ENGLISH

https://www.english.northwestern.edu/graduate/

Degree Types: PhD, MA, MFA+MA dual degree

The Graduate Program in the Department of English (https://www.english.northwestern.edu/graduate) offers advanced study and research in literary history, criticism, and theory, with excellent opportunities for interdepartmental and interdisciplinary study. Courses within the department cover major genres, periods, authors, and a broad range of methodological and theoretical approaches.

The graduate curriculum is enhanced by frequent lectures and workshops with Northwestern faculty and visiting scholars from around the world. Student-organized colloquia, conferences, reading groups, and dissertation groups provide opportunities for students to present their research to an audience of peers.

Students in this program are also encouraged to participate in TGS’s Interdisciplinary Cluster Initiative program. For more information on how you can have a second intellectual “home” outside of your department or program, please visit the Interdisciplinary Cluster Initiative page (https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academics/programs/clusters-and-certificates).

Degrees Offered

- Creative Writing and English MFA/MA (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/creative-writing-english/creative-writing-english-mfa-ma)
- English MA (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/english/english-ma)
- English PhD (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/english/english-phd)

English Courses

ENGLISH 302-0 History of the English Language (1 Unit)
The English language from the earliest times to today. 

ENGLISH 310-0 Studies in Literary Genres (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 311-0 Studies in Poetry (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 312-0 Studies in Drama (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 313-0 Studies in Fiction (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 320-0 Medieval English Literature (1 Unit)
Representative works in their intellectual and cultural contexts.

ENGLISH 321-0 Chaucer (1 Unit)
"The Canterbury Tales."

ENGLISH 322-0 Medieval Drama (1 Unit)
Study of 15th century English mystery cycles, miracle plays, and morality plays in their cultural context.

ENGLISH 323-1 Chaucer (1 Unit)
"The Canterbury Tales."

ENGLISH 323-2 Chaucer (1 Unit)
"Troilus and Criseyde" and other works.

ENGLISH 324-0 Studies in Medieval Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 330-0 Renaissance Drama (1 Unit)
Principal plays up to 1600. 

ENGLISH 331-0 Renaissance Poetry (1 Unit)
Principal plays after 1600.

ENGLISH 332-0 Renaissance Poetry (1 Unit)
"The Canterbury Tales."

ENGLISH 334-1 Shakespeare (1 Unit)
Principal plays up to 1600.

ENGLISH 334-2 Shakespeare (1 Unit)
Principal plays after 1600.

ENGLISH 335-0 Milton (1 Unit)
Milton’s poetry, with those parts of his prose that illuminate his poetical and intellectual development.

ENGLISH 338-0 Studies in Renaissance Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 339-0 Special Topics in Shakespeare (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 340-0 Restoration and 18th Century Literature (1 Unit)
Representative works in their intellectual and cultural contexts.

ENGLISH 341-0 Restoration and 18th Century Poetry (1 Unit)
Dryden, Pope, and other poets of the period 1660-1744.

ENGLISH 342-0 Restoration and 18th Century Drama (1 Unit)
English drama from 1660 to the end of the 18th century.

ENGLISH 344-0 18th Century Fiction (1 Unit)
Writers such as Defoe, Richardson, Smollett, Fielding, Sterne, Burney, Radcliffe, and Austen. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 348-0 Studies in Restoration and 18th-Century Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 350-0 19th-Century British Literature (1 Unit)
Representative works in their intellectual and cultural contexts.

ENGLISH 351-0 Romantic Poetry (1 Unit)
Writers such as Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, and Keats.

ENGLISH 353-0 Studies in Romantic Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 356-0 Victorian Poetry (1 Unit)
The principal British poets from Tennyson to Hopkins.

ENGLISH 357-0 19th-Century British Fiction (1 Unit)
Representative novels written between 1800 and 1900.

ENGLISH 358-0 Dickens (1 Unit)
Representative works of Charles Dickens.

ENGLISH 359-0 Studies in Victorian Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 360-0 20th-Century British and American Literature (1 Unit)
Representative works in their intellectual and cultural contexts.

ENGLISH 361-1 20th-Century Poetry (1 Unit)
First Quarter: Major British poets such as Yeats, Eliot, and Auden.

ENGLISH 361-2 20th-Century Poetry (1 Unit)
Second Quarter: Major American poets from Frost and Robinson to Crane.

ENGLISH 361-3 20th Century Poetry (1 Unit)
Third Quarter: British and American poetry since World War II.

ENGLISH 363-1 20th-Century Fiction (1 Unit)
Major British novelists from Conrad to World War II.

ENGLISH 363-2 20th Century Fiction (1 Unit)
Major American novelists from James to World War II.

ENGLISH 365-0 Studies in Postcolonial Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 366-0 Studies in African American Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 367-0 Postwar British Fiction (1 Unit)
Representative British novels since 1945.

ENGLISH 368-0 Studies in 20th-Century Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 369-0 Studies in African Literature (1 Unit)
20th-century African literature in English. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 370-0 American Literature Before 1914 (1 Unit)
Representative works in their intellectual and cultural contexts.

ENGLISH 371-0 American Novel (1 Unit)
Writers such as Cooper, Alcott, Chopin, Hawthorne, Melville, Poe, Twain, James, Howells, Crane, Dreiser, and Wharton. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 372-0 American Poetry (1 Unit)
Writers such as Freneau, Bradstreet, Bryant, Poe, Whitman, Dickinson, Robinson, and Frost. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 374-0 Topics in Native American and Indigenous Literatures (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 378-0 Studies in American Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 383-0 Special Topics in Theory (1 Unit)
Topics in theory and criticism related to the study of literature and culture. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 385-0 Topics in Combined Studies (1 Unit)
Special topics in literature and related disciplines. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 386-0 Studies in Literature and Film (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 387-0 Studies in Literature and Commerce (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 397-0 Research Seminar for Literature Majors (1 Unit)
For juniors and seniors. Topics vary. Students research and complete an independent term paper related to the topic of the seminar.

ENGLISH 403-0 Writers’ Studies in Literature (1 Unit)
Writers’ Studies in Literature. Students will learn about literature from a writers’ perspective through close reading, as well as contextualization through generic, and thematic and formal lineage. Students will begin to see literature as a “body of enacted criticism” in a way that is essential to the program’s interdisciplinary foundation and to their own development as writers. These courses will be taught by either creative writing faculty or literature faculty, with at least one major assignment in each course relying on research and critical writing.

ENGLISH 410-0 Introduction to Graduate Study (1 Unit)
Principles, techniques, and consequences of representative modes of literary inquiry exemplified in works of contemporary scholarship and criticism. Required of Ph.D. students.

ENGLISH 411-0 Studies in Poetry (1 Unit)
Content varies. Topics may include prosody or other formal aspects of poetry; comparative study of poems from different historical periods; consideration of poetics and the relationship of poetry to other cultural activities.

ENGLISH 412-0 Studies in Drama (1 Unit)
Content varies. Samples: theories of comedy; the history play.

ENGLISH 413-0 Studies in the Novel (1 Unit)
Content varies. Samples: Richardson and Fielding; Gothic fiction; Dickens; theory of the novel from James to Kermode.

ENGLISH 422-0 Studies in Medieval Literature (1 Unit)
Literature of the medieval period, including, but not necessarily restricted to, literature written in Middle English.

ENGLISH 431-0 Studies in 16Th Century Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. Samples: Elizabethan romance; Spenser; Sidney.

ENGLISH 434-0 Studies in Shakespeare (1 Unit)

ENGLISH 435-0 Studies in 17Th Century Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. Samples: Donne's poetry; Milton.

ENGLISH 441-0 18Th Cent Lit (1 Unit)
Content varies. Samples: Swift, Blake, and sensibility from Rousseau to Austen.

ENGLISH 451-0 Studies in Romantic Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. Samples: the long poem in the Romantic period; Byron and the Byronic.

ENGLISH 455-0 Studies in Victorian Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. Samples: Victorian poetics; biography and autobiography; Anglo-American literary relationships.

ENGLISH 461-0 Studies in Contemporary Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. Samples: James Joyce; experiments in fiction.

ENGLISH 465-0 Studies in Colonial & Postcolonial Lit (1 Unit)
Content varies. Colonial and postcolonial literatures of Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and other formerly colonized cultures, with attention to theoretical accounts of colonial and postcolonial culture.

ENGLISH 471-0 Studies in American Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. Samples: Henry James; historical backgrounds of colonial literature; Whitman.

ENGLISH 481-0 Studies in Literary Theory and Criticism (1 Unit)
Topics in literary theory and theories related to the study of Anglophone literature and culture, focusing on issues of methodology and interpretation. Content varies.

ENGLISH 490-0 Independent Reading (1 Unit)
Permission of department required. May be repeated for credit.

ENGLISH 491-0 Editorial Practicum (0 Unit)
Summer work as an editorial assistant for TriQuarterly Online. Open to students in the Litowitz Creative Writing Graduate Program, MFA+MA.

ENGLISH 493-0 Elements of Craft (1 Unit)
A cross-genre seminar-based workshop for first-year MFA+MA students. This course will prepare students for the dual-degree program and teach them the "language of workshop" while developing their critical and creative writing skills.

ENGLISH 494-0 Mapping the MFA Thesis (1 Unit)
The Long Form-MFA cross-genre workshop dedicated to organizing the MFA thesis.

ENGLISH 495-0 Cross-Genre Creative Writing Workshop (1 Unit)
Students will practice creative writing across genres and will examine the ways that genres overlap, influence and inform one another.

ENGLISH 496-0 MFA Poetry Workshop (1 Unit)
A graduate level poetry workshop for MFA+MA students. Open to other university graduate students by application.

ENGLISH 497-0 MFA Fiction Workshop (1 Unit)
A graduate level fiction workshop for MFA+MA students. Open to other university graduate students by application.

ENGLISH 498-0 MFA Creative Nonfiction Workshop (1 Unit)
A graduate level creative nonfiction workshop for MFA+MA students. Open to other university graduate students by application.

ENGLISH 499-0 Independent Study (1 Unit)
Permission of instructor and department required. May be repeated for credit.

ENGLISH 505-0 Research Development Seminar (1 Unit)
Third year doctoral students in the English department will be required to take this class in which they will draft a doctoral prospectus and an application for a research grant.

ENGLISH 520-0 Writing for Publication (1 Unit)
English department students in candidacy will develop professional skills related to writing for publication, whether for an academic or a broader public audience.

ENGLISH 570-0 Seminar in Teaching Composition (1 Unit)
An introduction to theories, practices and controversies in the teaching of writing in colleges and universities, within the context of various definitions of literacy in American culture.

ENGLISH 571-0 Teaching Creative Writing (1 Unit)
All MFA+MA students will take this specially designed pedagogy course during their first year. Students will study the history and models of teaching for Creative Writing programs. Students will design creative writing courses, set clear, achievable learning objectives, draft syllabi, generate exercises, and select reading material for introductory courses in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

ENGLISH 590-0 Research (1-3 Units)
SEE DEPT FOR SECTION AND PERMISSION NUMBERS- Independent investigation of selected problems pertaining to thesis or dissertation. May be repeated for credit.

ENGLISH 591-0 MFA Thesis Tutorial (1-3 Units)
Registration for MFA+MA students writing an MFA Thesis project.