



Individuals possessing the ability to think clearly and critically, to analyze and interpret data, and to communicate results are in great demand by employers. Those interested in pursuing careers as writers and editors will produce a wide variety of written materials delivered to an audience in an increasing number of ways. They develop content using any number of multimedia formats for readers, listeners or viewers.

At Ottawa University

The English major is designed to imbue students with sensitivity to multiculturalism and to the profound power of language. Upper-level requirements for research and criticism prepare students intentionally for graduate school and professional careers. Close reading of a wide diversity of authors and texts, as well as specific attention to issues of peace and social/environmental justice, provide flexibility to accommodate shifts in canonicity, theory and pedagogical research while supporting individual exploration. By identifying the techniques and impact of successful writers, students develop their own expressive abilities, identify important personal issues, increase empathy for others, and discover their own voices and styles through written discourse.

Careers

Career opportunities are abundant to an individual with a degree in English, as skills gained from this area of study can be easily applied to many career areas such as law, journalism, publishing, advertising, education, and technical writing.

Education and Qualifications

As English degree holders may apply their abilities to a broad range of careers, an equally broad range of courses should be taken as part of a degree-seeking program. Interpersonal communication and writing skills should be given particular consideration, as employers are looking for individuals that can conceptualize and deliver a wide range of messages to their constituents and clients. Many careers open to English majors may require a master's degree or other professional certification, such as teacher education training.



Undergraduate English

Introductory Course

(Choose one from the following)

ENG 10223 Contemporary Literature

Consists of analytical and reflective reading of contemporary (since 1945) American fiction, poetry and drama. Attention to developing techniques for critical reading and writing. Basic course for literature majors and study in the humanities and liberal arts.

Survey Courses

ENG 26023 From Homer to Herrick

Engages in primary analysis and response to significant literature from antiquity through the Renaissance.

ENG 27023 From Voltaire to Victoria

Engages in primary analysis and response to significant literature from the era of Confucius and the Enlightenment through the late nineteenth century.

ENG 28023 From Wilde to Weilin

Engages the student in primary analysis and response to significant literature from late nineteenth century Modernism through post-colonial and post-modern configurations.

Linguistics Course

ENG 32523 The English Language

Treats history and development of the English language, with special attention to grammar, syntax and phonetics. Applies various linguistic approaches to the task of understanding evolution and system of the language. Not designed to treat special problems in speaking or writing English.

Writing Course

(Choose one from the following)

ENG 31023 Advanced Expository Writing

Refinement of expository writing skills through analysis of models and writing practice.

ENG 32723 Creative Writing

Course development skills in writing drama, poetry and fiction. Develops critical skills and encourages students to develop tools to refine expression.

Theme-Based Courses

(Choose three from the following)

ENG 31723 Multicultural Literature

Study of works by African-American, Hispanic, Native American, female and other historically marginalized authors specifically to address issues of culture, value and self-development. Literature poses critical issues that arise in the increasingly diverse societies of our shrinking world.

Prerequisite: 20000-level English course or consent of instructor.

ENG 33523 Environmental Literature

An examination of a variety of literary works from several genres, focusing on the portrayal of physical environments and the connections between these environments and human spheres of influence. This course will explore how human beings relate to the natural world and how that relation influences the way we read texts and the world around us. Authors to be studied might include Leopold, Thoreau, Defoe, the Brontes, Wordsworth, Merwin, Snyder, and Kingsolver.

Crosslisted with BIO 33523, LAS 33523.

ENG 34023 Protest Literature

A study of the literature of social protest, emphasizing the relationship between aesthetics and politics, or the political purposes of literature. This course will examine how various authors assault the status quo of an often inhumane, brutal and repressive society. Readings might include works by Richard Wright, Upton Sinclair and Nelson Algren.

ENG 40123 Literary Criticism

Identifies major trends in the history of critical thought from Plato to Derrida. Seeks to discover the position of literary criticism and to apply various critical theories. Library research and writing.

Prerequisite: 30000-level English course.

Seminars

ENG 45123 Seminar in British Literature

Analyzes major British literature with emphasis on genre, period or author, to gain understanding of the critical approaches necessary for a thorough investigation of literature.

ENG 45023 Seminar: American Literature

Analyzes major American literature with emphasis on genre, period or author, to gain understanding of the critical approaches necessary for a thorough investigation of literature.

Capstone Course

ENG 49201 Integrative Seminar in Criticism

Capstone course that guides student in development of an integrative project that demonstrates achievement of the learning outcomes in the English major. Course is organized around the major trends in critical thought and application of literary criticism theories within and across periods and genres.