



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 Reading the Self

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.

ENG 20223 Introduction to Literature

Survey of the major genres of literature (short story, poetry, drama) with emphasis on the organizational principles that give artistic structure or integrity. Intensive studies of such elements as characterization, plot, setting, tone, symbolism, etc., conducted.

Survey Courses

ENG 26023 Ancient to Medieval

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

ENG 27023 Renaissance to Romantics

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

ENG 28023 Victorians to Moderns

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

ENG 29023 The Postmoderns

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

Writing Course

(Choose one from the following)

ENG 31023 Writing the Self

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 33023 Image and Text

Explores how image and text work together to make meaning in contexts such as illustrated literature, film, advertising, visual poetry, performance art, and graphic novels. Readings from fields such as visual cultural studies, semiotics, art history, film criticism, postmodernism, and psychoanalytic theory will illuminate the relationships between image and text, language and representation.

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 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

(Choose two from the following)

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.

