Undergraduate English



"If you look into the mission statement, 'Prepare for a Life of Significance,' that's exactly what you'll be doing by coming here ... To have a university rooted in those values, I think that speaks for itself."

– Abby M.
Ottawa Alumni

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.

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Undergraduate English

Introductory Course

(Choose one from the following)

ENG 10223 - Contemporary Literature (3)

Consists of analytical and reflective reading of contemporary 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 10323 - Introduction to Literature and Film (3)

This class explores the mechanics of storytelling at the intersection of literature and film. Through extensive class discussion and writing projects, students examine a selection of prose, poetry, film, and television, and explore how different mediums approach the art of telling stories.

ENG 10423 - Sports Literature (3)

As one of the elective courses for the college-wide distribution requirements, this class aspires to provide students with an introduction to a variety of literary works from several genres of sports literature. These works represent an array of sports traditions and literary genres, from basketball poetry to baseball novels to non-fictional works about football, raising questions about the cultural values expressed and critiqued by sports. In the course of the semester, we will gain an understanding of selected literary texts, as well as an appreciation for the social and cultural forces that produced them.

Dedicated Writing Courses:

(Choose one from the following)

ENG 31023 - Advanced Expository Writing (3)

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

ENG 32723 - Creative Writing (3)

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

Survey Courses:

(Choose two from the following)

ENG 26023 - Ancient to Medieval (3)

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

ENG 27023 - Renaissance to Romantics (3)

Engages the student in primary analysis and response to European literature from the late 15th century to the early 19th century.

ENG 28023 - Victorians to Moderns (3)

Engages the student in primary analysis and response to European literature from the 1830s to the mid-20th century.

ENG 29023 - The Postmoderns (3)

Engages the student in primary analysis and response to literature from the post-World War II era to the turn of the 21st century.

Seminar Courses

ENG 40123 - Literary Criticism (3)

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.

ENG 45023 - Seminar in American Literature (3)

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.

ENG 45123 - Seminar in British Literature (3)

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.

Theme-Based Courses

(Choose three from the following)

ENG/LAS 30004 - Narrative in Esports and Titles and Literature (3)

This course explores narrative elements extant within popular eSports titles such as League of Legends, Overwatch, and Halo - considering their valence in popular culture from the mythologies of antiquity to the modern counterparts presented in interactive media. Prerequisites: ENG 15525 College Writing.

ENG/LAS 30223 - Reading Relationships (3)

This course unpacks the theme of human relationships - romantic, filial, obsessive, and otherwise - through the reading of such works as Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Louise Erdrich's *Love Medicine*, and Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*, viewed through the lens of history and shifting cultural values.

ENG/LAS 31100 - Baseball Literature (3)

An examination of a variety of literary works written about baseball from its inception to the present, focusing on the ways they represent or call into question the social, historical, and political currents that produced them. Readings may include Malamud's *The Natural*, Greenberg's *The Celebrant*, and the poetry of former Kansas City Royals pitcher Dan Quisenberry.

ENG 33023 - Image and Text (3)

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/LAS 34023 - Protest Literature (3)

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 soceity. Readings might include works by Richard Wright, Upton Sinclair, and Nelson Algen.

Program requirements reflected herein are current at time of printing but are subject to change at the discretion of the university. Consult the catalog for any curriculum changes and additional requirements. Some required courses may be met through transfer credit as determined by the advisor in consultation with the registrar. www.ottawa.edu/coursecatalog

Theme-Based Courses (continued)

(Choose three from the following)

ENG/BIO/LAS 33523 - Environmental Literature (3)

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 studies might include Leopold, Thoreau, Defoe, the Brontes, Wordsworth, Merwin, Snyder and Kingsolver.

ENG/LAS 49901 - Madness: Multifaceted Approach (3)

Interdisciplinary seminar which interrogates the literary, artistic, and cultural representations of madness across culture and time.

ENG 49950 - Literature of Personal Discovery (3)

Questions of identity and self-definition, from agonizing to liberating, in the work of such writers as Dante, Franz Kafka, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Kate Chopin, Simone de Beauvoir, Ralph Ellison and Anne Sexton.

Senior Comprehensive Course

Choice Between ENG 49023 or ENG 49201

ENG 49023 - Senior Comprehensive (3)

Examination or project designed to assess the student's achievement of the goals of his/her major program.

ENG 49201 - Integrative Seminar in Criticism (4)

Capstone course that guides students 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.

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