The English Department offers two graduate programs: the Master of Arts in English: Literature and Textual Interpretation, and the Master of Arts in English: Writing. These programs are small enough that students may cultivate close working relationships with faculty members and classmates and flexible enough that students may tailor course selections and thesis work to suit their personal and professional interests. The programs reside within a large department whose extraordinarily dynamic and productive faculty offer diverse areas of expertise.

Qualifications for Admissions to Degree Programs in English

1. A bachelor’s degree with a minimum of 24 semester credits of undergraduate English.
2. A GPA of 3.00 overall (or 3.15 in the second half of all undergraduate work) and 3.25 in English coursework.
3. A letter of intent in which the applicant explains his or her academic and career goals and expectations.
4. A writing sample, such as an undergraduate research paper (for the Literature and Textual Interpretation emphasis) or portfolio of creative or professional writing (for the Writing emphasis) that represents the student’s best work.

Please note that the English Department may consider admission of an applicant whose English GPA is under 3.25 (but no less than 3.00) and/or whose other qualifications do not meet all the specified above where there is convincing evidence that he or she is capable of performing satisfactory graduate work in the English Department. Admission under these circumstances is conditional. Completion of 6 credits of graduate work with a grade of B or above will lead to full standing, provided that any coursework additionally required as a condition for admission has also been satisfied. Coursework required as a condition for admission must be completed in addition to the minimum credit hours required for the degree.

Contact the Graduate Director with questions about the application process.

Graduate Programs

- English, Literature and Textual Interpretation - Master of Arts
- English, Writing - Master of Arts

General Information on Graduate English Courses

To help students with their degree planning, the department provides a tentative semester-by-semester course list and a summer course list. Prior to each semester’s registration, the Graduate Director provides more detailed descriptions of upcoming offerings. These are available on the Web and in the English Department office.

700-Level Courses:

Enrollment in 700-level courses requires admission to the program or the consent of the Graduate Director. Some 700-level courses have additional prerequisites, as noted below.

500- and 600-Level Courses:

Students who have taken a course at the 300- or 400-level may not include that course at the 500- or 600-level in a graduate program, except in the cases of creative writing workshops and special topics courses when the topic is not the same as that taken at the undergraduate level. Questions regarding course restrictions and repeatability should be directed to the Graduate Director.

Graduate students enrolled in a 500- or 600-level course are expected to make significant contributions above and beyond what is expected of undergraduate students registered in the corresponding 300- or 400-level course. Whenever possible, the instructor should meet with all enrolled graduate students to explain the additional requirements and expectations. Graduate students, upon consultation with the instructor, may be required to do up to 50% more reading and/or writing than undergraduate students. Graduate students, upon consultation with the instructor, may also be asked, in place of or in addition to the above requirements, to participate in research, class presentations, or other special projects.

Modes of Instruction:

Graduate credit may be earned in each of the following modes:

Traditional Classroom Setting: This mode includes double-numbered courses on the 500-600-level, seminars or courses on the 700-level, and coursework earned in areas outside of English.

Individual Research: This mode includes:
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 796</td>
<td>Directed Studies</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 797</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 799</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>1-6</td>
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**Tutorially Supervised Study:** Tutorials are available in any of the topical areas identified under seminar and course headings at the 700-level, with the exception of ENGL 711, when they are not offered as classroom courses. Before registering in a tutorial, students must apply to an instructor who specializes in the area to be studied and receive his/her permission. Tutorial Contract forms, along with a list of specific courses, are available through the English Department office. Tutorials may be used for no more than 6 credits.

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 502</td>
<td>Teaching Writing in the Elementary and Middle School (3 crs)</td>
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<td>• Cross-listed with ENGL 302. Credit may not be earned in both courses.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Writing intensive course focused on writing theory and pedagogy in the elementary and middle school. Students will develop their writing skills as well as learn to support writing development of children in a writing workshop.</td>
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<td>Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 507</td>
<td>Editing and Publications Management (3 crs)</td>
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<td>• Cross-listed with ENGL 307. Credit may not be earned in both courses.</td>
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<td>Copyediting and substantive editing of text and art. Addresses use of style guides and stylesheets, editor/author rapport, document design, indexing, and the publication process. Flexible strategies that consider conventions, cognition, and rhetorical situation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 512</td>
<td>Science Writing (3 crs)</td>
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<td>• Cross-listed with ENGL 312. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Develop students’ abilities to respond to rhetorical situations informed by scientific evidence and create documents that respond effectively to these situations.</td>
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<td>Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 513</td>
<td>Technical Writing (3 crs)</td>
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<td>• Cross-listed with ENGL 313. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Students analyze rhetorical situations and user needs, determine optimal formats, and produce effective technical documents for intended audiences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 514</td>
<td>Cultural Rhetorics (3 crs)</td>
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<td>• Cross-listed with ENGL 314. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.</td>
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<td>Topics in rhetorical action of cultural groups. Explores relationships among rhetoric, identity, ideology, power, privilege, and social change.</td>
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<td>ENGL 515</td>
<td>Visual Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Culture (3 crs)</td>
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<td>• Cross-listed with ENGL 315. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.</td>
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<td>Examines texts as comprised of both verbal and visual elements that work together to make meaning, create knowledge, and persuade audiences.</td>
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<td>Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits</td>
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<td>ENGL 521</td>
<td>Topics in the Structure of English (3 crs)</td>
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<td>• Cross-listed with ENGL 321. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Explores the inner workings of the English language. Specific course offerings will involve one or more areas of language structure: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics.</td>
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<td>ENGL 525</td>
<td>Topics in Language in Society (3 crs)</td>
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<td>• Cross-listed with ENGL 325. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.</td>
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<td>Explores issues of language in society from a linguistic perspective. Topics may include the history of the English language, language attitudes, language change, language variation, and others.</td>
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<td>Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits</td>
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ENGL 591 Travel Seminar (1-3 crs)
- Cross-listed with ENGL 391. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic. Course offered only when sufficient enrollment has been recruited, may be offered in cooperation with UW-Extension.

Study before, during, or after travel to a region associated with a writer or writers, e.g. Thomas Hardy's Wessex. Emphasizes visits to libraries, museums, cities, countryside, and special sites associated with the literature.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option

ENGL 595 Directed Studies (1-3 crs)
Consent: Department Consent Required
- Cross-listed with ENGL 395. The English graduate program may include no more than three semester credits of either independent or directed study courses. Independent and directed study courses must be approved in advance by the English Graduate Director.

Study of a problem or special area in language or literature.
Repeat: Course may be repeated
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option

ENGL 597 Writing Center Theory & Practice (3 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
- Cross-listed with ENGL 397. Credit may not be earned in both courses

Introduction to Writing Center Theory and its application to tutoring college writing in a variety of disciplines. Students tutor three hours per week in the Center for Writing Excellence. This course is open to non-majors.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 1
Lab/Studio Hours: 3

ENGL 609 Grant Proposal Writing (3 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
- Cross-listed with ENGL 409. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

Students will gain knowledge of various grant proposal forms (government, corporate, foundation), with emphasis on conceptualizing, developing, and writing proposals for real clients. Each student will complete an individual and a collaborative proposal.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 610 Creative Writing Workshop - Poetry (3 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
- Cross-listed with ENGL 410. May be repeated only with permission of the instructor.

Special emphasis on class discussion and personal conferences for advanced writers of poetry.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 611 Creative Writing Workshop - Fiction (3 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
- Cross-listed with ENGL 411. May be repeated only with permission of the instructor.

Special emphasis on class discussion and personal conferences for advanced writers of fiction.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 612 Seminar in Nonfiction Writing (3 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
- Cross-listed with ENGL 412.

Writing and reading nonfiction, with an emphasis on producing an essay of publishable quality for a general, literate audience.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 613 Prose Writing Workshop-Topics (3 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
- Cross-listed with ENGL 413.

Reading and writing in one or more prose genres. Topics may include: writing for children, historical fiction, mystery, young adult.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 615 Seminar in Science and Nature Writing (3 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
- Cross-listed with ENGL 415. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

Explores literary science and nature writing; students create and workshop their own short essays, with an emphasis on producing a longer publishable piece on science, medicine, or natural history.
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
ENGL 621 Seminar in Linguistic Research (3 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
• Cross-listed with ENGL 421. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Theory and practice of linguistic research, on a general theme designated by the instructor. Students design and carry out research projects, choosing language problems and research methodology suggested by the theme.

Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 630 Seminar in World/Postcolonial Literature (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with ENGL 430. Requires six credits of literature prior to enrollment in this course. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

In-depth study of specialized topics in world/postcolonial literature such as Postcolonial Feminism or Magic Realism in the Latin American Novel.

Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 640 Seminar in American Literature Before 1865 (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with ENGL 440. Requires six credits of literature prior to enrollment in this course. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Advanced study of specialized topics in American literature before 1865, including theoretical (e.g., Racial Pseudoscience in the American Novel), generic (e.g., The Antebellum Romance), and special themes (e.g., The Transcendentalists and Social Reform).

Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 648 Seminar in American Literature Since 1865 (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with ENGL 448. Requires six credits of literature prior to enrollment in this course. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Advanced study of selected topics in American literature since 1865, including genres or subgenres, theoretical perspectives, ethnic emphases, special themes, and paired or individual authors.

Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 652 Seminar in Early British Literature (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with ENGL 452. Requires six credits of literature prior to enrollment in this course. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

In-depth exploration of selected topics in British Literature before 1790, including theoretical (Feminism and Medieval Literature), generic (Medieval Drama, Early Modern Poetry, Romance), and special themes (Death in Early British Literature).

Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 655 Seminar in Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Culture (3 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
• Cross-listed with ENGL 455. Credit may not be earned in both courses. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Course provides capstone experience in theory and praxis of rhetorics in science, technology, and/or culture. Content of individual course iterations will vary depending on instructor expertise/interests, but will balance rhetorical analysis with textual production.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 659 Seminar in British Literature After 1790 (3 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
• Cross-listed with ENGL 459. Requires six credits of literature prior to enrollment in this course. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Advanced study of specialized topics in British literature after 1790, including theoretical (e.g., intersection of Feminism and British Modernism), generic (e.g., Romantic Poetry, Modern Drama, Postmodern Novel), special themes (e.g., Booker Novels), and author studies (e.g., Dickens and Collins).

Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 668 Seminar in American Ethnic Literature (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with ENGL 468. Requires six credits of literature prior to enrollment in this course. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Advanced study of topics and texts authored by American Ethnic writers. Topics may include theoretical, political, aesthetic, and cultural issues reflecting the historical and cultural forces that have shaped the literary production of authors from a particular American ethnic tradition.

Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
ENGL 681 Seminar in Film, Video, and Moving-Image Culture (3-4 crs)
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
• Meets 5 hours per week in classroom. Four credit offerings require additional
screening time outside of class. Cross-listed with ENGL 481.
Advanced explorations in film, video, and moving-image culture studies. Variable focus and credits by offering. Seminar topics will often include
significant engagement with work in various forms of critical theory.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits
Grading Basis: A-F Grades Only

ENGL 684 Seminar in Critical Theory (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with ENGL 484. Requires six credits of literature prior to enrollment
in this course. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic. Others may
enroll with the instructor’s permission.
In-depth exploration of topics in Critical Theory, including schools (e.g.,
Feminist Theory), periods (e.g., 20th Century Theory), figures (e.g., Foucauldian
Theory), and special themes (e.g., Theorizing Music).
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 696 Seminar in Women's Literature (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with ENGL 496. Requires six credits of literature prior to enrollment
in this course. See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.
Advanced study of specialized topics in literature authored by women—e.g.,
theory (Womanist Writings and Readings), period (Women's WWI Fiction),
genre (Feminism in Science Fiction), or theme (Woman's Work: Gender and
Class Before 1790).
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 711 Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing (3 crs)
• Admission to program or consent of graduate instructor.
Introduction to graduate level critical reading and writing, stressing the
development of insightful analysis and critical voice supported by an
understanding of a variety of critical approaches and research methodologies.
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 715 Critical Theory and English Studies (3 crs)
Prerequisite: ENGL 711 or consent of instructor.
Seminar examining the function of critical theory in studies of literature,
language, and culture, focusing on the place of English Studies within the
culture and the relations between critical theory and the disciplines of English.
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 721 Studies in Writing, Language, or Pedagogy (3 crs)
Prerequisite: ENGL 711 or concurrent enrollment, or consent of instructor.
• See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.
Seminar examining topics of importance in writing, language, or pedagogy
(e.g., Approaches to Teaching English, Social Forces and Linguistic Change, or
The Nature of Composition Studies: Historical, Institutional, Cultural Forces).
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 723 Story Writing Seminar (3 crs)
Prerequisite: ENGL 611 or consent of instructor.
The study, creation, workshop evaluation and revision of stories.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: A-F Grades Only
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 724 Poetry Writing Seminar (3 crs)
Prerequisite: ENGL 610, or consent of instructor.
The study, creation, workshop evaluation and revision of poems.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
Seminar Hours: 3

ENGL 727 Studies in Scientific and Technical Communication (3 crs)
Theory and research on scientific and technical communication. Emphasis on
the role of current theory and research in informing best practices in textual
and graphic documentation.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 733 Studies in World/Postcolonial Literature (3 crs)
Prerequisite: ENGL 711 or concurrent enrollment, or consent of instructor.
• See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.
Theoretically focused seminar on a particular theme, genre, or historical period
from a geographical region other than Great Britain or North America (e.g., the
European Novel, Literature of the African Diaspora, or Postcolonial Fiction).
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
ENGL 743 Studies in North American Literature (3 crs)
Prerequisite: ENGL 711 or concurrent enrollment, or consent of instructor.
  • See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Theoretically focused seminar on a particular ethnic group, race, culture, or historical period in North America (e.g. Native Voices in American Literature, African American Writing 1830-1900, or American Poetry: Whitman to Frost).
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 753 Studies in British and Irish Literature (3 crs)
Prerequisite: ENGL 711 or concurrent enrollment, or consent of instructor.
  • See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Theoretically focused seminar on a particular region, group, or period in Great Britain (e.g. British Women Writers—seventeenth and eighteenth century, Kailyard School of Scottish Fiction, Exile and the Irish Writer, or twentieth century British Poetry).
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 769 Studies in Figures and Groups (3 crs)
Prerequisite: ENGL 711 or concurrent enrollment, or consent of instructor.
  • See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Theoretically focused seminar on a particular figure or literary group, including investigation of philosophical and political background, cultural milieu, literary influences, and critical reception (e.g. Shakespeare, Alice Walker, Thomas Pynchon, the Beats, or the Brontes).
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 779 Studies in Themes and Genres (3 crs)
Prerequisite: ENGL 711 or concurrent enrollment, or consent of instructor.
  • See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Theoretically focused seminar on a particular theme or genre that extends beyond geographical boundaries and traditional literary periods (e.g., Evolution of the Novel, Nineteenth Century Gothicism, Autobiography in Western Literature, or Our Literary Foremothers).
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

ENGL 789 Studies in Theory and Culture (3 crs)
Prerequisite: ENGL 711 or concurrent enrollment, or consent of instructor.
  • See current Class Schedule for specific theme or topic.

Seminar exploring theoretical issues, historical or contemporary, with emphasis on critical application and implication (e.g. Cultural Studies Theory, Literary Post- Modernism, Theories of Degeneration in the British Novel, Film Noir, or Cultural Perspectives on Literacy).
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option

ENGL 794 Graduate Apprenticeship: Teaching Theory and Practice (3 crs)
Prerequisite: Fifteen credits of graduate coursework
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
  • Permission required by Faculty Supervisor and Graduate Program Director

Students will gain college classroom teaching preparation and experience under the supervision of a graduate faculty member teaching an undergraduate course. In addition, students will read within a select bibliography of texts on pedagogy.
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option

ENGL 796 Directed Studies (1-3 crs)
Permits a group of students to investigate a common topic under the direction of a department faculty member.
Repeat: Course may be repeated
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option

ENGL 797 Independent Study (1-3 crs)
Consent: Department Consent Required

Individual project under the direction of a faculty member.
Repeat: Course may be repeated
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option

ENGL 799 Thesis (1-6 crs)
Consent: Department Consent Required
  • Full-time equivalent.

A description of acceptable topics and the precise nature of the thesis requirement is provided in the departmental program descriptions.
Repeat: Course may be repeated
Grading Basis: PR Only Grade Basis