

# ENGLISH LITERATURE MAJOR (B.A.)

<https://cola.unh.edu/english/program/ba/english-literature>

## Description

The English literature major serves those students who want to focus particularly on the study of literature — its many forms and styles, its rich history and the range of approaches to its analysis. The English literature track is an especially attractive major for those who plan to go on to graduate school.

As an English literature major, a student will learn about various literary traditions, both British and American literature as well as traditions organized around other principles, such as post-colonial literature, women's literature, African-American literature and genres like poetry and drama. Courses are designed to expose students to many different sorts of works and to help them develop questions and strategies of critical thinking that will make all kinds of literary expression meaningful. And the works students will study will provide many ways of looking at the world and enrich their quality of life. What's more, students have many opportunities to hone critical writing and research skills and to practice the art of presenting research findings to a group, all skills in high demand in today's workplace. The English literature major is an excellent way to combine development of interpretive and writing skills with an exciting, in-depth encounter with some of the very best writing ever produced in the English language.

Students interested in majoring in English literature should contact the Department of English, 230F Hamilton Smith Hall, (603) 862-1313 or the director of the English literature program.

## Requirements

### Degree Requirements

**Minimum Credit Requirement:** 128 credits

**Minimum Residency Requirement:** 32 credits must be taken at UNH

**Minimum GPA:** 2.0 required for conferral\*

**Core Curriculum Required:** Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

**Foreign Language Requirement:** Yes

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

\*Major GPA requirements as indicated.

### Major Requirements

- The required minimum overall GPA in major coursework is 2.0.
- English Literature majors may use one major-required course to satisfy one Discovery category requirement.
- Majors may only count one online course toward their English major requirements.
- English literature majors complete a minimum of 40 credits of major coursework with a grade of C- or better.

- ENGL 401, ENGL 415, or ENGL 444 may not be used to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of six courses must be completed at the 600-level or higher.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
Coursework must meet the following distribution requirements (a single course may satisfy multiple requirements):		
ENGL 419	How to Read Anything <sup>1</sup>	
Select two 500-level literature courses (see list below)		
Select two Pre-1800 Literature courses (see list below)		
Select two Post-1800 Literature courses (see list below)		
ENGL 714	Critical Skills	
Select one American literature course at the 600/700 level		
Select one British literature course at the 600/700 level		
Select one course that addresses race, the construction of race, and racial theories in a U.S. context (see list below)		
Select one course that investigates Anglophone literature in a global or transnational context (see list below)		
Select one course in a specific genre including, poetry, memoir, nonfiction, drama, fiction, and film (see list below) <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Capstone:</b>		
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar	

- <sup>1</sup> Must be completed with a minimum grade of C.  
ENGL 419 is the only 400-level course that may count towards major requirements.
- <sup>2</sup> With the exception of ENGL 533 Introduction to Film Studies.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>500-level Courses</b>		
Select from the following:		
ENGL/LING 405	Introduction to Linguistics	
ENGL 501	Introduction to Creative Nonfiction	
ENGL 502	Professional and Technical Writing	
ENGL 503	Persuasive Writing	
ENGL 510	Introduction to the Digital Humanities	
ENGL 512	British Literature I Age of Heroes: Beowulf to Dr. Faustus	
ENGL 513W	British Literature II Age of Revolutions: Shakespeare to Austen	
ENGL 514W	British Literature III: Revolts, Renewals, Migrations	
ENGL 516W	American Literature II Money, Migration, and Modernity: Huck Finn to Beloved	
ENGL 518W	Bible as Literature	
ENGL 520	Dystopian and Post-Apocalyptic Fiction	
ENGL 526	Introduction to Fiction Writing	
ENGL 527	Introduction to Poetry Writing	
ENGL 533	Introduction to Film Studies	
ENGL 534	21st Century Journalism: How the News Works	
ENGL 550	Introduction to the Literature and Culture of Race	
ENGL 555	Science Fiction	
ENGL 575	Sex and Sensibility: The Rise of Chick Lit	
ENGL 581	Reading the Postcolonial Experience	
ENGL 585	Introduction to Women in Literature	
ENGL 595	Literary Topics	

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Pre-1800 Literature Courses</b>		
Select from the following:		
ENGL 512 or ENGL 513W	British Literature I Age of Heroes: Beowulf to Dr. Faustus British Literature II Age of Revolutions: Shakespeare to Austen	
ENGL 595	Literary Topics (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 657	Shakespeare	
ENGL 693R	Special Topics in Literature (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 751	Medieval Romance	
ENGL 756	Chaucer	
ENGL 758	Advanced Shakespeare	

ENGL 759	Milton
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar (if topic is appropriate)

Code	Title	Credits
Post-1800 Literature Courses		
Select from the following:		
ENGL 514W or ENGL 516W	British Literature III: Revolts, Renewals, Migrations American Literature II Money, Migration, and Modernity: Huck Finn to Beloved	
ENGL 595	Literary Topics (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 690	African American Literature	
ENGL 693R	Special Topics in Literature (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 738	Asian American Studies	
ENGL 775	Modern Irish Literature: A Changing Landscape	
ENGL 777	The English Novel in the World	
ENGL 782	Modern and Contemporary Drama	
ENGL 784	English Novel of the 19th Century	
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 797R	Special Studies in Literature (Race & Racial Theories) (if topic is appropriate)	

Code	Title	Credits
Race, the Construction of Race, and Racial Theory Courses		
Select from the following:		
ENGL 440A	Honors/On Race in Culture and Society	
ENGL 550	Introduction to the Literature and Culture of Race	
ENGL 650R	I Hear America Singing: Studying American Literature and Culture	
ENGL 690	African American Literature	
ENGL 693	Special Topics in Literature (subtopic R)	
ENGL 693R	Special Topics in Literature	
ENGL 738	Asian American Studies	
ENGL 778	Race and Gender in Film and Popular Culture	
ENGL 797R	Special Studies in Literature (Race & Racial Theories)	

Code	Title	Credits
Courses that Investigate Anglophone Literature in Global or Transnational Contexts		
Select from the following:		
ENGL 581	Reading the Postcolonial Experience	
ENGL 773	Literary Modernisms: Return, Revolt, Recycle	
ENGL 775	Modern Irish Literature: A Changing Landscape	
ENGL 777	The English Novel in the World	

Code	Title	Credits
Courses in a specific genre including poetry, memoir, nonfiction, drama, fiction, and film <sup>2</sup>		
Select from the following:		
ENGL 520	Dystopian and Post-Apocalyptic Fiction	
ENGL 555	Science Fiction	
ENGL 575	Sex and Sensibility: The Rise of Chick Lit	
ENGL 616A	Studies in Film/Genre	
ENGL 616B	Studies in Film/Authorship	
ENGL 616C	Studies in Film/Culture and Ideology	
ENGL 616D	Studies in Film/Narrative and Style	
ENGL 618	Film Theory	
ENGL 693R	Special Topics in Literature (if topic is appropriate)	
ENGL 778	Race and Gender in Film and Popular Culture	
ENGL 797R	Special Studies in Literature (Race & Racial Theories)	

Please see your advisor if you have questions about other courses that might fulfill these requirements.

# Degree Plan

## Sample Degree Plan

This sample degree plan serves as a general guide; students collaborate with their academic advisor to develop a personalized degree plan to meet their academic goals and program requirements.

First Year		
Fall		Credits
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing <sup>1</sup>	4
Language Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Discovery Course or Major Course		4
COLA 401A:First Year Seminar		1
Credits		17

Spring		
ENGL 419	How to Read Anything	4
Language Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Major/Minor/Discovery Course		4
Credits		16

Second Year		
Fall		
Major 500-Level Literature Survey		4
Major Course 500/600-Level		4
Discovery Course		4
Major/Minor/Discovery Course		4
Credits		16
Spring		
Major 500-Level Literature Survey		4
Major Course 500/600-Level		4
Discovery Course		4
Major/Minor/Discovery Course		4
Credits		16

Third Year		
Fall		
ENGL 714	Critical Skills	4
Major Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Major/Minor/Discovery Course		4
Credits		16

Spring		
Major Course		4
Major Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Major/Minor/Discovery Course		4
Credits		16

Fourth Year		
Fall		
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar (Capstone or Major Elective)	4
Major Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
Credits		16

Spring		
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar (Capstone or Major Elective)	4
Elective Course		4

Elective Course	4
Elective Course	4
<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>129</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students who successfully apply AP or Transfer Credits towards the ENGL 401 'First Year Writing' requirement may enroll in ENGL 419 during their first semester.

## Student Learning Outcomes

### Program Learning Outcomes

**All undergraduate English majors acquire the same core skills. These include:**

- Proficiency in analytical writing, critical thinking, and public-speaking.
- Knowledge of important literary genres and subgenres
- Fluency in literary terminology,
- A broad understanding of British-and-American literature, from the medieval period in England and the moment of first contact in America to the present day.
- Demonstrated proficiency in writing an analytical essay that offers a sophisticated close-reading or explication of a literary text. This essay will have a clear thesis and proceed in a logical fashion, with interpretive claims supported by evidence from the text.
- Demonstrated proficiency in literary research and in writing an extended thesis-driven research paper in which sources are correctly and responsibly cited.
- Demonstrated understanding of how to read across the color line in the US and /or how to analyze literary works written in English from outside the UK and the US--from India, Africa, and the Caribbean, for example.