ENGLISH

english.northwestern.edu

The Department of English values various kinds of critical inquiry and creativity. While some courses emphasize the formal qualities of literary works, others address such questions as what counts as “literary,” or how to characterize the relationships among literature, culture, and politics. Classes might discuss psychoanalysis, race and gender, or the history of the book. While courses have different approaches, methods, and emphases and the texts examined vary, all courses stress close reading and careful analysis of texts, whether written or visual. Reflecting both range and specificity, the curriculum enables students to pursue their areas of interest within a broader understanding of literary history and the range of literary study. In its creative writing courses the department offers training in verse, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Virtually all courses also include practice in writing clear, concise, and persuasive expository prose.

Rigorous training in thinking and writing is valuable for any career, including law, IT, communications, marketing, consulting, finance, and business as well as writing, publishing, and the teaching of English at all levels. Courses in English and American literature also help students to hone their skills as critical citizens of global communities.

The department takes pride in its diversity of perspectives. In addition to teaching classes in the department, English faculty contribute substantially to the course offerings in theater, drama, and comparative literature, as well as American, African American, Asian American, Latina and Latino, and gender and sexuality studies. Professors have taught courses in conjunction with the Newberry Library and other Chicago institutions.

Majors in English

A complete description of undergraduate English major programs may be obtained from the department office and website. Detailed descriptions of courses to be offered for the year are posted the preceding spring in English Course Listings (https://www.english.northwestern.edu/courses/) on the department website.

English majors may ask any member of the department to serve as an academic adviser. A quarterly meeting with the adviser to discuss course selection and progress is strongly recommended.

Minors in English

The department offers a minor in literature and two minor tracks in creative writing; all offer experience in reading literary texts and writing critical analysis.

The Teaching of English

Weinberg College students pursuing a major in English who also wish to be certified for secondary teaching must be admitted to the Secondary Teaching Program (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/education-social-policy/secondary-teaching/) in the School of Education and Social Policy and complete all requirements as outlined in the SESP chapter of this catalog. Students are urged to contact the Office of Student Affairs in SESP as early as possible in their academic careers.

Related Programs

Literature courses appear in the curricula of other Weinberg College departments, including African American studies, American studies, Asian American studies, comparative literary studies, drama, and gender and sexuality studies. See also the Writing Program (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/writing-program/) for a list of composition (expository writing) courses.

Programs of Study

- English and American Literature Major (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/english/english-american-literature-major/)
- Creative Writing Major (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/english/creative-writing-major/)
- English and American Literature Minor (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/english/english-american-literature-minor/)
- Creative Writing Sequence-Based Minor (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/english/creative-writing-sequence-based-minor/)
- Creative Writing Cross-Genre Minor (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/english/creative-writing-cross-genre-minor/)

ENGLISH 100-SW Summer Academic Workshop in Writing (1 Unit)  An introduction to college writing. Students learn how to use a process of planning, drafting, revising, and editing to write papers that are clear, concise, interesting, and persuasive.

ENGLISH 101-6 First-Year Seminar (1 Unit)  WCAS First-Year Seminar

ENGLISH 105-0 Expository Writing (1 Unit)  Emphasizes all phases of the composition process, research methods, and critical thinking. Careful review of student papers and reports. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 105-6 First-Year Seminar (1 Unit)  WCAS First-Year Seminar

ENGLISH 106-1 Writing in Special Contexts (0.5 Unit)  Introduction to expository writing similar to ENGLISH 105-0 but paired with a course in another discipline.

ENGLISH 106-2 Writing in Special Contexts (0.5 Unit)  Introduction to expository writing similar to ENGLISH 105-0 but paired with a course in another discipline.

ENGLISH 200-0 Literary Histories (1 Unit)  Content varies, but all versions of this course engage with at least 200 years of literature from a particular tradition, genre, or theme, with an emphasis on literary history and narratives of continuity and change over time. Suitable for majors and non-majors. No prior knowledge of the field is expected. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 202-0 Introduction to Creative Writing (1 Unit)  Forms and techniques of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

ENGLISH 205-0 Intermediate Composition (1 Unit)  Expository writing at an intermediate level. Emphasis on techniques for writing clearly, precisely, and persuasively. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 206-0 Reading & Writing Poetry (1 Unit)  Forms and techniques of verse. May not be taken earlier than winter quarter of the first year. Seniors may enroll only with department consent.
ENGLISH 207-0 Reading and Writing Fiction (1 Unit)  Forms and techniques of fiction.

ENGLISH 208-0 Reading & Writing Creative Non-Fiction (1 Unit)  Forms and techniques of creative nonfiction.

ENGLISH 209-0 Topics in Genre Writing (1 Unit)  Forms and techniques of genre writing (e.g., screenwriting, young adult fiction, adaptation, memoir). May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 210-1 British Literary Traditions (1 Unit)  Chronological survey of British literature in its cultural contexts from Beowulf to the 18th century. Beowulf to the late 18th century. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 210-2 British Literary Traditions (1 Unit)  Chronological survey of British literature in its cultural contexts from Beowulf to the 20th century. Late 18th century to the 20th century. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 211-0 Introduction to Poetry (1 Unit)  Elements of lyric and narrative poetry, with emphasis on the ways these can create meaning and elicit response. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 212-0 Introduction to Drama (1 Unit)  Fundamental elements of drama as perceived in performance. How a play communicates from text to stage to audience. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 213-0 Introduction to Fiction (1 Unit)  How prose fiction, as practiced by various British and American authors from the 18th century to today, creates and communicates meaning. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 214-0 Introduction to Film and Its Literatures (1 Unit)  Skills of formal film analysis. Critical overview of multiple forms of film related writing, including historical scholarship, film theory, popular reviews, legal documents, manifestos, and movie-inspired fiction. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 220-0 The Bible as Literature (1 Unit)  Selected books of the Hebrew bible and New Testament studied from a literary perspective; issues of plot, character, genre, narrative strategy, and theories of interpretation. Students may not receive credit if they took the same class as the former COMP_LIT 210-0. Ethics Values Distro Area Interdisciplinary Distro - See Rules (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext) Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 234-0 Introduction to Shakespeare (1 Unit)  Representative Shakespearean plays. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 266-0 Introduction to African American Literature (1 Unit)  Literature of Black people in the United States from slavery to freedom. Works of major writers and significant but unsung bards of the past. ENGLISH 266-0 and AF_AM_ST 210-0 are taught together. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 267-0 Topics in African American Literature (1 Unit)  Content varies. In contrast to ENGLISH 266-0, which offers a broad survey of the field, this course explores particular topics in greater depth. Suitable for majors and non-majors. No prior knowledge of the field is expected. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 270-1 American Literary Traditions (1 Unit)  Representative writers and works of American literature in cultural context. Puritans to Moby-Dick. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 270-2 American Literary Traditions (1 Unit)  Representative writers and works of American literature in cultural context. Mid-19th century to World War I. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 273-0 Introduction to 20th-Century American Literature (1 Unit)  Principal writers and works since World War I. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 274-0 Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Literatures (1 Unit)  Key texts and themes from pre-contact periods to the present. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 275-0 Introduction to Asian American Literature (1 Unit)  From the early 20th century to the present, covering a range of genres and ethnicities. Taught with ASIAN_AM 275-0; may not receive credit for both courses. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 276-0 Topics in Asian American Literature (1 Unit)  Content varies. In contrast to ENGLISH 275-0, which offers a broad survey of the field, this course explores particular topics in greater depth. Suitable for majors and non-majors. No prior knowledge of the field is expected. ENGLISH 276-0 and ASIAN_AM 276-0 are taught together. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 277-0 Introduction to Latina and Latino Literature (1 Unit)  Survey of major writers and movements from the Spanish colonial era to the present, covering a range of genres and ethnicities. Taught with LATINO 277-0 and SPANISH 277-0; may receive credit for only 1 of these courses. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 280-0 Introduction to Postcolonial Literature (1 Unit)  Introduces the field of postcolonial literary studies, including a critical overview of key terms and major debates. Students will read selected postcolonial literary works, paying particular attention to their formal properties, alongside theoretical and historical texts on colonialism and its aftermath. Suitable for majors and nonmajors. No prior knowledge of the field is expected. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 281-0 Topics in Postcolonial & Comparative Literatures (1 Unit)  Content varies. In contrast to ENGLISH 280-0, which offers a broad survey of the field, this course explores particular topics in greater depth. Suitable for majors and non-majors. No prior knowledge of the field is expected. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 282-0 Writing and Speaking in Business (1 Unit)  Emphasizes writing and speaking to inform and persuade audiences in business contexts to achieve business goals. Attention to clear, compelling, and well-organized written and oral communication.

ENGLISH 283-0 Introduction to Literature and the Environment (1 Unit)  Studies in literature and other media oriented by ecological thinking. An introduction to the ways language, literature, and aesthetic production shape ideas about nature, varying widely by historical and cross-cultural context. Suitable for majors and nonmajors. No prior knowledge of the field is expected. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 284-0 Topics in Literature and the Environment (1 Unit)  Content varies. In contrast to ENGLISH 283-0, which offers a broad survey of the field, this course explores particular topics in greater depth. Suitable for majors and non-majors. No prior knowledge of the field is expected. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 300-0 Seminar in Reading and Interpretation (1 Unit)  Close reading of literary works in the light of various perspectives in literary study.

ENGLISH 302-0 History of the English Language (1 Unit)  The English language from the earliest times to today.
A survey of English drama (1590-1630) and its cultural contexts.

ENGLISH 332-0 Renaissance Drama (1 Unit)  This course is for undergraduate students in their second year or above who want to develop their abilities to write in different styles and for different audiences.

ENGLISH 306-0 Advanced Poetry Writing (1 Unit)  Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Prerequisite: ENGLISH 206-0 or department consent.

ENGLISH 307-0 Advanced Creative Writing (1 Unit)  Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Prerequisite: ENGLISH 206-0 or department consent.

ENGLISH 308-0 Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing (1 Unit)  Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Prerequisite: ENGLISH 206-0 or department consent.

ENGLISH 309-0 Advanced Creative Cross-Genre Writing (1 Unit)  Content varies. May be repeated twice for credit with a different topic. Prerequisite: ENGLISH 206-0 or department consent.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENGLISH 323-1 Chaucer (1 Unit)  "The Canterbury Tales." Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 323-2 Chaucer (1 Unit)  "Troilus and Criseyde" and other works. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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

ENGLISH 331-0 Renaissance Poetry (1 Unit)  English poetry from the Elizabethan period to 1660. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 332-0 Renaissance Drama (1 Unit)  A survey of English drama (1590-1630) and its cultural contexts.

ENGLISH 334-1 Shakespeare (1 Unit)  Principal plays up to 1600. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 334-2 Shakespeare (1 Unit)  Principal plays after 1600. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 335-0 Milton (1 Unit)  Milton's poetry, with those parts of his prose that illuminate his poetical and intellectual development. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 336-0 Studies in Renaissance Literature (1 Unit)  Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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

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

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

ENGLISH 354-0 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. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 355-0 19th-Century British Fiction (1 Unit)  Representative novels written between 1800 and 1900. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 356-0 Victorian Poetry (1 Unit)  The principal British poets from Tennyson to Hopkins. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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

ENGLISH 358-0 Dickens (1 Unit)  Representative works of Charles Dickens. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area
ENGLISH 359-0 Studies in Victorian Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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

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

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

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.
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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

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

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

ENGLISH 367-0 Postwar British Fiction (1 Unit)
Representative British novels since 1945.
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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

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

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.
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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

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.
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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

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

ENGLISH 375-0 Topics in Asian American Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 377-0 Topics in Latina and Latino Literature (1 Unit)
Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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

ENGLISH 381-0 Literature & Medicine (1 Unit)
Content Varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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.
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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.
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

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

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

ENGLISH 388-0 Studies in Literature and Religion (1 Unit)
Intersection between religious ideas and a particular literary genre or movement. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.
Ethics Values Distro Area Interdisciplinary Distro - See Rules
(https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/
#schoolrequirementstext)
Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ENGLISH 392-0 The Situation of Writing (1 Unit)
The sociology of writers, writing, publication, dissemination of literature, and reading. Prerequisite: admission to writing major.

ENGLISH 393-1 Theory and Practice of Poetry (1 Unit)
Tenets of poetry in English, including prosody, form, metaphor, voice, experimentation; involves intensive writing practice and culminates in the production of a long poem. Prerequisite: admission to creative writing sequence.

ENGLISH 393-2 Theory and Practice of Poetry (1 Unit)
Tenets of poetry in English, including prosody, form, metaphor, voice, experimentation; involves intensive writing practice and culminates in the production of a long poem. Prerequisite: admission to creative writing sequence.

ENGLISH 393-3 Theory and Practice of Poetry (1 Unit)
Tenets of poetry in English, including prosody, form, metaphor, voice, experimentation; involves intensive writing practice and culminates in the production of a long poem. Prerequisite: admission to creative writing sequence.

ENGLISH 394-1 Theory & Practice of Fiction (1 Unit)
Tenets of fictional realism and its substitutes; practice in different applications of plot, narrative technique, point of view; culminates in the writing of a novella. Prerequisite: admission to creative writing sequence.

ENGLISH 394-2 Theory & Practice of Fiction (1 Unit)
Tenets of fictional realism and its substitutes; practice in different applications of plot, narrative technique, point of view; culminates in the writing of a novella. Prerequisite: admission to creative writing sequence.

ENGLISH 394-3 Theory & Practice of Fiction (1 Unit)
Tenets of fictional realism and its substitutes; practice in different applications of plot,
narrative technique, point of view; culminates in the writing of a novella.
Prerequisite: admission to creative writing sequence.

**ENGLISH 395-1 Theory and Practice of Creative Nonfiction (1 Unit)**
Tenets of creative nonfiction; practice in different styles, form, and modes; culminates in the writing of a long creative nonfiction project.
Prerequisite: admission to creative writing sequence.

**ENGLISH 395-2 Theory and Practice of Creative Nonfiction (1 Unit)**
Tenets of creative nonfiction; practice in different styles, form, and modes; culminates in the writing of a long creative nonfiction project.
Prerequisite: admission to creative writing sequence.

**ENGLISH 395-3 Theory and Practice of Creative Nonfiction (1 Unit)**
Tenets of creative nonfiction; practice in different styles, form, and modes; culminates in the writing of a long creative nonfiction project.
Prerequisite: admission to creative writing sequence.

**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 398-1 Senior Sequence (1 Unit)** For seniors preparing an honors essay in the literature major. Students pursue individual topics under the direction of a faculty adviser and the departmental honors coordinator. Admission by application. K grade given each quarter pending completion of essay.

**ENGLISH 398-2 Senior Sequence (1 Unit)** For seniors preparing an honors essay in the literature major. Students pursue individual topics under the direction of a faculty adviser and the departmental honors coordinator. Admission by application. K grade given each quarter pending completion of essay.

**ENGLISH 399-0 Independent Study (1 Unit)** Individual projects with faculty guidance. Open to majors with junior or senior standing and to senior minors. May be elected two times, but only 1 unit at a time.
Prerequisite: consent of department.