

# ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE (MA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/english/>)

NYSED: 08253 HEGIS: 1502.00 CIP: 23.1404

## Program Overview

The NYU Department of English warmly welcomes qualified applicants who wish to pursue advanced study towards an MA in English. We are a large department that values historical coverage of the field but also embraces innovative approaches to the discipline. We teach in a wide variety of areas and have research clusters among our faculty and graduate students spanning medieval to twenty-first-century literatures, as well as modernist, postcolonial, African American and Black Diasporic, Latinx, and Asian American literatures. Students in the department's MA program explore and deepen their scholarly interests, develop their skills in critical thinking and writing, and write a 35-45-page Master's Thesis under the supervision of a faculty adviser. The program is typically taken over two years, with the thesis written in either the Fall or Spring of the second year.

Together with the department's PhD students, MA students originate, organize and receive funding for their own working and reading groups, which currently include Critical Theory and Medievalisms; Cultures of War and the Post-War; Creative Writing; Early Modern Literature; the Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Literature Working Group; the Marxism Working Group; Modern and Contemporary Colloquium; Politics of Empowerment; Postcolonial, Race and Diaspora Studies Colloquium; and the Organism for Poetic Research.

The English MA program can be taken as part of the Library and Information Science Dual Degree program with Long Island University, and we also offer an Advanced Certificate in Digital Humanities. Please note that NYU's Creative Writing Program, while affiliated with the Department of English, is administered separately, and a different application process is required for students interested in their MFA Program. See Creative Writing Program (<https://as.nyu.edu/cwp/graduate.html>) for more information.

**Note:** Students admitted to the MA program in English and American Literature will receive an English Department Scholarship, which covers 50% tuition (not registration and services fees).

## Admissions

All applicants to the Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS) are required to submit the general application requirements (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc.html>), which include:

- Academic Transcripts (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/academic-transcripts.html>)
- Test Scores (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/test-scores.html>) (if required)
- Applicant Statements (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/statements.html>)
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Letters of Recommendation (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/letters-of-recommendation.html>), and

- A non-refundable application fee (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/admissions/arc.html#fee>).

See English (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/admissions/arc/programs/english.html>) for admission requirements and instructions specific to this program.

## Program Requirements

Requirements for the program include the completion of 32 credits, 24 of which must be earned through course work taken within the English department. To qualify for the degree, a student must have a GPA of at least 3.0, must complete a minimum of 24 credits with a grade of B or better, and may offer no more than 8 credits with a grade of C. A student may take no more than 36 credits toward the degree.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
ENGL-GA 2980	Intro to Adv Lit Study <sup>1</sup>	3
ENGL-GA 3001	Guided Research I	1
Medieval & Early Modern Literature course		4
18th and/or 19th Centuries Literature course		4
20th and/or 21st Centuries Literature course		4
<b>Electives</b>		
English Electives		8
Other Electives		8
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>32</b>

<sup>1</sup> To be taken in the first term of matriculation.

## Additional Program Requirements

### Master's Project

The Master's project constitutes the capstone to student's academic work in the program, and it should accordingly represent the degree candidate's strongest scholarly and critical effort to date.

## Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
<b>1st Semester/Term</b>		
ENGL-GA 2980	Intro to Adv Lit Study	3
Medieval and Early Modern Literature course		4
English Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>2nd Semester/Term</b>		
18th and/or 19th Centuries Literature course		4
English Elective		4
Other Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>3rd Semester/Term</b>		
20th and/or 21st Centuries Literature course		4
Other Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>4th Semester/Term</b>		
ENGL-GA 3001	Guided Research I	1
<b>Credits</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>32</b>

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Acquire a breadth of knowledge in the history and criticism of literatures in English, especially via the three-course historical distribution requirement.
2. Develop research methods appropriate to graduate-level literary study by exploring and utilizing materials in databases, libraries, and special collections. They also master the correct citation of scholarly sources.
3. Learn the norms of scholarly writing, including the use of grammatically correct prose; the logical development of an argument; the application of critical and theoretical frameworks; and the close interpretation and explication of primary texts.
4. Through the 9,000-11,000-word MA Special Project (thesis), students develop individual research skills and develop expertise in a chosen topic. Working closely with a faculty mentor, students produce a well argued, original, and substantive piece of literary scholarship.
5. Finally, students develop oral skills in presentation and argumentation. These skills are developed during class presentations and at the MA Thesis Presentations Event, where they present on their Special Projects in a public forum.

## Policies

### NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

### Graduate School of Arts and Science Policies

Academic Policies for the Graduate School of Arts and Science can be found on the Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/graduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).