

The major in English provides students with the critical skills necessary for the historical, theoretical, and formal study of literatures in English.

The aims of the requirements are to:

- Develop your ability to read critically and creatively.
- Develop your ability to express ideas clearly and convincingly in writing and in discussion.
- Train you in a variety of research methods.
- Introduce you to literature of different kinds from many different historical periods.
- Familiarize you with major authors in the history of English, American, European, and Anglophone literature.
- Encourage more intensive knowledge of selected authors, periods, genres, and themes.
- Raise your awareness of the variety of literary forms, as well as the continuities between them.
- Allow you to make connections between literature, language, and other intellectual pursuits, such as history, science, philosophy, other arts, and psychology.

**Boston University - English Department**  
236 Bay State Road  
(617) 353-2506  
english@bu.edu

www.bu.edu/english  
<http://www.bu.edu/english/courses/>

**The MAJOR in ENGLISH**

The core sequence of **four** courses required of all majors provides students with the tools of criticism and interpretation and with a foundation in the study of literature:

#### **EN 220: Seminar in Literature**

Introduces the fundamentals of literary analysis, interpretation, and research, with frequent papers and attention to different critical approaches. Class limited to 16 students. Satisfies WR150 requirement. Intensive study of literary texts centered on a particular topic. Topics might include:

- American Gothic
- Tragedy and the Tragic
- Literature and Human Freedom
- Ways of Seeing
- The Concept of Surprise
- Detection
- Unreliable Narrators

#### **EN 221: Major Authors**

Introduction to the major works of ancient and medieval literatures that influenced later literatures in English: the Bible, Homeric epic, Greek tragedy, Vergil's *Aeneid*, and Dante's *The Divine Comedy*.

#### **EN 322: British Literature I**

British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the Restoration of the English monarchy in 1660. Authors may include Geoffrey Chaucer, William Langland, Christopher Marlowe, William Shakespeare, Aemilia Lanyer, John Donne, and John Milton. Topics may include medieval romance, the development of the sonnet and other poetic genres, Elizabethan and Jacobean drama, devotional forms, political poetry responding to the English Civil War, and the persistence of the epic.

#### **EN 323: British Literature II**

British literature from the Restoration to the end of the nineteenth century. Authors may include Alexander Pope, Jonathan Swift, William Wordsworth, Percy Shelley, Mary Shelley, Jane Austen, Alfred Tennyson, and Oscar Wilde. Major topics include London as a developing urban center, the emergence of modern prose fiction, the growing emphasis on "sensibility," the rise of Romanticism and the Industrial Revolution, tensions between religion and science, and *fin de siècle* aestheticism.

**English courses outside of the core sequence** may be selected to reflect the individual interests of each student. With the aid of their advisors, students should design a concentration of **at least seven additional English courses at the advanced level** (numbered 300 or above). These should include **one from each of the following four groups, and three additional electives**. The total concentration requirement is **eleven** semester courses.

*Courses that fulfill each group requirement vary each year and are specified on the department website every semester. The following are examples.*

**GROUP 1: A course in American Literature before 1900** provides an introduction to the national tradition.

The South in History and Literature (EN 327)  
Enlightenment in America (EN 465)  
The Civil War in Black and White (EN 493)  
American Literature: Beginnings to 1855 (EN 533)  
American Literature: 1855-1918 (EN 534)  
Nineteenth-Century American Novel (EN 545)  
American Renaissance Poetry (EN 571)  
Slavery and American Literature (EN 571)  
19<sup>th</sup> Century American Women Writers (EN 576)  
Emerson, Whitman, Dickinson (EN 579)

**GROUP 2: A course in Concepts and Methods** provides a foundation in the essentials of literary study and critical theory.

Literary Criticism I and II (EN 404 and 406)  
Family Trouble: Contesting Kinship in Theory and Literature (EN 466)  
Literature and Science (EN 468)  
Time and Literature, 1800-1930 (EN 468)  
Modernity in the Atlantic World (EN 471)  
Representing Gender in American Literature and Film (EN 475)  
Queer Drama and Performance (EN 476)  
Pragmatism and Literature (EN 480)  
Home and World (EN 493)  
Music and Poetry (EN 493)  
Animals and Literature since 1800 (EN 496)  
The Sixties in Fiction and Theory (EN 496)

**GROUP 3: A course in British or American Literature before 1800** provides early historical coverage and knowledge of Medieval or Early Modern British literature and culture. A course in pre-1800 American literature also fulfills this requirement.

Shakespeare I and II (EN 363 and 364)  
Hamlet/Macbeth: Appropriation and Performance (EN 463)  
Early Modern Women Authors (EN 475)  
Medieval Romance and the Origin of Love (EN 521)  
Arthurian Literature in the Middle Ages (EN 522)  
Literature of the Renaissance (EN 523)  
Poetry and Song in Shakespeare's Time (EN 525)  
The Age of Johnson (EN 528)  
The Romantic Age (EN 530)  
English Drama to 1590 (EN 551)  
Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Drama (EN 553)  
Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales (EN 561)  
Milton (EN 566)  
Shakespeare and Film (EN 568)  
Elizabethan Prodigals (EN 592)

**GROUP 4: A course in Diverse Literatures in English** provides exposure to a range of literary experiences and practices: ethnic, gendered, geographical, socioeconomic, or sexual.

Performing Gender: Drama, Dance, Film, and Feminisms (EN 326)  
Jane Eyre's Sisters (EN 327)  
African American Women Writers (EN 370)  
Literature of the Harlem Renaissance (EN 377)  
Gay and Lesbian Drama (EN 476)  
African American Drama (EN 554)  
Queer Literature in Film (EN 575)  
Seventeenth-Century English Women Writers (EN 576)  
Native American Literature (EN 579)  
Postcolonial Theater (EN 584)  
Literature of the Migrant (EN 584)  
Ethnic American Women Writers (EN 584)  
Caribbean Poetry (EN 586)  
Political Aesthetics of African American Literature (EN 587)

## ELECTIVES

Any courses numbered in the 300s, 400s, and 500s, including the preceding courses, can be taken as **electives**. Past and current elective course offerings include:

Fiction of the Modern American South (EN 327)  
The History of the Novel (EN 341)  
Contemporary Fiction (EN 347)  
Modern Drama (EN 355)  
Detective Fiction (EN 373)  
Literature and Film (EN 375)  
The Gothic: Monsters and Myths (EN 389)  
The Modern British Novel (EN 544)  
The Modern American Novel (EN 546)  
Feminist & Gender Theories and Movements (EN 476)  
The Question of the Real in Film and Fiction (EN 496)  
Twentieth-Century British and Irish Poetry (EN 535)  
Nineteenth-Century British Novel (EN 543)  
Postwar Truth, Postwar Fiction (EN 547)  
Victorian Controversy (EN 570)  
American Crime (EN 571)  
Transnational American Studies (EN 572)  
Faulkner (EN 580)  
Charles Dickens (EN 581)  
Joyce and After (EN 582)  
Fictions of the Fifties (EN 582)  
Contemporary American Poetry (EN 585)  
Film Noir (EN 593)  
Alfred Hitchcock (EN 593)  
Hollywood Genre Films (EN 594)  
Stanley Kubrick (EN 594)  
Modernism: Text and Screen (EN 594)  
Modern Irish Writers (EN 599)

Students may not satisfy the requirements for multiple groups with a single, overlapping course.

A grade not lower than C is required in all courses toward the concentration.

Students may elect to substitute one upper-level literature course from Romance Studies, Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, Classical Studies, or the Editorial Institute for *one* of their seven upper-division course requirements outside of the four categories specified above, upon approval.