

English

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Department Mission

The English department recruits, supports, and retains faculty members who are active scholars and accomplished instructors to pursue a study and a discussion of humane ideas as they are found in the literature and culture of societies where English is the dominant or colonizing language. By association and membership in professional organizations, English faculty regularly participate in and contribute to the wider community of scholarship, research, and pedagogical theory in the disciplines of literature, writing, and cultural studies. We seek to serve the larger academic community and the local Brooklyn community through event programming and collaborative projects.

We provide our students with an education of the highest quality in American, British, and world literature and cultural studies. In writing, we integrate breadth with depth, recognizing tradition's place in contemporary expression. We look to have our students become independent, self-motivated learners, confident in their research and synthesizing skills; we attract students from diverse geographical, professional, racial, and ethnic backgrounds; and we encourage minority and foreign applicants as well as returning and adult learners.

To achieve these general goals, the Department of English operates three groups of programs: The Writing Program, The General Education Program Courses and Electives in English Language and Literature, The Major and Minor Programs.

Goals and Objectives

The Writing Program:

- *Students will improve upon inadequate writing preparation and poor written expression by enrolling in courses designed to remediate writing problems while allowing students to demonstrate competence in written expression..*
- *Students will develop skills, confidence and competence in written expression.*
- *In their writing, students will develop sound organization of thought, clarity in the structure of sentences and paragraphs, forceful, energetic prose and critical thinking.*

- *Students with second language and dialect interference problems will be able to move into the mainstream of standard written edited English.*

The General Education Program Courses and Electives:

- *Students will increase their understanding of traditional genres by study in courses in major authors and in special topics courses on contemporary authors and trends.*
- *Students will refine their interpretive skills by being introduced to a variety of critical methods in courses on critical topics and the nature of literary analysis.*
- *Students will be able to discuss literary and cultural theories, enriching their understanding of a work.*
- *Students will be able to explain the richness and diversity of the social and ethical values in literature and their response to those values.*
- *Students will be able to demonstrate their sensitivity to language and to literary structure in their own writing through the cognitive and affective aims of the required writing component of each course.*

The Major and Minor Programs:

- *Students will be able to discuss and explain a variety of critical methods in courses on critical topics and the nature of literary analysis.*
- *Students will strengthen their response to literature upon completion of courses that focus on British, American, and international literary and cultural motifs.*
- *Through practice in careful, critical reading, students will develop a sense of literary and cultural theories, enriching their understanding of the texts they are examining.*
- *Students will develop skills, confidence, and competence in written expression through the required writing component of each course, by courses offered in advanced writing and research, and through courses in creative writing.*
- *Students will participate in internship opportunities and career counseling for both majors and minors to prepare them for graduate studies in English, as well as a wide range of careers.*

Program Requirements

Major in English

English majors develop skills for a variety of positions in business, research, education, publishing, finance, and financial institutions; in cultural, entertainment, and communications fields; and in health-care industries. English offers a strong background for pre-law study. English majors may seek careers in publishing, public relations, advertising, media, or teaching. Occupations to be considered are copywriter, columnist, commentator, critic, editor, production assistant, public relations representative, reporter, correspondent, technical writer, or writer/author. English as a major, however, is versatile, and helps develop skills useful anywhere.

The requirements for the English major are designed to provide a sense of the historical, cultural, and aesthetic context of

American, English and world literatures. After students take WRI 1100: Introductory Writing, the major requires five “gateway” courses. Gateway courses are an introduction to analytical thinking, inquiry, and collaboration; they are writing intensive and concentrate on cultural materials along with literary readings in all genres. The gateway courses are: a two-course sequence in **American Literature** (ENG 2110 and ENG 2120), a two-course sequence in **British Literature** (ENG 2115 and ENG 2102), and one 2000-level course in **world literature** and global themes. The course sequence for the English major follows the numbering of courses so prospective majors are advised to complete the 2000-level requirements before moving to the 3000-level courses.

The Department strongly recommends that English majors use some of their elective credits to pursue a minor.

Courses	Credits	Prerequisite(s)	Co-Requisite(s)
General Education Program (see page 15)	48		
First Year College			
▶ ITML - Take IT 1001 Computer Tools			
Bodies of Knowledge			
▶ HCE - Take at least ONE course in Fine Arts (FA)			
▶ PEM - Take at least ONE course in Philosophy (PHI)			
▶ WHG - Take at least ONE course in History (HIS)			
ENG 1000 Digital Humanities	3		
ENG 2110 Colonial to Renaissance (American Literature Gateway)	3	WRI 1100	
ENG 2120 Realism to Modernism (American Literature Gateway)	3	WRI 1100	
ENG 2102 Romanticism to Modernism (British Literature Gateway)	3	WRI 1100	
ENG 2115 Epic to Novel (British Literature Gateway)	3	WRI 1100	
Any 2000-level World Literature course (World Literature Gateway)	3	WRI 1100	
Select FIVE ENG courses 3000 or higher	15	Any ENG course 2000 or higher	
Select TWO ENG courses 4000-4399	6	Five ENG courses 2000 or higher	
ENG 4995 Independent Study	3	Three ENG or WRI courses 2000 or higher and Chair’s approval	
ENG 4997 Senior Thesis ¹	3	One ENG course 4000 or higher and Chair’s approval	
WRI 3010 Critical Writing and Analysis	3		
Liberal Arts ² (for specific academic subjects, see page 15)	3		
General electives ²	24		
Total credits required	123		

¹The successful completion of ENG 4997 satisfies the College’s Comprehensive Examination/Thesis Requirement.

²Majors are encouraged to take at least 6 credits in a foreign language

² Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree must complete 2/3 of their degree credits (i.e. minimum 90 credits) from courses in the Liberal Arts category. For specific academic subjects, see page 15

Department Course Genres

American and British Literature Courses

The American Literature and British Literature courses are consciously focused on offering the student a selection of literary genres. Additionally, the courses favor the aesthetic and cultural background of the time period or focus of the course. Students are expected to reflect their consciousness of the literary, artistic, and cultural contexts in their course discussions and written work. American and British literature courses are offered in a sequence that repeats every four semesters. Students interested in a particular period of American or British literature will be able to find a course on that period offered each year; individual courses are offered on a two-year rotation.

World Literature and Global Themes Courses

The department offers courses in world literature in translation for students who are interested in international literature and global themes.

Dramatic Literature and Performance

Dramatic literature courses offer classes focused on dramatic performance issues and require some performance elements along with study and discussion as a way of appreciating the genre.

Writing Courses

Writing courses are offered to help students develop individual style and voice. The required writing course, WRI 1100: Introductory Writing, addresses the need of the student to exercise conscious citizenship in American society by learning to write about issues that daily affect the individual, and, by extension, find a place in a public forum. While all literature classes require written work, writing courses are designed for writing. Reading is essential for writing classes, but literature does not play a significant role in the introductory writing course. Creative writing courses will use literature from master writers for purposes different from literature classes.



Minor in Drama

The minor in Drama enables students to focus on courses in drama along with annual public lectures and events related to performance, dramaturgy, and contemporary New York theater. The minor is

designed for students who want to learn more about theatrical practice and spectacle.

Courses	Credits	Prerequisite(s)	Co-Requisite(s)
ENG 2700 Drama Survey I.....	3	WRI 1100	
ENG 2730 Drama Survey II.....	3	WRI 1100	
Select FOUR of the following.....	12		
ENG 2141 Greek Drama.....		WRI 1100	
ENG 2300 Screenwriting and Playwriting.....		WRI 1100	
ENG 2530 Restoration Drama.....		WRI 1100	
ENG 2620 Shakespeare.....		WRI 1100	
ENG 3504 American Drama.....		Any ENG course 2000 or higher	
ENG 3601-3699 Special Topics in Drama.....		Any ENG course 2000 or higher	
ENG 3740 Irish Drama.....		Any ENG course 2000 or higher	
ENG 3750 Women Playwrights.....		Any ENG course 2000 or higher	
COM 2020 Oral Interpretation.....		COM 1000	
COM 2100 Acting I.....		COM 1000	
Total credits required.....	18		

Minor in English

A minor in English enables students with other majors to gain the insights and understanding that a systematic exposure to

literature provides. The writing and critical-thinking skills developed in English classes can be profitably applied in any professional area, especially sciences and medicine.

Courses	Credits	Prerequisite(s)	Co-Requisite(s)
Select EITHER Group A or Group B below.....	6		
Group A—Select BOTH of the following			
American Literature Gateway I (ENG 2110).....		WRI 1100	
American Literature Gateway II (ENG 2120).....		WRI 1100	
Group B—Select BOTH of the following			
British Literature Gateway I (ENG 2102).....		WRI 1100	
British Literature Gateway II (ENG 2120).....		WRI 1100	
Select THREE ENG courses 3000 or higher.....	9	Any ENG course 2000 or higher	
Any ENG course 4000-4399.....	3	Five ENG courses 2000 or higher	
Total credits required.....	18		

Minor in Writing

The minor in Writing is intended for students who would like to improve their writing through a variety of workshop formats. The minor aims to assist students

with craft and form and better prepare students for possible careers in which written communication skills are essential for advancement.

Courses	Credits	Prerequisite(s)	Co-Requisite(s)
WRI-1100.....	3		
WRI-1500 Advanced Composition.....	3	WRI-1100	
Select FOUR of the following courses.....	12		
WRI 2100 Fiction.....		WRI 1100	
WRI 2200 Poetry.....		WRI 1100	
WRI 2300 Dramatic-Screenwriting.....		WRI 1100	
WRI 2400 Creative Nonfiction.....		WRI 1100	
WRI 2600-2699 Special Topics.....		WRI 1100	
WRI 3010 Critical Writing and Analysis.....		WRI 1100	
Total credits required.....	18		

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Masters of Fine Arts in Creating Writing (MFA)

The program's 10-day residencies convene twice per year, January 2nd - 12th and July 5th - 15th. Residencies consist of intensive faculty workshops, lectures and daily publishing panels with top agents, editors, and publishers. During the 6 months in between residencies, students will regularly exchange writing online with their faculty mentors, continuing the work that began in residency. Students will take 4 online workshops and attend 5 residencies to earn the 36 credits for their MFA degree. The 5th and final residency will culminate in a creative

thesis—a novel, a chapbook of poetry or a short story collection.

This structure reflects the realities of life as a working writer. Aspiring writers learn how to be productive in their everyday lives with editorial feedback and contact, without giving up their day jobs. Unlike traditional MFA programs that demand a full-time commitment, our low-residency model represents the working life of the overwhelming majority of professionals in the field.

MFA, Fiction

Courses	Credits	Prerequisite(s)	Co-Requisite(s)
WRI 7010 Introductory Residency.....	4		
WRI 7210 Introductory Workshop and Practicum.....	4	WRI 7010	
WRI 7020 Intermediate Residency.....	4	WRI 7010 and WRI 7210, WRI 7310 or WRI 7410	
WRI 7220 Intermediate Workshop and Practicum.....	4	WRI 7010, WRI 7020 and WRI 7210	
WRI 7030 Advanced Residency.....	4	WRI 7010 and WRI 7210, WRI 7310 or WRI 7410	
WRI 7230 Advanced Workshop and Practicum.....	4	WRI 7010, WRI 7020, WRI 7030, WRI 7210 & WRI 7220	
WRI 7040 Master Residency	4	WRI 7030 and WRI 7230, WRI 7330 or WRI 7430	
WRI 7240 Thesis Workshop and Practicum	4	WRI 7010, WRI 7020, WRI 7030, WRI 7040, WRI 7210, WRI 7220 and WRI 7230	
WRI 7900 Thesis Residency	4	Successful completion of four residencies and four workshops/practicums	
Total credits required	36		

MFA, Poetry

Courses	Credits	Prerequisite(s)	Co-Requisite(s)
WRI 7010 Introductory Residency.....	4		
WRI 7310 Introductory Workshop and Practicum.....	4	WRI 7010	
WRI 7020 Intermediate Residency.....	4	WRI 7010 and WRI 7210, WRI 7310 or WRI 7410	
WRI 7320 Intermediate Workshop and Practicum.....	4	WRI 7010, WRI 7020, and WRI 7310	
WRI 7030 Advanced Residency.....	4	WRI 7010 and WRI 7210, WRI 7310 or WRI 7410	
WRI 7330 Advanced Workshop and Practicum.....	4	WRI 7010, WRI 7020, WRI 7030, WRI 7310 and WRI 7320	
WRI 7040 Master Residency	4	WRI 7030 and WRI 7230, WRI 7330 or WRI 7430	
WRI 7340 Thesis Workshop and Practicum	4	WRI 7010, WRI 7020, WRI 7030, WRI 7040, WRI 7310, WRI 7320, WRI 7330 and WRI 7040	
WRI 7900 Thesis Residency	4	Successful completion of four residencies and four workshops/practicums	
Total credits required	36		

MFA, Screenwriting and Playwriting

Courses	Credits	Prerequisite(s)	Co-Requisite(s)
WRI 7010 Introductory Residency.....	4		
WRI 7410 Introductory Workshop and Practicum.....	4	WRI 7010	
WRI 7020 Intermediate Residency.....	4	WRI 7010 and WRI 7210, WRI 7310 or WRI 7410	
WRI 7420 Intermediate Workshop and Practicum.....	4	WRI 7010, WRI 7020 and WRI 7410	
WRI 7030 Advanced Residency.....	4	WRI 7010 and WRI 7210, WRI 7310 or WRI 7410	
WRI 7430 Advanced Workshop and Practicum.....	4	WRI 7010, WRI 7020, WRI 7030, WRI 7040, WRI 7410, and WRI 7420	
WRI 7040 Master Residency	4	WRI 7030 and WRI 7230, WRI 7330 or WRI 7430	
WRI 7440 Thesis Workshop and Practicum	4	WRI 7010, WRI 7020, WRI 7030, WRI 7040, WRI 7410, WRI 7420 and WRI 7430	
WRI 7900 Thesis Residency	4	Successful completion of four residencies and four workshops/practicums	
Total credits required	36		