

ENGLISH

MAJORS

- English
- English Education

MINORS

- English
- Writing
- English Education

CONCENTRATIONS

- Language Arts Concentration for Middle School Major

THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of English prepares students for personal growth and development by enhancing their imaginative, critical thinking, and communication skills.

English majors, minors and graduate students examine literature, literary criticism, writing techniques and language from a wide range of perspectives. They explore the nature of culturally diverse ideas, powerful emotions and human expression. General Education courses in writing and literature prepare all undergraduates for more effective thinking, learning, analysis and communication.

Advanced elective courses help students from all disciplines become more insightful and imaginative readers and writers, more effective creators, diagnosticians and problem solvers.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Department of English offers two majors, two undergraduate degree programs and three minors.

The requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in English provide a course balance of advanced writing and literature that is excellent preparation for the study of law, business and medicine; for careers in teaching, research, publishing, editing, advertising, journalism, technical writing, freelance writing and for management and other leadership positions requiring interpretive, diagnostic, and analytic problem solving abilities.

The Bachelor of Science in English provides extensive writing experience and familiarity with editing and research skills. The degree program was established in response to the proliferation of desktop and small publishing companies, technical writing centers and in-house magazines and journals. This major offers preparation for careers in the fields of

publishing and technical writing, as well as for the study of law, business and medicine.

A Bachelor of Science in Education in English provides extensive writing experience, familiarity with the full chronological range of American and British literature, knowledge of traditional and modern grammars, rhetorical theory and history of the English language. The major meets Missouri secondary school English teaching certification standards. Two options of the major are available, one which requires a minor and one which is comprehensive.

A Minor in Writing complements any major whose study is enhanced by improved written expression. The minor includes Mass Communication electives and a range of advanced study opportunities in creative writing, technical writing, popular media and language.

A Minor in English enhances the analytic and communicative skills of students and prepares them for those career fields named above.

A Minor in English Education is an attractive choice for students majoring in another teaching area such as foreign languages, social science, speech, art or music. The Minor offers a balance of writing and literature courses similar to the Bachelor of Arts in English and meets Missouri secondary school teaching certification standards.

TEST-OUT POLICY

The Department of English does not grant credit by examination for any of its courses. Students may challenge their placement in Developmental English by passing a writing test. Students should contact the department for more details. Credits may be granted for AP, CLEP or IB exams.

MAJORS

ENGLISH

Core Requirements

American Literature: Beginnings to 1865
 American Literature: 1865 to the Present
 English Literature: *Beowulf* through the
 18th Century
 English Literature: Romantics to the
 Present
 The Literary Critic's Craft
 Introduction to Shakespeare
 Senior Seminar

B.A. — minor required

Required Courses

English Core Requirements

One course from the following:

Advanced Composition
 Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction
 Creative Writing: Fiction
 Creative Writing: Poetry
 Technical Writing

Approved electives to total 30 hours

B.S. — minor required

Required Courses

English Core Requirements
 Technical Writing

One course from the following:

Rhetorical Writing
 Advanced Composition
 Publication Skills
 Writing for the Online Age
 Internship in Writing and Research

Approved electives to total 36 hours

ENGLISH EDUCATION

*B.S. Ed. — minor required
 (certifies grades 9-12)*

This major, if completed under the B.S. Ed. degree, Secondary Program, meets Missouri teacher certification standards for secondary level.

Required Courses

English Core Requirements
 Practicum in Teaching Writing Skills
 English Grammars
 Writing, Language, and Pedagogy
 Young Adult Literature
 Approved literature courses numbered
 300 or above

One course from the following:

Advanced Composition
 Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction
 Creative Writing: Fiction
 Creative Writing: Poetry
 Technical Writing

Methods in Secondary School English must be completed as part of the professional education requirements.

*B.S. Ed. — no minor required
 (Certifies Grades 9-12)*

This major, when completed under the B.S. Ed. degree, Secondary Program, meets Missouri secondary school English teaching certification standards.

Required Courses

English Core Requirements
 Multiethnic Literature of the United
 States
 Introduction to the Teaching of Writing
 Practicum in Teaching Writing Skills
 English Grammars
 Writing, Language, and Pedagogy
 Young Adult Literature
 Approved writing course number 300 or
 above
 Approved literature courses numbered
 300 or above
 Approved English electives to total
 55 hours

Methods in Secondary School English must be completed as part of the professional education requirements.

MINORS

ENGLISH

Required Courses

American Literature: Beginnings to 1865
 American Literature: 1865 to the Present
 English Literature: *Beowulf* through the
 18th Century
 English Literature: Romantics to the
 Present

One course from the following:

Advanced Composition
 Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction
 Creative Writing: Fiction
 Creative Writing: Poetry
 Technical Writing

Approved electives (must include six hours upper-level English courses) to total 24 hours

WRITING MINOR IN ENGLISH

Required Courses

Advanced Composition
 Technical Writing
 English Grammars

One course from the following:

Rhetorical Writing
 Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction
 Creative Writing: Fiction
 Creative Writing: Poetry

Approved electives from the following:

Any two English Department literature
 courses
 Rhetorical Writing
 Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction
 Creative Writing: Fiction
 Creative Writing: Poetry
 The Structure and Theory of Creative
 Writing
 Writing Theory and Practice
 Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction
 Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry
 Reporting I
 Reporting II
 Feature Writing

ENGLISH EDUCATION

This minor, if completed under the B.S. Ed. degree, Secondary or Elementary/Secondary Programs, meets Missouri teacher certification standards for grades 9-12.

Required Courses

American Literature: Beginnings to 1865
 American Literature: 1865 to the Present
 English Literature: *Beowulf* through the
 18th Century
 English Literature: Romantics to the
 Present
 English Grammars
 Writing, Language, and Pedagogy
 Young Adult Literature
 Practicum in Teaching Writing Skills

Two courses from the following:

Advanced Composition
 Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction
 Creative Writing: Fiction
 Creative Writing: Poetry
 Technical Writing
 The Structure and Theory of Creative
 Writing

Approved electives to total 31 hours
 Methods in Secondary School English must be completed as part of the professional education requirements.

CONCENTRATIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS CONCENTRATIONS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL MAJOR

Certifies grades 5-9 when completed with the Middle School Major

Required Courses

- Introduction to the Teaching of Writing
- English Grammars
- Young Adult Literature
- Listening Behaviors and Skills
- Creative Dramatics
- Two courses from electives

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

Special Offerings

Courses that are offered on only one occasion or variable issue-oriented courses that have the content described in the title. Some examples of special offerings include the following:

- American Visions from the Constitution to the Jazz Age: Literature, History, Music, Visual Art
- Madonnas and Whores: Medieval Literature and Images of Women
- Film as Literature
- The Bible and Literature
- Gender Roles/Relationships in Literature
- African American Literature
- Comedy and the Comic
- Arthurian Literature

GRAMMAR AND LINGUISTICS

English Grammars

Detailed studies of the basic traditional model that has long been a part of American school tradition and the newer models of structural, transformational and post-transformational grammars. Special emphasis on syntax, morphology and the classifications of sentences. Some attention to conventions of contemporary written English.

Directed Reading in Linguistics

Tutorial for individual student projects. Instructor's permission required.

Writing, Language, and Pedagogy

A study of the history of English, language theory and writing theory. The specific subject matter and emphasis will change each trimester. Possible topics include: "The History of English," "Noah Webster and the American Language," "Dialects and Diversity," "Applied Studies in Modern Grammar," and "Theories of Teaching Composition." Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

LITERATURE

Introduction to Literature

A general introduction to literature organized around central themes in our global society. Selected themes will vary, but each course offering will include (1) literature from various genres, (2) literature from three centuries and (3) readings from at least three of four distinct cultural categories. Humanities credit.

Multiethnic Literature of the United States

Focuses on the literature of African Americans, Native Americans, Chicanos/Chicanas and Asian Americans. Includes close critical reading of a variety of texts as well as attention to the cultural contexts from which the literature derives. Students may not use this course to fulfill both a major requirement and an Institutional Requirement.

Modern and Contemporary World Literature

Although paying some attention to parallel themes in the "world" literature of post-1900 Europe, the course focuses on non-Western literature of the twentieth century and later. It includes close critical reading of a variety of genres as well as attention to the cultural contexts from which the literature derives. Students may not use this course to fulfill both a major requirement and an Institutional Requirement.

American Literature: Beginnings to 1865

Development of American literature from the early Colonial period to the mid-19th century. Readings include Edwards, Hawthorne, Poe, Melville, Emerson, Thoreau, Dickinson and Whitman.

American Literature: 1865 to the Present

Development of American literature from the end of the Civil War to the present. Readings include Twain, Norris, Crane, Hemingway, Faulkner, Wright, Momaday, Frost, Eliot, Stevens, Hughes and Brooks.

English Literature: *Beowulf* through the 18th Century

A study of selected English literary masterpieces and their backgrounds from the Anglo-Saxons through Boswell's biography of Samuel Johnson. Readings include Chaucer, More, Spenser, Marlowe, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Pope, Swift and Boswell.

English Literature: Romantics to the Present

English literature from the Romantics to the present, including works by Wordsworth, Byron, Keats, Shelley, Browning, Tennyson, Wilde, Hardy, Yeats, Woolf, Joyce, Lawrence, Lessing, Eliot and Auden.

The Literary Critic's Craft

A course examining the practice of literary criticism over time and especially in the past century. This course shows such criticism being used in reflection on major texts during what have been on-going debates about the literature scholar's discipline.

Special Studies

An intensive study of a literary theme, a genre or an approach to writing, language or literature. The subject matter or emphasis will change each trimester.

The Bible and Literature

Study of Bible stories as key narratives of Middle Eastern and Western culture, both in their original Biblical contexts and in adapted versions prepared by literary writers of many later eras. Tales from both Old and New Testaments are featured, along with adaptations of them by later poets, playwrights, and novelists.

Survey of Women's Literature

A study of women's literature in all genres from the Middle Ages to the present. Readings may include Kempe, Lanyer, Behn, Wollstonecraft, Chopin, Gilman, Woolf, Lessing, Atwood, Kingston, Silko and Walker.

Introduction to Shakespeare

An introduction to Shakespeare's most popular and/or important plays and poems, including the sonnets, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and such works as *The Tempest*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard III* and *Venus and Adonis*.

Directed Reading in Literature

Tutorial for individual student projects. Instructor's permission required.

Advanced British Literature

This course may focus on any period or aspect of British literature. The class might focus on a particular author (e.g. "Where Angels Fear to Tread: E.M. Forester," "The World of J.R.R. Tolkien"); a group of writers (e.g. "The Bloomsbury Group," "The Sons' of Ben Jonson"); the literature of a specific period, genre or place (e.g. "Irish Modernism," "Medieval Drama"); or a specific theme (e.g. "Victorian Stunners," "Virginia Woolf's Feminism"). Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

Advanced American Literature

This course may focus on any period or aspect of American literature. The class might focus on a particular author (e.g. "Leaves and/or Grass: Walt Whitman," "The Awakening of Kate Chopin"), a group of writers (e.g. "African American Writers between the Wars," "American Modernist Poets"); the literature of a specific period, genre or place (e.g. "Twenty-First Century American Fiction," "American Nature Writing") or a specific theme (e.g. "Gender & Memoir," "Sense & Sentiment in Nineteenth-Century Women's Literature"). Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

Advanced World Literature

This course may focus on any period or aspect of World literature. The class might focus on a particular author (e.g. Tolstoy, Chinua Achebe), a group of writers or a genre (e.g. "Trans-Atlantic Romanticists," "Contemporary World Drama"); the literature of a specific period or place (e.g. "Classical Epic Poetry," "South American Magic Realism"); or a specific theme (e.g. "poetry in Translation: Issues & Answers," "Post Colonial Literature"). Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

Studies in Early British Literature

A study of genres, figures and/or issues from British literature of the Medieval and Renaissance periods. Specific subject matter and emphasis of course will change each trimester. Possible topics include "Middle English literature," which would include Medieval writers such as Chaucer, Margery Kempe and Sir Thomas Malory; "Renaissance Drama," examining the works of authors such as Christopher Marlowe, Elizabeth Cary and Shakespeare; or intensive focus on the works of a specific writer such as the Pearl Poet, Edmund Spenser or John Milton. Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

Studies in British Literature, 18th Century-Present

A study of genres, figures and/or issues from British literature of the past 300 years. Specific subject matter will change each trimester. Possible topics include "Literature of the Romantic Movement," examining works of authors such as Emily Bronte, William Wordsworth, Mary Shelley and Lord Byron; "The Victorian Age," featuring writers such as Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Rudyard Kipling; or "Twentieth-Century British Fiction," including writers such as Joseph Conrad, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce and Anthony Burgess. Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

Studies in Multiculturalism and World Literature

An intensive study of World or Multicultural literature. Specific subject matter will change each trimester. Possible topics might include "Literature of the Harlem Renaissance," with works by authors such as Hughes, Toomer, McKay, Hurston and Bontemps; "The Development of the Modern Novel," examining novels by authors such as Petronius, Boccaccio, Cervantes, Voltaire, Austen, Dostoevsky, Woolf, Beckett, Robbe-Grillet, Morrison, or Achebe; or "Anglophone Literature: Fiction of the Post-Colonial World," including works by Rushdie, Naipaul, Gordimer, Lessing, Coetzee, White, Atwood and Munro. Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

Studies in American Literature

An intensive study of topics in American literature. Specific subject matter will change each trimester. Sample topics: "American Romanticism," with such authors as Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller, Whitman and Dickinson; "The Small Town in American Literature," with works by Hawthorne, Twain, Anderson, Lewis, Gaines, Lee, King, Morrison and Faulker; "American Modernism and Long Poem," examining the long works of Whitman, Eliot, Williams, H.D. Stevens, Heaney and Dove. Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

PEDAGOGY

Introduction to the Teaching of Writing

Strategies for effective teaching of writing, with some background on writing research and theory.

Practicum in Teaching Writing Skills

Laboratory practice in teaching developmental writing skills and tutoring in a small-group setting.

Methods in Secondary School English

Study and practice in strategies for effective teaching of the English language arts in secondary schools. Includes materials, methods, planning, assessment and evaluation, current issues and trends in teaching the English and language arts.

Young Adult Literature

A study of literature for grades 7 through 12 and the ways that literature can be taught in the classroom. The course teaches students to judge young adult literature by accepted and respected critical standards and to understand what makes the literature suitable for students.

WRITING

English as a Foreign Language

For the individual needs of students whose native language is not English. Does not fulfill the Introduction to College Writing or Composition requirement.

Introduction to College Writing

A college-level composition course designed to develop skills in prewriting, drafting, editing and rewriting. Required of students with ACT English scores of 18 or below.

Composition I

Extensive practice in narrative, descriptive and expository writing, using supplementary readings to model form and to generate subject matter for composition.

Composition II

Further practice in expository writing. Includes study of techniques of research and documentation and requires preparation of a documented research paper.

Accelerated Composition

A one semester intensive writing course equivalent to Composition I and II for high performing students. Includes study of rhetorical forms and such writing strategies as organizing, prewriting, drafting, editing and rewriting. Uses supplementary readings as rhetorical models and as sources to generate subject matter. Includes study of techniques of research and documentation and requires preparation of a documented research paper.

Rhetorical Writing

Application of the principles and theories of rhetoric to original writing, with special attention given to writings that can potentially produce genuine results in personal, institutional, cultural or political contexts.

Advanced Composition

Advanced study of writing, especially techniques of rhetoric, argumentation and research.

Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction

Composition of original creative nonfiction. Students have the opportunity to study published works, write original works, critique the works of others and consult with the professor about their works on a regular basis.

Creative Writing: Fiction

Composition of original short stories or other forms of prose fiction. Students have the opportunity to study published works, write original works, critique the works of others and consult with the professor about their works on a regular basis.

Creative Writing: Poetry

Composition of original poetry and study of poetic forms and techniques. Students have the opportunity to study published works, write original works, critique the works of others and consult with the professor about their works on a regular basis.

Technical Writing

Instruction and practice in the practical application of effective writing strategies for government, business and industry, including but not limited to reports, memos, causal analyses, mechanism descriptions, definitions, persuasive letters and feasibility studies.

Senior Seminar

A capstone course. Besides preparing a professional resume and participating in a mock interview, the student will, through presentation of a research project at a public forum, synthesize various elements of critical thinking, reflect on major texts and demonstrate research abilities in the discipline.

Professional Portfolio Preparation

A capstone class for B.S. in English students, focused on preparing a professional portfolio to facilitate application for jobs in writing, editing and publishing.

The Structure and Theory of Creative Writing

An intermediate creative writing course that investigates the history and formative statements of creative writing through reading, writing, and discussion. Readings include theoretical essays regarding the purpose and role of the writer in society, the rhetoric of structure and major statements on the art. The specific contents of the course changes each time the course is offered. Course topics might include Poetic Forms, Prose Poetry, Critical Reading for Creative Writers, Writing the Natural World, Micro Fiction, Lyric Essays, Personal Reportage and Memoir. Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

Directed Writing

Independent work in creative or expository writing.

Publication Skills

Course covers major skills required in publishing. As well as providing an overview of the publishing industry, it prepares students for work in areas of technical writing, magazine editing and freelance copyediting. The specific content of the course will vary each trimester, with possible topics such as "Design, Layout and Typography," "Principles and Practice of Editing," or "Proposals, Reports and Contracts." Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

Writing for the Online Age

Addresses the changing environments and situations facing writers due to the ever-increasing presence of computer and internet technology. Emphasizes

planning and creating documents in a number of technology-rich situations. The specific content of the course will vary each trimester, with possible topics such as 'Internet Rhetoric,' "Writing With New Media," "Literature, Hypertext and Other Media Influences," or "Technology and Collaborative Writing." While students may be required to learn the basics of webpage construction through an HTML editor, this is not a course in coding or graphical design except as far as these subjects intersect with writing. Students may repeat the course with change of topic.

Internship in Writing and Research

Internships (paid and unpaid) will be offered as available or as located by students. Internships require a written proposal at the time of registration and permission of the instructor and department chair. Fifty work hours are required for each hour of academic credit. A maximum of three credit hours may be applied to the major or minor. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 11 hours.

Advanced Creative Writing

An advanced course in the study and writing of original poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction. Specific subject matter changes each trimester. Topics may include "The Art of the Short Story," which studies a variety of short stories from various time periods and cultures, with a focus on writing short stories; "Form in Contemporary Poetry," which studies traditional forms such as the sonnet and sestina; study and practice of techniques such as meter, rhyme, alliteration etc.; reading a variety of traditional and contemporary formal poets; and writing formal poetry. Other topics could include "Exploring the Prose Poem," "Who Lives There: Building a Cast of Characters," "Essentials of Poetry" and "Essentials of Fiction." Students may repeat the course with a change in topic.

CAREERS IN ENGLISH

One misconception a lot of people have about studying English is that it just prepares a student to teach English. While it's true that a career in teaching is very appealing to some, it isn't for everyone. An English degree is considered excellent professional study for law, medicine, business or public service. In addition, the degree prepares a graduate for a career in human resources, marketing, public affairs and many other leadership and management areas that require communication, diagnostic, problem-solving, analytic or interpretive skills.

TEACHING TEACHERS

However, for those who want to be teachers after graduation, the Northwest English Department has a long tradition of preparing graduates for the classroom. Future teachers learn their craft by tutoring in the Writing Center, participating in teacher practicum, developing strategies in a methods class and working with inspiring teachers.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

A degree in English can be good preparation for advanced study in law, business or any of the liberal arts. Northwest students who majored in English have completed law degrees at such schools as:

- Creighton Law School
- University of California-Berkeley
- University of Missouri-Kansas City

Northwest English graduates have been successful in Ph.D. programs at many universities:

- Harvard
- Indiana University
- University of Alabama
- University of Hawaii
- University of Iowa
- University of Missouri
- University of Nebraska

ACTIVITIES

The Department Colloquium

This program of short, intense discussions focusing on a single subject features department faculty speaking on their areas of academic interest and brings in other experts on literary topics.

Young Adult Literature Festival

Students — both from the department and area high schools — have the opportunity to meet and interact with authors.

GreenTower Press

An editorial board of department faculty publishes *The Laurel Review* (a national literary magazine) and a volume of the Missouri Chapbook Series.

Scribblers

The Department sponsors this student organization, which is dedicated to the advancement of creative writing at Northwest. The organization hosts the Visiting Writers Series and the Student Reading Series. Scribblers also meets twice a month to discuss creative writing topics of interest to students.

Medium Weight Forks

Northwest's only student literary magazine, *Medium Weight Forks* publishes fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and art by Northwest students. The magazine is student organized, published and distributed. *Medium Weight Forks* wishes to publish work that is representative of the creative minds at Northwest.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Sigma Tau Delta

Epsilon Gamma is the local chapter of the national honor society Sigma Tau Delta. Membership is based upon academic excellence. Members participate in fundraisers and round-table discussions and present critical and creative work at the annual national convention.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Northwest Missouri State University
800 University Drive
Maryville, MO 64468-6001
660.562.1265
dbarman@nwmissouri.edu
www.nwmissouri.edu/dept/english

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

Northwest Missouri State University
800 University Drive
Maryville, MO 64468-6001

1.800.633.1175
admissions@nwmissouri.edu

www.nwmissouri.edu

