

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE (BA)

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

NYSED: 08259 HEGIS: 1502.00 CIP: 23.1404

Program Description

The study of English and American Literature provides the kind of training that is central to a liberal arts education and useful in all professions. By learning to read critically and write with analytical precision, students who major in English prepare themselves to participate actively in their culture while forging a lifelong, enriching relationship with literature.

The department offers two tracks in the major: the Literature track and the Creative Writing track. Students take courses in a variety of historical periods as well as in a variety of topics and areas (such as literary history, critical theory, and literary culture). The major also provides opportunities for specialized research through seminars, independent study, and an honors program that culminates in the writing of a scholarly thesis during senior year. In the major's Creative Writing track, seniors can produce a special creative project in poetry, prose, or a hybrid genre. The department also offers its majors and minors a credit-bearing internship seminar for placements at magazines, publishers, literary agencies, and other organizations.

Honors Program

The requirements for graduating with honors in the English major consist of:

- A 3.65 GPA, both overall and in the major.
- A senior capstone seminar chosen from ENGL-UA 950-955, ENGL-UA 960-965, and ENGL-UA 970-976 (which serves as a prerequisite to both the Honors Thesis and Colloquium)
- Enrollment for two consecutive terms in ENGL-UA 925 Senior Honors Thesis (4 credits total) and completion of a thesis (on a topic of the student's choice) under the direction of departmental faculty.
- Concurrently with ENGL-UA 925: enrollment for two consecutive terms in the Senior Honors Colloquium for thesis writers (ENGL-UA 926, 2 credits)

December graduates begin the concurrent ENGL-UA 925 Senior Honors Thesis and ENGL-UA 926 Senior Honors Colloquium sequences in the spring term and complete them in the fall; May graduates begin the sequences in the fall and complete them in the spring. Applications and deadlines are available on the department's undergraduate website and at the department offices.

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

The major in English and American Literature requires ten 4-credit courses (40 credits), and the major track in English and American

Literature with a specialization in Creative Writing requires eleven 4-credit courses and two 2-credit courses (48 credits). All courses for the major must be completed with a grade of C or better (courses graded Pass/Fail do not count). Please see the requirements below.

English and American Literature

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Major Requirements		
ENGL-UA 101	Introduction to the Study of Literature	4
Select three of the following:		12
ENGL-UA 111	Literatures in English I: Medieval and Early Modern Literatures	
ENGL-UA 112	Literatures in English II: Literatures of the British Isles and British Empire 1660-1900	
ENGL-UA 113	Literatures in English III: American Literatures to 1900	
ENGL-UA 114	Literatures in English IV: Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Literatures	
Select one course in critical theories and methods ²		4
Select one course in British literature before 1800 ³		4
Select one Senior Seminar ⁴		4
Select three additional ENGL-UA courses drawn from any combination of intermediate courses, advanced courses, or seminars		12
Electives		
Other Elective Credits		40
Total Credits		128

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

² The following courses are typically used to fulfill this requirement: ENGL-UA 712 Major Texts in Critical Theory, ENGL-UA 735 Readings in Contemporary Literary Theory.

³ The following courses are typically used to fulfill this requirement: ENGL-UA 320 Colloquium: Chaucer, ENGL-UA 410 Shakespeare, ENGL-UA 445 Colloquium: Early Modern Literature, ENGL-UA 450 Colloquium: Milton, ENGL-UA 512 English Lit of 18th Cent.

⁴ Chosen from ENGL-UA 950 through ENGL-UA 976.

English and American Literature | Specialization in Creative Writing

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		Credits
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Courses for the English and American Literature, Track with a Specialization in Creative Writing Major		
ENGL-UA 101	Introduction to the Study of Literature	4
Select three of the following:		12
ENGL-UA 111	Literatures in English I: Medieval and Early Modern Literatures	
ENGL-UA 112	Literatures in English II: Literatures of the British Isles and British Empire 1660-1900	
ENGL-UA 113	Literatures in English III: American Literatures to 1900	
ENGL-UA 114	Literatures in English IV: Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Literatures	
ENGL-UA 201	Reading as a Writer	4
Select one of the following:		4
Critical theories and methods course ²		
British literature before 1800 course ³		
Select one Senior Seminar ⁴		4
Select two additional ENGL-UA courses, drawn from any combination of intermediate courses, advanced courses, or seminars		8
ENGL-UA 910	Creative Writing Capstone Project	2
ENGL-UA 911	Creative Writing Capstone Colloquium	2
CRWRI-UA 815	Creative Writing: Intro Prose & Poetry	4
Select one intermediate CRWRI-UA course		4
Other Elective Credits		32
Total Credits		128

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

² The following courses are typically used to fulfill this requirement: ENGL-UA 712 Major Texts in Critical Theory, ENGL-UA 735 Readings in Contemporary Literary Theory.

³ The following courses are typically used to fulfill this requirement: ENGL-UA 320 Colloquium: Chaucer, ENGL-UA 410 Shakespeare, ENGL-UA 445 Colloquium: Early Modern Literature, ENGL-UA 450 Colloquium: Milton, ENGL-UA 512 English Lit of 18th Cent.

⁴ Chosen from ENGL-UA 950 through ENGL-UA 976.

Study Away

The Department of English encourages its majors to take advantage of NYU's many opportunities for study away. NYU London offers courses that may be used to fulfill major requirements, as well as courses in British politics, creative writing, and the history of British art and architecture. A list of both ENGL-UA and non-ENGL-UA courses offered by the various NYU study away programs that may be counted toward specific requirements for the major can be found on the department's website each term. English majors should consult a departmental adviser before making plans to study away.

Sample Plan of Study English and American Literature

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
First-Year Seminar		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Foreign Language I		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Foreign Language II		4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
ENGL-UA 101	Introduction to the Study of Literature	4
Physical Science		4
Foreign Language III		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
Literatures in English (#1 of 3) ¹		4
ENGL-UA 712	Major Texts in Critical Theory	4
or ENGL-UA 735	or Readings in Contemporary Literary Theory	
Life Science		4
Foreign Language IV		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Literatures in English (#2 of 3) ¹		4
Major Elective (#1 of 3) ²		4
One major course in British literature before 1800 ³		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
Literatures in English (#3 of 3) ¹		4
Major Elective (#2 of 3) ²		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
Major Elective (#3 of 3) ²		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
Senior Seminar ⁴		4
Other Elective Credits		4

Other Elective Credits	4
Other Elective Credits	4
Credits	16
Total Credits	128

¹ The major requires any three of these four courses taken in any order: ENGL-UA 111 Literatures in English I: Medieval and Early Modern Literatures, ENGL-UA 112 Literatures in English II: Literatures of the British Isles and British Empire 1660-1900, ENGL-UA 113 Literatures in English III: American Literatures to 1900 or ENGL-UA 114 Literatures in English IV: Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Literatures.

² Consult the curriculum tab and the department

³ Major electives are drawn from any combination of intermediate courses, advanced courses, or seminars.

⁴ Chosen from ENGL-UA 950 through ENGL-UA 976.

English and American Literature | Specialization in Creative Writing

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
CRWRI-UA 815	Creative Writing: Intro Prose & Poetry	4
First-Year Seminar		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Foreign Language I		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
CRWRI-UA 816 or CRWRI-UA 817 or CRWRI-UA 825	Intermediate Fiction Workshop or Intermediate Poetry Workshop or Intermediate Creative Nonfiction Workshop	4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Foreign Language II		4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
ENGL-UA 101	Introduction to the Study of Literature	4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Foreign Language III		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
Literatures in English (#1 of 3) ¹		4
ENGL-UA 201	Reading as a Writer	4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Foreign Language IV		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Literatures in English (#2 of 3) ¹		4
One major course in critical theories and methods OR one major course in British literature before 1800 ²		4
Physical Science		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
Literatures in English (#3 of 3) ¹		4
Major Elective (#1 of 2) ³		4
Life Science		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
Senior Seminar ⁴		4
Major Elective (#2 of 2) ²		4

Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
ENGL-UA 910	Creative Writing Capstone Project	2
ENGL-UA 911	Creative Writing Capstone Colloquium	2
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		128

¹ The major requires any three of the four courses taken in any order: ENGL-UA 111 Literatures in English I: Medieval and Early Modern Literatures, ENGL-UA 112 Literatures in English II: Literatures of the British Isles and British Empire 1660-1900, ENGL-UA 113 Literatures in English III: American Literatures to 1900 or ENGL-UA 114 Literatures in English IV: Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Literatures.

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⁴ Chosen from ENGL-UA 950 through ENGL-UA 976.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have acquired:

1. An understanding of the history of both literature written in and translated into English.
2. A critical awareness of the methodologies of reading, analysis, and interpretation that have defined literary studies, as well as an understanding of literature's relationship to other media, cultural forms, and disciplines.
3. The ability to research and write about complex social and cultural topics with evidence-based rigor and argumentation for both academic and general audiences.

Policies

Program Policies

Department of English: Policies Applying to the Major and Minor

Courses used to satisfy requirements for the English major or minor may not be used to satisfy the requirements of any other major or minor. The only exception is for students in the Creative Writing major track who also have a minor in Creative Writing (they may double-count two courses between the major and minor). Independent study courses and internships do not count toward any of the department's major or minor programs. Transfer students must complete at least half of the required courses for the major and minor programs at the College. All courses for the major must be completed with a C or better (Pass/Fail does not count).

NYU Policies

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

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).