
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

The Major in English

Rationale

1. The concentration program in English combines a sequence of core courses for all majors with a variety of elective options in upper-level courses. All required courses are limited in enrollment and offer students an opportunity to participate in discussion with the instructor and other concentrators. Each major in English is assigned, as permanent academic adviser, a member of the Department faculty who helps design an integrated program.

Students intending to pursue graduate study in English should, at the first opportunity, make this interest known to their advisers. In planning their undergraduate programs, they may also wish to consult with the Department's special adviser on graduate study: Professor Martin.

2. The requirements reflect the Department's conception of a substantial concentration in English and American Language and Literature. The aims of the requirements are:
 - ◆ To develop the student's independent ability to read literature of different kinds and from different historical periods with pleasure and understanding.
 - ◆ To develop knowledge and awareness of language, and the ability to express ideas clearly and convincingly in discussion and in writing.
 - ◆ To assure the student of some familiarity with major and representative authors in the history of European, English, and American Literature, an awareness of the variety and continuity of literature, and intensive knowledge of selected authors, periods, genres, and themes.
 - ◆ To relate the study of language and literature to other intellectual disciplines, so that continuity with other fields of study may be realized; and to provide perspectives on aspects of language and literature through other fields of study.
3. The concentration is designed for students who wish to develop a thorough knowledge of the language and literature of the English and American tradition. Students will also acquire some knowledge of the antecedents of English and American literature in HU 221, and, if they choose, may discover connections with other literatures through courses in comparative literature or related courses in foreign and classical literatures in translation.

Concentration Requirement

Concentration in English (1501)

The total concentration requirement is eleven semester courses. A grade not lower than C is required in all courses toward the concentration.

Students must complete **CAS EN 220, HU 221, CAS EN 322** (formerly EN 222), **and EN 323** (formerly EN 223). With the aid of their advisers, they should then design a coherent concentration of at least seven additional English courses at the advanced level (numbered 300 or above), including one from each of the following groups:

Group 1 - American Literature before 1900: **EN 471, EN 533, EN 534, EN 545, EN 571, EN 579**, or courses specified as equivalent in any year.

Group 2 – Concepts and Methods of Literary Study: Any literature course listed from **EN 404 through EN 490, or EN 493 through EN 498**.

Note: Students may not satisfy the requirements for both groups with a single, overlapping course.

Upon approval of their adviser and the Director of Undergraduate Studies, students may elect to substitute one upper-level literature course from Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, Classical Studies, the University Professors program, or from the Editorial Institute, for *one* of their seven upper-division requirements outside of the three categories specified above.

Students declaring a concentration in English before September 1, 2004, may elect to satisfy either the concentration requirements described above or the concentration requirements in place before September 1, 2004. Students who elect the earlier set of requirements may substitute EN 222 for EN 322, and EN 223 for EN 323. They must meet the Group 1 American Literature requirement as described above. They may choose either to satisfy the Group 2 Concepts and methods of Literary Study requirement specified above or satisfy the earlier Group 2 and Group 3 requirements which were as follows:

Group 2 – Period Courses; those numbered **CAS EN 521-532, 551-553**, or courses that have been specified as equivalent in previous years.

Group 3 – Major Authors: **CAS EN 363, 364, or 561, 565, 566, 580**, or courses specified as equivalent in previous years.

Transfer Students

Written departmental approval must be secured for all courses taken elsewhere which you wish to apply toward the Concentration requirements. Forms are available in the Department.

Offices and Phone Numbers

All faculty office numbers, office hours and phone numbers are posted in the lobby and opposite the elevator on the fourth floor. All Department of English faculty offices are at 236 Bay State Road.

The Main Office is on the 4th floor: (617) 353-2506.

The Creative Writing Office is on the 2nd floor: (617) 353-2510.

Please contact the Department or the Director of Undergraduate Studies in English if you have any questions, complaints, or suggestions.