English (EGL)

Major and Minor in English

Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences

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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in English: Cinema and Cultural Studies (CCS), Comparative Studies (CLT), Foreign Languages, Journalism (JRN), Media Arts (MDA)

Faculty

Bruce W. Bashford, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Northwestern University: Literary criticism; rhetoric and composition.
Patricia A. Belanoff, Professor, Ph.D., New York University: Composition; Old English; Middle English; rhetoric.
Helen Cooper, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Rutgers University: Victorian literature; creative writing; women's studies.
Paul J. Dolan, Associate Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., New York University: Modern British and American literature; Yeats; literature and politics.
Patricia A. Dunn, Associate Professor, Doctor of Arts, The University at Albany (SUNY): Rhetoric and composition; English education.
Homer Goldberg, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Chicago: Formal analysis of fiction; pedagogy; Restoration and 18th-century literature.
Eric Haralson, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: American studies.
Clifford C. Huffman, Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: Renaissance literature; Shakespeare. Recipient of the State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1993, and the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1993.
Heidi Hutter, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Washington: 18th-century literature; women writers; women's studies; colonial and post-colonial discourse.
E. Ann Kaplan, Professor and Director of the Humanities Institute, Ph.D., Rutgers University: Victorian literature; women's studies; film.
Shirley Strum Kenny, Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago: Restoration and 18th-century British drama.
Jonathan Levy, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: Playwriting; dramatic literature.
Kenneth Lindblom, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Syracuse University: Rhetoric and composition; English education.
Ira Livingston, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Stanford University: Romanticism; literary theory.
Peter Manning, Professor, Ph.D., Yale University: British romantic period.
Celia Marshik, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Northwestern University: British and American modernism; literature and history; women's studies.
Joaquin Martinez-Pizarro, Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University: Old English; Middle English.
Carolyn McGrath, Lecturer, M.A., Stony Brook University: Creative writing; composition.
Adrienne Munich, Professor, Ph.D., City University of New York: Victorian literature; women's studies.
Robert Reeves, Associate Professor, M.A., Harvard University: Creative Writing.
Rowan Ricardo Phillips, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Brown University: Poetry; American, African-American and Caribbean poetics.
Benedict S. Robinson, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: Renaissance poetry and drama; literature, print culture, and politics; representations of Islam.
Carol Rosen, Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: Modernity; criticism; modern drama.
Roger Rosenblatt, Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University: Creative Writing.
Susan Scheckel, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: Early American Literature.
David Sheehan, Associate Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin: Restoration and 18th-century literature; Native American literature.
Stephen J. Spector, Professor, Ph.D., Yale University: Old English; Middle English; the history of the English language.
Bente A. Videbaek, Lecturer, Ph.D., Northwestern University: Shakespeare; Renaissance literature. Recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching as Part-Time faculty, 2003, and Student Choice Award as Most Influential Professor, 2004.
Miland Wakankar, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: Postcolonial theory; the literature of imperialism.

Adjunct Faculty

Estimated number: 12

Teaching Assistants

Estimated number: 50

Courses offered by the Department of English seek to develop students' understanding of important works of literature written in English, to provide a historical awareness of the range of thought and experience that has found expression in the English language, and to enlarge students' personal and cultural horizons by reflection upon cultural, social, and aesthetic experience. The development of this kind of knowledge also means a development of students' abilities to express themselves effectively in speech and in writing. Courses in English instruct students in becoming more observant, thoughtful, and articulate in response to what they read.

Students who graduate with a major in English pursue careers as writers, lawyers, journalists, librarians, and governmental administrators, and publishers, to name a few. Large businesses, for example, publish “in-house” newsletters and magazines, as well as material for the general public. Newspapers seek copy editors able to write clear, accurate prose. The legal profession requires people skilled in the language arts. Many English majors go on to graduate or professional schools to educate themselves for professional careers.

The Department regularly offers courses in creative writing (EGL 285, 286, 385, 386, 387) and secondary education leading to provisional New York State certification (EGL 398, 451, 452, 454).

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Courses Offered in English
See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

EGL 191-B Introduction to Poetry
EGL 192-B Introduction to Fiction
EGL 193-B Introduction to Drama
EGL 204 Literary Analysis and Argumentation
EGL 205-I, 206-I Survey of British Literature I, II
EGL 217-K, 218-K American Literature I, II
EGL 224-G 20th-Century Literature in English
EGL 226-K 20th-Century American Literature
EGL 231-I Saints and Fools
EGL 232-I Rebels and Tyrants
EGL 243-I Shakespeare: The Major Works
EGL 249-K African-American Literature and Music in the 19th and 20th Centuries
EGL 260-G Mythology in Literature
EGL 261-B The Bible as Literature
EGL 266-G The 20th-Century Novel
EGL 274-K Black American Literature
EGL 276-B Feminism: Literature and Cultural Contexts
EGL 285 Writing Workshop: Fiction
EGL 286 Writing Workshop: Poetry
EGL 300-G Old English Literature
EGL 302-G Medieval Literature in English
EGL 304-G Renaissance Literature in English
EGL 306-G English Literature of the 17th Century
EGL 310-G Neoclassical Literature in English
EGL 312-G Romantic Literature in English
EGL 314-G Victorian Literature
EGL 316-G Early American Literature
EGL 318-G 19th-Century American Literature
EGL 320-322-G Modern and Contemporary Literature
EGL 333-K The Italian-American Experience in Literature
EGL 340-G Chaucer
EGL 342-G Milton
EGL 344-G Major Writers of the Renaissance Period in England
EGL 345-G, 346-G Shakespeare I, II
EGL 347-G Major Writers of the Neoclassical Period in England
EGL 348-G Major Writers of the Romantic Period in England
EGL 349-G Major Writers of the Victorian Period in England
EGL 350-G Major Writers of American Literature, Colonial Period to 1900
EGL 352-G Major Writers of 20th-Century Literature in English
EGL 354-G Major Writers of Contemporary British and American Literature
EGL 360-G Literature of Adolescence
EGL 361-G Poetry in English
EGL 362-G Drama in English
EGL 363-G Fiction in English
EGL 364-G Prose in English
EGL 365-G Literary Criticism and Theory
EGL 366-G Topics in Literary Criticism and Theory
EGL 367-G Contemporary African-American Literature
EGL 368-G Caribbean and American Connections in Literature
EGL 369-G Topics in Ethnic American Studies in Literature
EGL 371-G Topics in Gender Studies in Literature
EGL 372-G Topics in Women and Literature
EGL 373-J Literature in English from Non-Western Cultures
EGL 374-G English Literature in Relation to Other Literatures
EGL 375-G Literature in English in Relation to Other Disciplines
EGL 376-G The Literature of Imperialism
EGL 377-G Literature in English in Relation to Other Disciplines
EGL 378-J Contemporary Native American Fiction
EGL 379-J Native American Texts and Contexts
EGL 380 The English Language
EGL 381 Advanced Analytic and Argumentative Writing
EGL 385 Advanced Fiction Workshop
EGL 386 Advanced Poetry Workshop
EGL 387 Playwrighting
EGL 390-393-G Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies
EGL 394-H Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies of Science and Technology
EGL 395-I Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies of Europe
EGL 396-398-J Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America
EGL 399-K Topics in American Literary and Cultural Studies
EGL 440 Performance and Technology in Teaching Literature and Composition
EGL 441 Methods of Instruction in Literature and Composition
EGL 449, 450 Field Experience, Grades 7-12
EGL 451 Supervised Student Teaching—English; Middle Level Grades 7-9
EGL 452 Supervised Student Teaching—English; High School Grades 10-12
EGL 454 Student Teaching Seminar
EGL 475, 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practica I, II
EGL 487 Independent Project
EGL 488 Internship
EGL 490 Honors Seminar
EGL 496 Senior Honors Project

Requirements for the Major in English (EGL)
The major in English leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All courses offered for A—Study within the Area of the Major—must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Completion of the major requires 54 credits.

A. Study within the Area of the Major
1. EGL 204 Literary Analysis and Argumentation
2. EGL 380 The English Language
3. Three survey courses from among the following:
   EGL 205 Survey of British Literature I
   EGL 206 Survey of British Literature II
   EGL 217 American Literature I
   EGL 218 American Literature II
   EGL 224 20th-Century Literature in English
EGL 226 20th-Century American Literature
EGL 243 Shakespeare: The Major Works
EGL 274 Black American Literature

4. Seven 300-level courses, including EGL 380, from among courses numbered EGL 300-399; EGL 490 and 496 may also be used.

5. One elective course from among courses numbered EGL 200-399. EGL 490 and 496 may also be used if not used to satisfy Requirement 4.

Notes on Section A:
1. No English course below the 200 level may be used to fulfill English major requirements. In addition, the following courses may not be used for the English major: EGL 440, 441, 449, 450, 451, 452, 454, 488.

2. Students must complete 9 credits in one of the following four concentrations:

   **British Literature**
   - EGL 205
   - EGL 206
   - EGL 243
   - EGL 300-314
   - EGL 340-349
   - EGL 352
   - EGL 361-364
   - EGL 390-393, when topic is appropriate

   **American Literature**
   - EGL 217
   - EGL 218
   - EGL 226
   - EGL 249
   - EGL 274
   - EGL 316-318
   - EGL 350-352
   - EGL 361-364
   - EGL 367
   - EGL 378-379
   - EGL 390-393, when topic is appropriate
   - EGL 399

   **Modern and Contemporary Literature**
   - EGL 224
   - EGL 226
   - EGL 249
   - EGL 274
   - EGL 318-322
   - EGL 350-352
   - EGL 361-364

   **Issues and Topics in the Study of Literature**
   - EGL 367
   - EGL 378-379
   - EGL 390-393, when topic is appropriate
   - EGL 396-398, when topic is appropriate
   - EGL 399

   **Sample Course Sequence for the Major in English**

   **Freshman Fall Credits**
   - First Year Seminar 101 1
   - D.E.C. A 3
   - D.E.C. 3
   - D.E.C. 3
   - D.E.C. 3
   - Elective 3
   - Total 16

   **Sophomore Fall Credits**
   - EGL 204 3
   - EGL 200-level survey* 3
   - Foreign language (elementary) 3-4
   - D.E.C. 3
   - Upper-Division elective 3
   - Total 15-16

   **Junior Fall Credits**
   - EGL 380 3
   - Foreign language (intermediate) 3
   - History 3
   - D.E.C. 3
   - Upper-Division elective 3
   - Total 15

   **Senior Fall Credits**
   - EGL 300-level elective*** 3
   - EGL 300-level elective*** 3
   - Foreign language (intermediate) 3
   - D.E.C. 3
   - Upper-Division elective 3
   - Total 15

   **Spring Credits**
   - EGL 200-level survey* 3
   - EGL 200-level survey* 3
   - Foreign language (elementary) 3-4
   - EGL 200-400 level elective** 3
   - Upper-Division elective 3
   - Total 15-16

   **Spring Credits**
   - EGL 200-level survey* 3
   - EGL 200-level survey* 3
   - Foreign language (elementary) 3-4
   - EGL 200-400 level elective** 3
   - Upper-Division elective 3
   - Total 15

   **Notes**
   * See requirement A3
   **See requirement A5
   ***See requirement A4

3. At least 9 credits of the 36 credits in 300-level courses at Stony Brook.

4. Among the seven 300-level courses from among courses numbered 300-399, only one may be used from EGL 385, 386, or 387.

B. Study in Related Areas

1. Foreign Language Requirement:
   - Six credits, or the equivalent of one year, of college study at the intermediate level,
   - or one semester of study at the advanced level;
   - or a passing grade on a challenge examination (see page 90 of this Bulletin) in the chosen language.
   - All coursework taken to satisfy this requirement must be passed with a
letter grade of C- or higher to count towards the English major.

2. Six credits of study of history at the 200-level or higher.

3. Six credits of study in the humanities and fine arts (excluding English courses) and in addition to the foreign language requirement above.

Notes:

1. All coursework taken to satisfy this requirement must be passed with a letter grade of C- or higher to count towards the English major.

2. Six of the twelve credits used to satisfy Requirements 2 and 3 may be taken under the P/NC option unless they also are being used to satisfy general education requirements.

3. Only six of the twelve credits used to satisfy Requirements 2 and 3 may be passed with grades below C-.

C. Upper-Division Writing Requirement

In the semester preceding the semester in which the student expects to graduate, he or she shall submit to the director of undergraduate studies two papers, each written for a different instructor in an upper-division English course, together with the instructor’s written confirmation that the paper demonstrates suitably advanced writing proficiency. The Departmental course descriptions for the forthcoming semester regularly specify those courses in which students may satisfy this requirement. The student must notify the instructor before the paper is turned in to him or her that it is intended to satisfy this requirement in addition to the course requirements. A student anticipating or experiencing difficulty in satisfying this requirement should seek the advice of the director of undergraduate studies no later than the beginning of the semester before the one in which the student expects to graduate.

The Honors Program in English

To be awarded honors, a Department major must: 1) attain an overall g.p.a. of at least 3.00 and a g.p.a. of at least 3.50 in English courses taken for the major; 2) receive a grade of A or A- in EGL 490; 3) write a senior thesis judged worthy of honors. Completion of EGL 490 is a prerequisite for undertaking the senior thesis. Students eligible to write a senior thesis must find a member of the Department faculty to act as a thesis advisor and enroll in EGL 496. The thesis topic must be approved by the undergraduate program committee before the last week of the semester prior to taking EGL 496. The thesis will be evaluated by the thesis advisor, a member of the undergraduate program committee, and a third reader from outside the Department. For further information consult the director of undergraduate studies.

Requirements for the Minor in English (EGL)

The minor in English allows students to pursue, within a framework of general requirements, their specific interests in one of three areas: British literature, American literature, or 20th-century literature. Each student’s particular choice of courses within these three options must be determined in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

A. Courses required of all minors:

- EGL 204 Literary Analysis and Argumentation
- Shakespeare: EGL 243 or 345 or 346
- One elective from EGL 300-496, exclusive of 385, 386, 387, 440, 441, 451, 452, 454, and JRN courses

B. One of the following options:

1. Emphasis on British literature:

   - One survey course appropriate to the student’s interest: EGL 205 or 206 or 224
   - One course in a period of British literature: EGL 390-314
   - One course in a genre or major author in British literature: EGL 340-349, 352, 361-364

2. Emphasis on American literature:

   - One survey course appropriate to the student’s interest: EGL 217 or 218 or 226
   - One course in a period of American literature: EGL 316 or 318
   - One course in a genre or major author in American literature: EGL 350 or 352, or 361-364

3. Emphasis on 20th-century literature:

   - One survey course appropriate to the student’s interest: EGL 224 or 226
   - One course in the study of 20th-century literature: EGL 320, 321, 322 or 352
   - One course in the study of a genre treating 20th-century writers: EGL 361-364

Note: At minimum, EGL 204, an EGL survey, and a 300-level EGL course must be taken at Stony Brook.

English Secondary Teacher Education Program

See the entry Education and Teacher Certification in the alphabetical listings of Approved Majors, Minors, and Programs.