

English

Requirements

Humanities Division

The Department of English teaches students to read with active understanding and wide appreciation, to write with clarity and grace, and to explore themselves and the world through the intensive study of literature.

NEW STUDENTS

ENGL 103 and 104 are designed for students beginning the serious study of literature at the college level, and as such are especially appropriate for first-year students. Either ENGL 103 or ENGL 104, or junior standing, is a prerequisite for further study in English at Kenyon. Students may register for a maximum of 1 unit of 100-level courses in English, and students may not go back to take a 100-level course after taking a 200-level course.

More advice for new students is available through the department website.

ENGL 210-289

Students who have taken ENGL 103 or ENGL 104 should advance to one of the courses numbered 210-289. These courses have been designed for and are limited to sophomores and first-year students. Like the department's 100-level courses, these classes are small in size, so that classroom interaction can be discussion-centered and so instructors can devote more time to helping students with their writing. These courses provide an introduction to fundamental terms, techniques and methods for the advanced study of literature. Students may expect to learn some of the following: how to do a close reading of a literary text, how to conduct research in literary study (including an introduction to library and information resources, and basic reference tools), some of the basic principles of different approaches to literary criticism, important terms used in literary analysis (including prosody in poetry courses), and the proper documentation of sources. While the subject matter of these courses sometimes parallels that of courses for upper-level students (e.g., Shakespeare, postcolonial literature), all are intended as introductions to a focused and intensive consideration of particular genres, themes, periods or critical questions.

ENGL 310-389

These are courses grounded in the advanced study of literature in English, as well as in the variety of critical and theoretical approaches to literature. These courses examine literary works from a range of historical periods, written in a wide variety of genres, and contributing to different national traditions. Through the reading of influential critical books and articles or through the instructors' modeling of different critical practices, these courses aim to teach students about the various modes of literary criticism, theory and scholarship that constitute the current state of literary study. Thus, these courses aim to make students critically self-aware. Some of these courses will situate literary texts in their historical and cultural contexts. Others will focus on the formal concerns of genre and style. Many will require that

students conduct independent research. When the subject matter of these courses overlaps with that of an ENGL course numbered from 210 to 289, these courses will provide more intensive critical study than the broad introductions of the lower-division courses. By taking courses at both curricular levels, students will thus have the opportunity to specialize in a period or genre. The prerequisites for these courses are ENGL 103 or ENGL 104 and an ENGL course numbered from 210 to 289. For students with junior standing, the course prerequisites are waived, since such students have typically written enough analytical essays to be prepared for advanced work in literary study. While these courses will constitute the bulk of the coursework of most English majors, non-majors are encouraged to enroll since contemporary literary study frequently draws upon knowledge and techniques from other disciplines.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

English majors are required to complete a minimum of 5.5 units (eleven courses total) offered or approved by the department. To graduate as English majors, students must meet the following requirements:

- Completion of .5 unit of ENGL 103 or 104.
- Completion of at least 5 units above the 100 level, 3 units of which should be at the 300 level or above. The remaining units may be completed at the 200-level or above, at the discretion of the student in consultation with his/her advisor.
- Distribution of coursework above the 100 level must fulfill the following criteria:
- Completion of at least 1 unit (2 courses) of study of literature written in each of the following historical periods (please see the English Major Distribution Requirements or check specific course descriptions to see which requirements they satisfy):
 - Pre-1700
 - 1700-1900
 - Post-1900
- Completion of .5 unit in courses designated "Approaches to Literary Study." Courses in this category foreground a variety of methods, critical paradigms and theories for reading and analyzing literature, language and culture. They are intended to help students think self-consciously and more systematically about tools and methods that can be applied broadly within the discipline. Such courses will be designated as meeting the "Approaches to Literary Study" requirement in their course description. The .5 unit of coursework in "Approaches to Literary Study" may not also count toward the historical distribution requirement.
- Completion of at least two additional elective courses from any of the department's offerings above the 100-level. Based on the individual curricular choices they have made within the major, students may petition to have a maximum of .5 unit of literature courses taken in a department other than the English Department be counted toward their major as an elective. Students will need to present solid arguments about how and why such courses are integrated with the English major.

- Completion of the Senior Seminar: ENGL 405 or ENGL 410
 - ENGL 405: Senior Seminar in Creative Writing
Offered in more than one section each spring semester, this seminar is required for English majors pursuing an emphasis in creative writing. The course will involve critical work on a topic chosen by the instructor (such as “Reliable and Unreliable: Investigating Narrative Voice,” “Beginnings and Endings,” “The Little Magazine in America,” and “Documentary Poetics”) to provide context and structure for students' creative work. Students should check online listings for the specific focus of each section. Although not primarily a workshop, this seminar will require students to work on a substantial creative project (fiction, nonfiction, or poetry). Prerequisite: This course is open only to senior English majors who are completing the emphasis in creative writing.
 - ENGL 410: Senior Seminar in Literature
Offered in several sections, this seminar will require students to undertake a research paper of their own design, within the context of a course that ranges across genres, literary periods and national borders. Students will study literary works within a variety of critical, historical, cultural and theoretical contexts. All sections of the course will seek to extend the range of interpretive strategies students can use to undertake a major literary research project. Each student will complete a research paper of 15-17 pages. Prerequisite: This course is open only to senior English majors. However, if the enrollment cap has not been reached after the enrollment of senior English majors, then seniors who have declared the English minor will be permitted to enroll.
 - Students pursuing honors will take the Honors Seminar (ENGL 497) rather than the Senior Seminar (ENGL 405 or ENGL 410).]
- Completion of the Senior Exercise

Please note: Students in the Class of 2016 have the option of completing the old Senior Exercise requirement (the critical essay or creative project) in lieu of the Senior Seminar.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR WITH EMPHASIS IN CREATIVE WRITING

Students wishing to major in English with an emphasis in creative writing are required to complete the following:

- To meet all requirements for the regular English major.
- To have taken 2.5 of the 5.5 units of course credit before the spring semester of their senior year in the following areas:
 - One section of ENGL 200 "Introduction to Fiction Writing," ENGL 201 "Introduction to Poetry Writing," or ENGL 202 "Creative Nonfiction Workshop"
 - One section of ENGL 300 "Advanced Fiction Writing," ENGL 301 "Advanced Poetry Writing," or ENGL 302 "Advanced Creative Nonfiction"

- One literature course primarily in the genre of the emphasis (poetry, prose-fiction, or nonfiction), normally to be taken before the advanced workshop in the genre. (This course might also fulfill a period or approaches requirement.)
- One course to be chosen from among the following:
 - An additional workshop, at any level, in the genre of the emphasis
 - An advanced individual study in the genre of the emphasis
 - An additional workshop, at any level, in any other genre
 - An additional literature course primarily in the genre of the emphasis
- To complete significant creative work in completion of the Senior Seminar (ENGL 405) or for their honors project.

Qualified seniors who have taken both introductory and advanced creative writing workshops may, with faculty approval, pursue an individual study in creative writing (ENGL 493); this course is not available to students who have not taken both workshops.

Students who are unable to take the advanced creative writing workshops may petition the English Department to count two introductory workshops in a single genre as fulfillment of the two-workshop requirement for the emphasis, as long as these workshops have been taken with different instructors. ENGL 150 may count as a prerequisite for 300-level creative writing courses. Introductory courses in fiction and creative nonfiction (ENGL 200 and ENGL 202) may serve as prerequisites for advanced courses in both genres (ENGL 300 and ENGL 302). Students pursuing the Creative Writing Emphasis must take at least one of their two primary workshops (200- and 300-level) at Kenyon.

Please note: Students in the Class of 2015 and 2016 have the option of completing the requirements of the older creative writing emphasis (see below).

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR WITH EMPHASIS IN CREATIVE WRITING

(optional for the Class of 2016)

Students wishing to major in English with an emphasis in creative writing are required to complete the following:

- To meet all requirements for the regular English major.
- To take as two of their elective courses before the spring semester of their senior year:
 - One section of ENGL 200 "Introduction to Writing Fiction," ENGL 201 "Introduction to Writing Poetry," ENGL 202 "Creative Nonfiction," or ENGL 203 "Fiction and Other Hybrid Forms"
 - One section of ENGL 300 "Advanced Fiction Writing" or ENGL 301 "Advanced Poetry Writing"
- To complete significant creative work in fulfillment of the Senior Exercise or for their honors project.

ENGL 200, 201, 202, 300, 301 AND 302 (CREATIVE WRITING)

Admission to all 200- and 300-level creative writing workshops is based on the submission of a writing sample and permission of the instructor. ENGL 200 or 202 is a prerequisite for ENGL 300; ENGL 201 is a prerequisite for ENGL 301. ENGL 200 or 202 is a prerequisite for ENGL 302. (ENGL 302 "Advanced Creative Nonfiction" is currently offered as available, not yet a regular offering.) Creative writing courses are open to non-majors. For specific course offerings, sample requirements and submission deadlines, check with the English Department administrative assistant.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR

English minors are required to complete a minimum of 2.5 units (5 courses total) offered or approved by the department. Students must meet the following requirements:

- Completion of one .5 unit course in each of the following historical periods (please see the English Major Distribution Requirements or check specific course descriptions to see which requirements they satisfy):
 - Pre-1700
 - 1700-1900
 - Post-1900
- Completion of two electives
- Completion of at least two courses at the 300 or 400 level.

Please note that only one of ENGL 103 or ENGL 104 can count toward the minor. No courses taken off campus (except in the Kenyon-Exeter program) can be applied toward the minor.

SENIOR EXERCISE

In order to meet the college-wide Senior Exercise requirement, the English Department requires its majors to take an examination based on a set reading list. The examination is based on a short reading list of a major work or set of lyric poems by twelve different writers; it will be completed in two timed sittings, normally on the Saturday of the week after spring break. The morning two-hour examination will consist of short-answer questions and a short essay, as well as identifications of and brief commentary on passages reproduced from works on the reading list. The afternoon two-hour examination will require students to write an extended essay analyzing a lyric poem by one of the poets on the reading list. The reading list will be different for each graduating class, so students should request from the chair of the English Department the reading list for their particular class.

Students from the Class of 2016 who do not enroll in the Senior Seminar must complete an additional component of the Senior Exercise. In addition to taking the examination, the student who chooses not to take the Senior Seminar must submit a critical essay or creative project. Proposals for the essay/creative project (a brief description of the topic, including authors, works and critical problems to be addressed, or the nature of the creative work to be pursued) are due in fall semester; they will be evaluated by a department committee to ensure that the proposed essay/project is appropriate for a culminating exercise

in the English major. Student work on the critical essay or creative project should be undertaken and completed independently.

Reading lists, by year, are available on the department website.

HONORS

Students of demonstrated ability who would like to undertake more independent work are encouraged to enter the Honors Program. Please see the description for the Honors Program in English, available from the department administrative assistant, for details. Additional information is also available through the department website.

KENYON-EXETER PROGRAM

The department directs a year-long program of study at the University of Exeter in England for junior majors and non-majors who qualify for admission. A member of our department teaches at the university, conducts seminars for Kenyon students, leads numerous co-curricular excursions, and administers the program. See the director of the Center for Global Engagement or the department chair for more information.

TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

Returning students wishing to transfer credit for courses taken elsewhere must petition the department before taking the courses in question.