assistant Professors

Print Version of Catalog

Department of English

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:

- Career Counseling
- Corporate Recruiting
- Consulting
- Editing
- Educational Administration
- Film and Food Critic
- Graduate school in English, creative writing, law and library science
- Human Resources
- Insurance underwriting
- Intelligence analyst
- Law school
- Library science (librarian, archivist, preservationist)
- Literary agent
- Literacy Instructor
- Lobbyist
- Magazine writing and editing (print and online)
- Marketing
- Newspaper reporting/Foreign Correspondent
- Non-Profit Advocacy and Administration
- Public relations and public affairs officer
- Publishing
- Research
- Speech writer
- Stockbroker
- 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 cross disciplinary 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 a cross disciplinary 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 cross disciplinary focus, contact a departmental adviser.

Degree Requirements

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education¹</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>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                                                        | 120          |

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 232) or by placing out of that language through the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures' placement exam.

Major Requirements

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

Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 299. Writing About Literature¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose one from the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 235. Survey of English Literature: From Beowulf to the 18th Century</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENG 247. Survey of American Literature: From the Beginning to the Civil War
Choose one from the following:
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:
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
Choose five courses from the 300 level
Choose two courses from the 400 level

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 363. Native American Literature
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 359. Studies in African-American Literature
ENG 360. Introduction to Ethnic American Literature
ENG 361. African-American Fiction
ENG 362. African-American Poetry
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 408. Advanced Studies in African-American Literature
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.

1 This course fulfills the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major.

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 (Keezell Hall, Room 215) to request an adviser. The following chart shows a typical four-year program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language courses</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education courses</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two of three required courses from among ENG 221-ENG 260</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 299, Writing About Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education courses</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language courses</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Third Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining requirement from General Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English 300-level courses</td>
<td>12-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other electives</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fourth Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English 300-400 level courses</td>
<td>12-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other electives</td>
<td>15-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**

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
**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choose three of the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG/THEA 347. Playwriting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 390. The Environmental Imagination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 391. Introduction to Creative Writing: Nonfiction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 392. Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 393. Introduction to Creative Writing: Fiction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 483. Narrative Form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 484. Poetic Craft and Creativity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 493. Advanced Creative Non-Fiction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 494. Advanced Poetry Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 495. Advanced Fiction Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 496. Advanced Topics in Creative Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Minor Requirements**

**English Minor**

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 minor in English does not meet requirements for the Secondary Teaching License.

**Cross Disciplinary Minors**

English participates in the following cross disciplinary minors:

- Africana Studies
- American Studies
- Book Arts
- Classical Studies
- Creative Writing
- Environmental Studies
- Film Studies
- Latin American and Caribbean Studies
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 (**ENG 235**, **ENG 236**, **ENG 247** and **ENG 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.

Teaching English as a Second Language

For a description of the [TESOL program](#), refer to the [College of Education](#) section of the catalog.