Department of Literature and Philosophy

The graduate program in English leads students to the Master of Arts in English degree. It prepares its students for a variety of careers in publishing, public relations, teaching, and advanced doctoral work. Students who enroll in the Master of Arts program in English enjoy the engaging atmosphere of graduate study and work closely with faculty members. The program fosters a genuine sense of community while providing students with a range of professional development opportunities, which is unusual for a graduate program of our size.

The faculty of the program are all published scholars with a wide variety of specialties. We are dedicated to excellence in teaching and the development of a fertile learning environment, which is exemplified by a free exchange of ideas, high academic expectations, and individual responsibility for academic achievement.

In keeping with the broader institutional vision:

1) We create learning experiences of the highest quality, informed by our individual scholarly practice, research, and creative activities.

2) We offer a student-centered environment enhanced by technology and transcultural experiences.

3) We seek to instill the core values of integrity, civility, kindness, collaboration, and a commitment to lifelong learning, wellness, and social responsibility.

4) We prepare our students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytic skills, enhance their creativity, and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations, and the world.

Literature and Philosophy Degree


ENGL 5090G Selected Topics
1-3 Credit Hours. 1-3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. Selected topics in English. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2111 or ENGL 2112 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.

Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5090, ENGL 5090S.

ENGL 5131G British Romantics
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A study of English Romantic poetry and prose, including major works of Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, the Shelleys, Keats, and many recently rediscovered authors of the period. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2111 or ENGL 2112 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.

Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5131, ENGL 5131S.

ENGL 5134G The Age of Exuberance: British Literature 1660-1790
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A study of verse and prose from the Restoration to the Romantic period. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2231 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.

Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5134.

ENGL 5135G Teaching Literature to Middle and Secondary School Students
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A course designed to introduce classroom approaches to literature to middle grades and high school teachers. It will include work with a variety of literary genres and multicultural texts. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2112 and ENGL 2131 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.

Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5135.

ENGL 5136G Medieval British Literature: 700-1450
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A detailed study of the poetry and prose from 1492-1800 by writers, both in America and Europe, who describe and define a distinct American identity by means of an emerging literature and diverse cultural experience. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2231 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.

Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5136 and ENGL 5136S.

ENGL 5138G Poetry and Prose of the English Renaissance
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A study centering on the analysis and interpretation of Renaissance poetry with some involvement in its larger historical context, especially in its relationship with controversy. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2231 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.

Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5138.

ENGL 5139G Victorian Prose and Poetry
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A study of the Victorian Period in England with emphasis on the prose and poetry of major authors. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ENGL 2131 and ENGL 2232.

Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5139.

ENGL 5230G Colonial American Literature
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A detailed study of the poetry and prose from 1492-1800 by writers, both in America and Europe, who describe and define a distinct American identity by means of an emerging literature and diverse cultural experience. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2331 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.

Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5230.
ENGL 5231G American Romanticism 3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A study of representative authors of the Romantic Period in American literature (1820-1865). This course focuses on the complex social, cultural, and political forces at work in these writings and in the Romantic Movement in general, and especially the influences of the earlier Romantic Period in English literature (1798-1832). This course traces the development of the major literary styles and patterns in American Romanticism, such as the archetype of the American Adam and the myth of the American Dream; the importance of American innovation in literary language and form, especially in the use of frontier dialect; and the contributions to world literature of American literary theorists, such as Poe. Graduate students will be required to do additional work as determined by the instructor. Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2331 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2331. Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5231.

ENGL 5233G American Realism 3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A study of prose works of the American Realist period from 1850-1910, including writers such as Twain, Chekhov, Melville, Dreiser, Wharton, James, Crane, and Norris. Attention will be paid to canonical and non-canonical writers of the period, as well as regional and sentimental fiction. Graduate students will be required to do extra work as determined by the instructor. Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2332 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2332. Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5233.

ENGL 5234G Southern Literature 3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A survey of the literary achievements of the South from the Colonial period to the present. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do. Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2331 or ENGL 2332 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2331. Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5234.

ENGL 5235G Irish Literature to 1850 3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. The course examines Irish literature from its beginnings in the Gaelic oral tradition to the Great Famine of the 1840s. Students gain clear understanding of how Ireland's colorful and complex history has yielded exceptional prose, poetry, and drama. Matters considered include Ireland's four mythological cycles; its pseudo-historical invasion narratives; and its hagiographies (accounts of saints' lives). Students also study writings that reflect the four major stages of British colonization: Cambro-Norse, Tudor, Jacobean (or Scots-Irish), and Cromwellian. In addition, they explore literary genres specific to Ireland: dinnearchas (place-lore literature); the aisling (nationalist vision literature); the caoineadh (bardic lament literature); and the Big House novel, which often has Gothic overtones. The course exposes participants to other important phenomena, too: the so-called stage Irishman; the peasant archetype; literature of resistance and revolution; and travel writings in the sublime tradition. All texts studied are in English or English translation. Graduate students will be required to do extra work as determined by the instructor. Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2331 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2331. Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5235.

ENGL 5236G Irish Literature since 1850 3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. Irish Literature since 1850 examines novels, short stories, plays, and poems produced in Ireland since the country's Great Famine. The course explores the Irish Cultural Revival that began in 1884 and lasted until the 1920s. It also considers literature about the revolutionary activity that precipitated the founding of the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland. The course ends by studying literary works that reflect changes in culture and identity caused by Ireland's unprecedented economic boom, which began in the mid-1990s. Students gain knowledge about a range of authors, including James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, Lady Augusta Gregory, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, Seamus Heaney, Evan Boland, and others. Graduate students will be required to do extra work as determined by the instructor. Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2332 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2332. Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5236, IRISH 5236G.

ENGL 5238G Irish Women Writers 3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. Irish Women Writers examines literature produced by Irish and Irish diasporic women across the centuries. It explores mythic and other female archetypes that affect and are represented in Irish women's writing. It also scrutinizes the different types of Irish women's writing, including novels, short stories, poetry, and drama, as well as testificatory, epistolary, controversialist and other specialized genres. The course assesses Irish women's writing in relation to key historical, cultural, political, and socio-economic circumstances that inform it and upon which it comments. Graduate students enrolled in the course will also engage with course materials through explanatory and analytical responses to texts, oral presentations, and research papers. Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2331 or ENGL 2332 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2331. Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5238.

ENGL 5330G World Drama to Romanticism 3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A study of representative works of dramatic literature, primarily of the western world, from Aeschylus through Beaumarchais, excluding English drama. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do. Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2111 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2111. Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5330, COML 5330 and COML 5330G.

ENGL 5331G British Drama to 1642 3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours. A study of British drama from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance, focusing on historical and cultural contexts of the drama. Students will learn about medieval guilds and the mystery plays they produced, morality plays such as Everyman, and interludes and other dramas performed in courtly settings. Much of the course will focus on the vibrant professional theater that developed in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century London. Students will learn about some of Shakespeare's talented contemporaries, not only Marlowe and Jonson but also Webster, Middleton, Ford, and other playwrights whose vigorous and sometimes shocking plays offer a fascinating look at early modern English theater and life. Graduate students will be required to do extra work as determined by the instructor. Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ENGL 2331 and ENGL 2331. Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5331.
ENGL 5332G British Drama since 1660
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of British drama from the reopening of the theatres in 1660 to modern times. Students will study important plays from the English Restoration and Neo-Classical period (e.g., Congreve, Dryden, Goldsmith, Sheridan), the Romantic period (e.g., Shelley), the Victorian period (e.g., Wilde, Synge, Shaw), as well as plays from the 20th Century (e.g., Pinter, Becket, Stoppard). Plays will be studied in their historical and critical contexts. Graduate students will be required to do extra work as determined by the instructor.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2232 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5332.

ENGL 5336G Modern and Contemporary American Literature
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Intensive study of a variety of texts, authors, and topics in twentieth- and twenty-first-century American literature, read and understood in their historical, aesthetic, and social and political contexts and affected by issues of war, and of race, class, and gender. Graduate students will complete an additional assignment beyond the undergraduate section.

ENGL 5430G Contemporary Poetry
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of English language poetry written since World War II with an emphasis on major figures and literary movements. Significant attention will be paid to the diversity and multinational character of contemporary English language verse. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2111 or ENGL 2112 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5430.

ENGL 5432G Twentieth Century British Literature
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of major British and Commonwealth poets, novelists, and dramatists against the background of the major social and cultural changes of the twentieth century. Graduate students will be required to do extra work as determined by the instructor.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ENGL 2131 and ENGL 2232.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5432, ENGL 5432S.

ENGL 5434G Milton
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of one of the greatest and most exciting of all English poets, based on close study of his work and exploration of the religious and historical circumstances of its time. We will read all of "Paradise Lost," a wide selection of Milton's other poetry, and some of the most important of his prose works. May be used to fulfill the single author requirement. Graduate students will be required to do extra work as determined by the instructor.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ENGL 2131 and ENGL 2231.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5434.

ENGL 5438G Modern Poetry to 1945
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of British, Irish, and American poets and poetry since 1900, emphasis being placed on the more influential, such as Yeats, Pound, Frost, Eliot, and Stevens. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2111 or ENGL 2112 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5438.

ENGL 5530G The Bible as Literature
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of the literary dimension of the English Bible. Major emphasis is upon the literary themes, types, personalities, and incidents of the Old and New Testaments. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2111 and prior or concurrent enrollment ENGL 2131.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5530, RELS 5530, RELS 5530G, COML 5530, COML 5530G.

ENGL 5534G Literature for Adolescents
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of literature written for or read by children with a focus on British and American classics. Students will read and write critical analyses of these works with special attention to the history of childhood. Authors studied may include the Brothers Grimm, Lewis Carroll, Louisa May Alcott, Mark Twain, Kenneth Grahame, Frances Hodgson Burnett, and others. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2111 or ENGL 2112 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5534.

ENGL 5533G Children's Literature
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of literature written for or read by children with a focus on British and American classics. Students will read and write critical analyses of these works with special attention to the history of childhood. Authors studied may include the Brothers Grimm, Lewis Carroll, Louisa May Alcott, Mark Twain, Kenneth Grahame, Frances Hodgson Burnett, and others. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2111 or ENGL 2112 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5534.

ENGL 5536G Post-Colonial Literature
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Examines and evaluates the diverse "common-wealth" of post-colonial Anglophone literature written by authors from countries that were formerly part of the British Empire: Africa, Australia, Canada, the Indian sub-continent, Ireland, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, and the West Indies. Highlights the use of a variety of reading and critical strategies to analyze the formal and linguistic complexities and innovations of this literature. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2232 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5536, COML 5536G, COML 5536.

ENGL 5538G World Fiction since 1900
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of some of the major works of fiction written by American, British, and World authors since 1900. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2112 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5538.

ENGL 5539G Literature by Women
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of classic, contemporary, and experimental writing by women in all genres, with special emphasis on the polerical and theoretical bases of and critical approaches to such texts. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in all of the following: ENGL 2111 or ENGL 2112 and prior or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 2131.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 5539.
ENGL 6630 Seminar in Medieval Literature
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of the major authors, genres and literary influences of the English Middle Ages with an emphasis on Chaucer and the fourteenth century.

ENGL 6631 Shakespeare Seminar
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A close examination of several of Shakespeare’s “problem” plays.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 6631S.

ENGL 6631S Shakespeare Seminar
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A close examination of several of Shakespeare’s “problem” plays.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 6631.

ENGL 6632 Seminar in Literature of the English Renaissance
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study in the major writers of the English Renaissance, including such figures as Sidney, Spenser, Herbert, Donne, and Browne. Lesser authors may be incorporated for their historical significance in the development of modern English prose and poetry.

ENGL 6633 Seminar in Restoration and Eighteenth Century British Literature
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An in-depth study of major works and documents from the period. Specific topics and texts may vary.

ENGL 6634 Seminar in Major Authors
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An intensive study of the life (lives) and works of one to three major authors. May be repeated for credit.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 6634S.

ENGL 6634S Seminar in Major Authors
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An intensive study of the life (lives) and works of one to three major authors. May be repeated for credit.
Cross Listing(s): ENGL 6634.

ENGL 6635 Women’s and Gender Issues
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of women’s and gender issues and concerns in the context of important works of literature.
Cross Listing(s): WGST 6635.

ENGL 6636 African-American Literature
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course involves the study of images, issues, and themes in African-American literature through an examination of works by such writers as Douglass, Washington, Chestnutt, Hughes, Wright, Baldwin, and Morrison.

ENGL 6637 Criticism and Theory
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of the great tradition of literary critics, from Plato to the present, and the contemporary critical approaches and theory they shape today.

ENGL 7111 Seminar in College English
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Hour. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of strategies and techniques for developing rhetorical skills in College English. Required of graduate assistants in English and open to other graduate students in English.

ENGL 7121 Methods of Research
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The seminar provides an in-depth understanding of the bibliographic, research, and critical skills required to do advanced scholarship in literary studies.

ENGL 7618 Thesis Preparation
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Hour. 0 Lab Hours.
Students in this workshop will begin research on a thesis topic, draft and revise a thesis prospectus and bibliography, and meet regularly with a thesis advisor.