
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

The Major in English

Rationale

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

The required sequence of four courses includes a seminar introducing students to the major (EN 220), a course examining foundational, non-English works of Western literatures (EN 221), and a survey of British literary history (EN 322, 323).

The remaining courses may be selected to reflect the individual interests of each student. Among these seven advanced-level electives, students must include at least one course centrally concerned with *Literature before 1800* and another with *American Literature before 1900*. Students select at least one course in *Concepts and Methods of Literary Study*, a requirement that emphasizes the self-conscious practice of critical method. Students also choose at least one course from the offerings in *Diverse Literatures in English*, a category that focuses on traditions outside British and American canonical literatures.*

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

2. 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.

* The *Literature before 1800* requirement applies to students who declared the major on or after September 1, 2010; the *Diverse Literatures in English* requirement applies to students who declared the major on or after September 1, 2011.

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 **EN 220, EN 221** (formerly titled HU 221), **EN 322, and EN 323**. With the aid of their advisors, 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 327, EN 471, EN 479, EN 533, EN 534, EN 545, EN 571, EN 587, EN 591** or courses specified as equivalent in any year.
- Group 2 - Concepts and Methods of Literary Study: Any literature course listed from **EN 404, 406 through EN 490, or EN 493 through EN 498** or courses specified as equivalent in any year.
- Group 3 –British or American Literature before 1800: **EN 363, EN 364, EN 521, EN 527, 529, EN 530, EN 566, EN 568** or other courses specified as equivalent in any year.*
- Group 4 – Diverse Literatures in English: Courses centrally concerned with traditions outside British and American canonical literatures. **EN 326, 370, EN 371, EN 572, EN 584, EN 586, EN 587, EN 588** or any courses specified as equivalent in any year.**

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

Upon approval of their advisor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies, 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 two categories specified above.

Minor in English (1501)

Students must complete EN 220, EN 322, EN 323, and three additional courses at the advanced level (numbered 300 or above.)

Transfer Students

Written departmental approval must be secured for all courses taken elsewhere that 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.

* Students who declared the major on or after September 1, 2010 must fulfill Group 1-3 requirements

** Students who declared the major on or after September 1, 2011 must fulfill Group 1-4 requirements.