

LITERATURE AND CREATIVE WRITING (BA)

CIP: 23.1302

Program Description

Literature has been central to the formation of collective identities across cultures, nations, and historical epochs. Though literary works are anchored in a particular time and place, many of them are read widely in other times and other places, and by cultures to which they would seem not to belong. The Literature and Creative Writing major at NYU Abu Dhabi is uniquely organized around problems presented by translation, adaptation, and circulation. Unlike many college literary curricula that restrict majors to the study of works in a single language or from a specific national tradition, this major engages students in critical conversations that cut across fields, and in doing so help to rethink the very foundations of literary studies and creative writing.

How are literary forms and the histories of literature and literary exchanges shaped by translation, by military victory and defeat, by colonization and postcolonialism, and by the rise of an economic world system? How do new forms and traditions of literature arise and is there such a thing as an emergent world or global literature? How might the imaginative encounter with other cultures renew our engagements with ourselves and our world? How do cultural, political, class, racial, or sexual differences inform and sustain a vision of a common world? How are literary studies and creative writing in dialogue with the other arts as well as with cultural analysis and theory? What is the role of literary writing in contemporary local and global contexts? How do we define authenticity in the context of existing and emergent technologies? What is the relationship between the written, the oral, and the performance? How do we define aesthetic significance across different cultural traditions and different literary modes? Students discuss these and other questions intensively with a distinguished faculty of scholars and writers who come from and work across a wide variety of literary cultures.

Tracks

The major in Literature and Creative Writing offers two twelve-course tracks, one emphasizing scholarship, the other emphasizing creative work. The program is devoted to the idea that an undergraduate literature major becomes more fruitful when literary scholarship and creative literary work enrich and inform one another.

Students in both tracks take five required courses, which explore the interplay between reading, scholarship, and creative practice: Literary Interpretation; Foundations of Literature I: Epic and Drama; Foundations of Literature II: Lyric Poetry and the Novel; Introduction to Creative Writing; and Problems and Methods in Literary Studies.

Students in the scholarship track take five scholarly electives (at least one of which must be from a list of courses dealing with “pre-modern” subjects). One of these five electives may include an additional creative writing course. Students in the creative track take three creative writing electives and two scholarly electives, which prepare them to produce a creative capstone that is informed by a scholarly perspective. Students in the scholarly track may take one additional creative writing course in lieu of a scholarly elective. All students must take one 3000-level course, one course in pre-modern literatures, and may count only one course with a core curriculum course number (e.g. CADT-UH 1021 Art of Narrative Science) for elective credit. All seniors enroll in two semesters

of Capstone Seminar and Project in addition to intensive study with a faculty mentor on the project.

Study Away

The study away pathway can be found on the NYUAD Student Portal at students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/programs/literature-creative-writing-ba/students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways/>). Students with questions should contact the Office of Global Education.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

Literary Studies Track

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
Physical Education (2 courses)		
Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)		
Experimental Inquiry (1 course)		
Islamic Studies (1 course)		
First-Year Writing Seminar		4
Colloquia		4
Field Colloquia (2 J-Term courses)		6
Core Competencies		
Arts, Design, and Technology		4
Cultural Exploration Analysis		4
Data and Discovery		4
Structures of Thought and Society		4
Required Courses		
LITCW-UH 1000	Literary Interpretation	4
LITCW-UH 1003	Introduction to Creative Writing	4
LITCW-UH 3000	Problems and Methods of Literary Studies	4
Major Electives*		
Complete 1 Literature: Histories elective (see list below)		4
Complete 1 Literature: Geographies elective (see list below)		4
Complete 1 Literature: Topics elective (see list below)		4
Complete 2 additional Literature electives (from any of the above categories)		8
Capstone		
LITCW-UH 4000	Capstone Seminar	4
LITCW-UH 4001	Capstone Project	4
Other Electives		
Complete enough courses to reach the minimum overall required	128	58 credits
Total Credits		128

***Note:** A maximum of 3 literature cross-listed courses (including study away) may be used towards Literature electives.

Creative Writing Track

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
Physical Education (2 courses)		
Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)		
Experimental Inquiry (1 course)		
First-Year Writing Seminar		4
Colloquia		4
Field Colloquia (2 J-Term courses)		6
<i>Core Competencies</i>		
Arts, Design, and Technology		4
Cultural Exploration Analysis		4
Data and Discovery		4
Structures of Thought and Society		4
Required Courses		
LITCW-UH 1000	Literary Interpretation	4
LITCW-UH 1003	Introduction to Creative Writing	4
LITCW-UH 3000	Problems and Methods of Literary Studies	4
Major Electives		
Complete 3 Creative Writing electives (see list below)		12
Complete 2 Literature electives (see list below)		8
Capstone		
LITCW-UH 4000	Capstone Seminar	4
LITCW-UH 4001	Capstone Project	4
Other Electives		
Complete enough courses to reach the minimum overall required 128 credits		58
Total Credits		128

Note: Students must complete 5 electives, with at least three from Creative Writing with a subject code LITCW-UH, and two courses from Literature or cross-listed courses (including study away).

Note: Study away courses do not count toward the 3 creative writing electives.

Electives

Literature: Histories Electives

Code	Title	Credits
ACS-UH 1214X	Quran as Literature	4
ACS-UH 2212X	Introduction to Islamic Texts	4
CCEA-UH 1009X	A Thousand and One Nights	4
CCEA-UH 1055	Global Shakespeare	4
CCEA-UH 1056	Tragedy	4
CCEA-UH 1074	Race, Racialization and Narration	4
CCEA-UH 1082	Literature of Migration	4
CCEA-UH 1102	Culture and Citizenship	4
CCEA-UH 1125	Nation and Narration	4
CSTS-UH 1101	Cultures & Contexts: The Black Atlantic	4
LITCW-UH 1508	Shame and Shamelessness: The Craft of Confessional Writing	4
LITCW-UH 2312X	Masterpieces of Pre-Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	4

LITCW-UH 2332	Literature and Revolution	4
LITCW-UH 2340	Inventions of Love: East and West	4

Literature: Geographies Electives

Code	Title	Credits
CCEA-UH 1082	Literature of Migration	4
CSTS-UH 1101	Cultures & Contexts: The Black Atlantic	4
LITCW-UH 1509	The City and the Writer: New York City and Abu Dhabi	4
LITCW-UH 2312X	Masterpieces of Pre-Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	4
LITCW-UH 2332	Literature and Revolution	4
LITCW-UH 2333	Translation and Colonization	4
LITCW-UH 2340	Inventions of Love: East and West	4
LITCW-UH 2341	Asian and Arab Diaspora in the Arts	4
LITCW-UH 3317	Migrant Poetics, Narratives of Flight	4
LITCW-UH 3350X	Literatures of the Middle East and the Maghreb (North Africa)	4

Literature: Topics Electives

Code	Title	Credits
ACS-UH 1011X	Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature	4
ACS-UH 1214X	Quran as Literature	4
ACS-UH 2212X	Introduction to Islamic Texts	4
ACS-UH 2213X	Modern Arabic Short Stories	4
ANTH-UH 2113	Memoir and Ethnography: Understanding Culture Through First-Person Narrative	4
CADT-UH 1021	Art of Narrative Science	4
CADT-UH 1027	Memoir and Anti-Memoir: Experiments in Text and Image	4
CCEA-UH 1009X	A Thousand and One Nights	4
CCEA-UH 1011	Law and the Imagination	4
CCEA-UH 1063	Literary Translation	4
CCEA-UH 1074	Race, Racialization and Narration	4
CCEA-UH 1092	Reaching for the Stars	4
CCEA-UH 1107	Once Upon a Time: Folk and Fairy Tales Reconsidered	4
CCEA-UH 1123	Noise in Literature	4
CCEA-UH 1136	Encountering the Other	4
FILMM-UH 1012	Forms of Writing for the Screen	4
FILMM-UH 3110	Archives, Methods, Screens	4
IM-UH 2316	Software Art: Text	2
LITCW-UH 1101	Rotten Englishes: Postcolonialism and the Politics of Language	4
LITCW-UH 1105	Politics of Writing	4
LITCW-UH 1160X	Global Women Writing	4
LITCW-UH 1501	Feature Writing	4
LITCW-UH 1503	Letters From Afar: Travel Writing Abroad	2
LITCW-UH 1506	Today We Wrote Nothing	4
LITCW-UH 1508	Shame and Shamelessness: The Craft of Confessional Writing	4
LITCW-UH 2101	Literary and Cultural Theory	4
LITCW-UH 2315X	Postcolonial Turn	4
LITCW-UH 2503	Advanced Creative Writing: Nonfiction Essay	4

LITCW-UH 2504	Creative Writing: How to Read a Poem	4
LITCW-UH 2510	Intermediate Creative Writing: Narrative Prose - Form and Style	4
LITCW-UH 3319	Sound and Fury: The Noise of Literature	4
LITCW-UH 3501	Advanced Creative Writing: Documentary Forms	4
LITCW-UH 3502	Advanced Creative Writing: A Novel in Fourteen Weeks	4
LITCW-UH 3504	Advanced Creative Writing: Workshop in Poetry	4
THEAT-UH 1112	Fundamentals of Playwriting	4
THEAT-UH 1129	Faith, Ideology and Power: Writing a play as an examination of contemporary times	4
THEAT-UH 1521	Women Who Kill	4

Creative Writing Electives

Code	Title	Credits
CADT-UH 1092	Starting With Self	4
FILMM-UH 1012	Forms of Writing for the Screen	4
IM-UH 2316	Software Art: Text	2
LITCW-UH 1501	Feature Writing	4
LITCW-UH 1503	Letters From Afar: Travel Writing Abroad	2
LITCW-UH 1503G	Letters From Afar: Travel Writing Abroad	2
LITCW-UH 1506	Today We Wrote Nothing	4
LITCW-UH 1508	Shame and Shamelessness: The Craft of Confessional Writing	4
LITCW-UH 1509	The City and the Writer: New York City and Abu Dhabi	4
LITCW-UH 2341	Asian and Arab Diaspora in the Arts	4
LITCW-UH 2503	Advanced Creative Writing: Nonfiction Essay	4
LITCW-UH 2504	Creative Writing: How to Read a Poem	4
LITCW-UH 2510	Intermediate Creative Writing: Narrative Prose - Form and Style	4
LITCW-UH 3501	Advanced Creative Writing: Documentary Forms	4
LITCW-UH 3502	Advanced Creative Writing: A Novel in Fourteen Weeks	4
LITCW-UH 3504	Advanced Creative Writing: Workshop in Poetry	4
THEAT-UH 1112	Fundamentals of Playwriting	4
THEAT-UH 1129	Faith, Ideology and Power: Writing a play as an examination of contemporary times	4

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
First-Year Writing Seminar		4
LITCW-UH 1000	Literary Interpretation	4
Core Competency		4
General Elective		4
Physical Education		
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
Field Colloquia (J-Term)		3
Credits		3
3rd Semester/Term		
LITCW-UH 1003	Introduction to Creative Writing	4
Core Competency		4
Major Elective		4

General Elective		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
LITCW-UH 3000	Problems and Methods of Literary Studies	4
Colloquia		4
Major Elective		4
Core Competency		4
Physical Education		
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Field Colloquia (J-Term)		3
Credits		3
6th Semester/Term		
Core Competency		4
Major Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
Major Elective		4
Major Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Physical Education		
Credits		16
9th Semester/Term		
LITCW-UH 4000	Capstone Seminar	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		2
Credits		14
10th Semester/Term		
LITCW-UH 4001	Capstone Project	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		12
Total Credits		128

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the NYU Abu Dhabi Literature and Creative program, all graduates are expected to have developed:

1. An understanding of literature interpreted within a framework that includes aesthetics, culture, history, self, and society.
2. The ability to apply a variety of theories and methods, including close reading, to analyze literary texts in a variety of genres.
3. An interdisciplinary understanding of the ways in which literary texts belong to networks of texts and ideas and in which the study of literature is related to other fields of scholarly endeavor.
4. The ability to explain the characteristics and development of diverse literary genres (drawn from prose, poetry, and drama), traditions (canonical, marginal, emergent, and non-literary), and productions (elite, folk, mass, popular culture).

5. The ability to conduct literary research, including the use of library resources, archives, and relevant new technologies.
6. The ability to formulate and present original critical arguments in rhetorically efficient forms—both written and oral—manifesting effective use of evidence, organizational skill, and, where appropriate, new technologies.
7. A specialization in one particular field of literary scholarship or creative writing, culminating in the production of a senior Capstone project.
8. Sufficient expertise to compete effectively for places at elite doctoral, MFA, or professional programs in literature or other fields in the U.S. and around the world.

Policies

NYU Policies

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

NYU Abu Dhabi Policies

A full list of relevant policies can be found on NYU Abu Dhabi's undergraduate academic policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/academic-policies/>).