



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The English Major

Handbook

2016-2017

“When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.”

– Maya Angelou

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Read This First:

Student Responsibilities

Welcome to the English major!

The major you have chosen will foster your analytical skills, stimulate your creativity, and strengthen your ability to communicate in any situation. It will help you become the kind of researcher who can find the answer to any question, and it will encourage you to become the kind of thinker who generates brand new questions. It will also provide you with the opportunity to read and discuss with professors and other students the most exciting, the most engrossing, the most influential novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and essays written in the English language.

This handbook is designed to make sure that you are prepared to take full advantage of all of the opportunities and experiences the English Department offers, and it is designed to help you obtain your Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Mississippi State University with as little confusion about the technicalities as possible.

To these ends, please keep in mind the following responsibilities for all English majors:

1. Be familiar with your English Major Handbook.
2. Check your MSU email regularly. This is the primary means that the university, the department, and your professors will use to contact you.
3. Make an appointment with your English Department advisor during the advising period every semester. You will get an email when it's time to sign up for advising. The advising period immediately precedes pre-registration; for 2016-2017 the dates are October 17-28 and March 20-31. *If you haven't met with your advisor, you can't pre-register, and that means you're unlikely to get all of the courses you want.* All you have to do is call the English Department at 325-3644 or go to Lee 2014, and an appointment will be set up for you with the appropriate advisor.
4. Be prepared for your advising appointment. Your advisor is there to answer questions, help you find information you need, and let you know whether your course choices are wise ones—but they're still your choices. In order to make informed ones, check your CAPP through Banner and keep a record of all courses you have taken on the **Check Sheet on page 13**; this way, you'll always be able to see at a glance what requirements you have left.
5. If you find that you are unable to pre-register for the courses that you have chosen and that your advisor has approved, go ahead and sign up for substitute classes, but then inform your advisor of the substitutions you have made as soon as possible so that your advisor can approve the new courses.

SAVE YOUR PAPERS

Make a habit of saving the papers you write in your English courses—electronic copies and hard copies if possible.

Why?

First, your papers are **your work**—they represent your knowledge, your skills, and your creativity. Your family or those close to you might like to see them, and you might want to read them again someday.

Second, when you are a senior, the English Department will ask you to submit a **portfolio of five papers** of your choice from various courses you have taken to help us in assessing the English program.

Third, a professor might nominate one of your papers for a **writing award**.

Fourth, you might need to choose one of them as a **writing sample** for an internship application, a graduate school application, or even a job application.

Contacts in the English Department

If you have questions about **what courses to take** to complete your English major, how close you are to **graduation**, how to go about planning a **minor or concentration** in another field, or how to get your English major to work for you **after graduation**, you may contact your advisor or Dr. Ginger Pizer, Director of Undergraduate Studies. Dr. Pizer will also be happy to talk to you about the **Linguistics minor**. You may e-mail her at gpizer@english.msstate.edu or call her at call her at 325-2240. You will find Dr. Pizer in Lee 2305 during posted office hours.

If you have **concerns about or problems with a course you are taking or any other departmental matters**, you may contact Dr. Daniel Punday, the head of the English Department. His office is located in Lee 2004, and you can contact him by email at dpunday@english.msstate.edu or by calling 325-3644 and speaking to administrative assistant Ms. Carlene Hatchett. You can also call this office, staffed from 8:00 to 5:00 every weekday, if you are unsure whom to ask about your problem or question.

If you would like to find out more about **creative writing**, you may contact Dr. Katie Pierce (cp341@msstate.edu; Lee 2310) or Dr. Mike Kardos (mpk36@msstate.edu; Lee 2308), Co-Directors of the Creative Writing Program in the English Department.

If you would like to find out more about the **TESOL certificate**, you may contact Dr. Wendy Herd. Her office is Lee 2313, and you can reach her by e-mail at wherd@english.msstate.edu.

If you would like **advice about going on for a law degree** and how you might best plan your undergraduate courses to prepare for law school, you may contact Dr. Matthew Little. You will find him in Lee 2510, or you may e-mail him at littmatt@ra.msstate.edu.

If you would like to find out about **graduate study in English at Mississippi State**, you may contact Dr. Lara Dodds. You will find her in Lee 2304, or you may e-mail her at LDodds@english.mssstate.edu.

Professorial Faculty Currently Teaching in the Department

What follows is only a partial list of the people who contribute to the English Department at MSU. This list of the department's professors, descriptions of their specializations, and contact information may be useful to you as you advance in the major, identify your own special interests, and seek mentoring. More information about these faculty members can be found on the English Department's web page.

Thomas Anderson	2002	tpanderson@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Vanderbilt University Renaissance literature, particularly Shakespeare; critical theory		
Ted Atkinson	2010	TAtkinson@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Louisiana State University American literature, Southern literature, particularly Faulkner		
Greg Bentley	2506	gwb@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of California at Davis Renaissance literature, especially Shakespeare; modern and contemporary drama; critical theory		
Shalyn Claggett	2502	src173@msstate.edu
Ph.D. Vanderbilt University Nineteenth-century British literature		
Peter DeGabriele	2003	pdegab@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University at Buffalo-SUNY Eighteenth-century British literature; the novel; literary and cultural theory		
Lara Dodds	2304	LDodds@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Brown University Renaissance literature; Milton; early modern prose; early modern women's writing, especially Margaret Cavendish; science and literature		
Becky Hagenston	2006	BHagenston@english.msstate.edu
M.F.A. University of Arizona Creative writing: fiction		
Shirley Hanshaw	2508	SHanshaw@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Mississippi Nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature; African-American literature; technical writing		
Wendy Herd	2313	wherd@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Kansas Linguistics: phonetics, phonology, psycholinguistics, and second language acquisition		
Holly Johnson	2005	hjohnson@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of North Carolina Old English and Middle English literature		
Michael Kardos	2308	MKardos@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Missouri Creative writing: fiction		
Matt Little	2510	littmatt@ra.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Chicago American literature, including works by Henry James, William James, Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald; legal writing		

Rich Lyons 2505 rjl@ra.msstate.edu
 Ph.D. University of Houston
 Creative writing: poetry. Nineteenth- and twentieth-century poetry, including works by Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, Dickinson, Whitman, Yeats, Stevens, Warren, et al.

Amy Mallory-Kani 2013 am3466@msstate.edu
 Ph.D. University at Albany, SUNY
 Nineteenth-century British literature

Kelly Marsh 2504 kmarsh@english.msstate.edu
 Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University
 Twentieth-century British and Irish literature, including works by James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Roddy Doyle, Jeanette Winterson, Salman Rushdie, Zadie Smith

Bonnie O'Neill 2012 boneill@english.msstate.edu
 Ph.D. Washington University
 Nineteenth-century American literature, including works by Walt Whitman, Mark Twain, and Ralph Waldo Emerson

Catherine Pierce 2310 CPierce@english.msstate.edu
 Ph.D. University of Missouri
 Creative writing: poetry

Ginger Pizer 2305 GPizer@english.msstate.edu
 Ph.D. University of Texas, Austin
 Linguistics: sociolinguistics, child language acquisition, linguistics of signed languages

Dan Punday 2004 dpunday@english.msstate.edu
 Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University
 Narrative theory, contemporary literature, and electronic media

Donald Shaffer 2311
 Ph.D. University of Chicago
 American literature, African-American literature and history, especially Charles Chesnutt

Megan Smith 2314
 Ph.D. Michigan State University
 Linguistics: second language acquisition, syntax, psycholinguistics

Andrea Spain 2312 aspain@english.msstate.edu
 Ph.D. University at Buffalo
 Postcolonial literature, World literature, Critical Theory, Film

Eric Vivier 2011 edv34@msstate.edu
 Ph. D. University of Wisconsin–Madison
 Renaissance literature

Robert West 2008 rmw107@ra.msstate.edu
 Ph.D. University of North Carolina
 Twentieth- and twenty-first-century American, British, and Irish poetry; Southern and Appalachian literature

How to Build an English Major: The Courses and the Requirements

University and College of Arts & Sciences Core Courses (See MSU Catalog for all details on credit by exam.)

Composition I (OR 3 or higher on any AP English exam) & II (OR 4 or higher on any AP English exam)

Public Speaking

Foreign Language I-IV

College Algebra & Trigonometry or Statistics OR Calculus or higher

3 Science classes

6 Social Science classes

Fine Arts History/Appreciation

Philosophy

2 History classes

Introduction to the English Major (EN 1111) in your first year as an English major

Survey Courses:

All English majors take four courses that survey English and American literature chronologically.

EN 2213: English Literature from the beginning to approximately 1800.

EN 2223: English Literature from approximately 1800 to the present.

EN 2243: American Literature from the beginning to approximately 1850.

EN 2253: American Literature from approximately 1850 to the present.

Critical Writing and Research for Literary Studies (EN 3414)

4000-level Courses:

All English majors take at least five high-level literature courses.

1 course from **Group I**

(British Literature before 1660):

EN 4503 Shakespeare (through 1599)

EN 4513 Shakespeare (from 1600)

EN 4523 Chaucer

EN 4533 Milton

EN 4703 English Literature of the 16th
Century

EN 4713 English Literature of the 17th
Century

1 course from **Group II**

(British Literature after 1660):

EN 4643 The 18th-Century British Novel

EN 4653 The 19th-Century British Novel

EN 4663 British and Irish Novel since 1900

EN 4723 British Literature and Culture
1660-1700

EN 4733 British Literature and Culture 18th
Century

EN 4863 Romantic Poets and Prose Writers

EN 4883 Victorian Poets and Prose Writers

1 course from **Group III**

(Postcolonial and World Literatures)

or 1 more course from either Group I or II

EN 4393 Postcolonial Literatures and Theory

EN 4813 The World Novel

2 courses from **Group IV**

(American Literature):

EN 4333 Southern Literature

EN 4343 African American Literature

EN 4833 The American Short Story

EN 4903 American Literature 1800-1860

EN 4913 American Literature 1860-1900

EN 4923 American Novel Since 1900

EN 4933 Survey of Contemporary Literature

Professional Requirement:

All English majors take one of the following related to their future careers or current interest:

- EN 3303 Creative Writing (recommended for those planning a writing career of any kind)
- EN 3313 Writing for the Workplace
- EN 4223 Legal Writing (recommended for those going on to law school)
- EN 4323 Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present or EN 4353 Critical Theory since 1900 (recommended for those going on to graduate school in English)
- EN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics or EN 4413 History of the English Language (recommended for those interested in teaching English in any setting)
- EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy or EN 4243 Writing Center Tutor Training (recommended for those interested in teaching writing in any setting)

Elective:

All English majors take at least one additional English course, which may be chosen from the lists above or from among the department’s other course offerings. (EN 2203 Intro to Literature is intended for non-majors and will not satisfy this requirement.)

In Literature:

- EN 2273 World Literature I (from the beginning to approximately 1600)
- EN 2283 World Literature II (from approximately 1600 to the present)
- EN 2434 Literature and Film
- EN 2443 Introduction to Science Fiction
- EN 3513 Women and Literature
- EN 3523 Shakespeare and Film
- EN 3533 Selected Authors
- EN 4803 Types of Drama Since 1900
- EN 4823 Poetry Since 1900

In Creative Writing:

- EN 3303 Creative Writing
- EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry
- EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction
- EN 4303 Craft of Poetry
- EN 4313 Craft of Fiction
- EN 4943 Form and Theory of Fiction
- EN 4953 Form and Theory of Poetry

In Literary Criticism and Theory:

- EN 4323 Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present
- EN 4353 Critical Theory since 1900

In Linguistics and the Teaching of English as a Second Language:

- EN 2403 Introduction to the Study of Language
- EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar
- EN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics
- EN 4413 History of the English Language
- EN 4433 Approaches to TESOL
- EN 4443 English Syntax
- EN 4453 Methods in TESOL
- EN 4463 Second Language Acquisition
- EN 4473 Phonetics
- EN 4623 Language and Culture
- EN 4633 Language and Society

In Rhetoric and Composition

- EN 3313 Writing for the Workplace
- EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy
- EN 4243 Writing Center Tutor Training

Upper Division Humanities Elective (History, Foreign Language, or Philosophy) OR Study Abroad

Portfolio and Reflective Writing (EN 4111) in your last year as an English major

After fulfilling all of these requirements, you will still have room in your schedule for 7 or 8 free electives to bring you to the 124-hour minimum for a BA. This is more than enough to earn a minor in another field that will combine with your English major to help you reach your career and academic goals.

What to Expect in English 1111: English Studies

English majors are required to take English 1111, a one-credit introduction to the major, and are advised to do so as early as possible.

What we'll do:

1. We'll hear from various professors in the department about their specific fields of study, what opportunities their fields might offer you, and what courses you might take in their fields.
2. We'll hear from former English majors who have experience working in such fields as law, publishing, library science, teaching, and technical writing.
3. We'll talk openly and frankly about succeeding in college and about resources and opportunities available to English majors.

What we'll accomplish:

1. You'll be more prepared to do well in all of your English courses.
2. You'll be better equipped to make decisions that will be best for you as you choose your courses.
3. You'll be ready to start thinking knowledgeably about your career plans.

What to Expect in English 4111: Portfolios and Reflective Writing

English majors are required to take English 4111, a one-credit course on reflective writing, in their last year.

What we'll do:

1. We'll read journal articles to discover the theoretical purposes of writing reflectively. These articles will also illustrate the practical benefits enjoyed by writers and students of literature who learn to reflect on their growth.
2. We'll learn how to write a letter of application and a professional resume, two practical forms of reflective, self-assessing writing vital in the world of work.
3. We'll learn how to assemble portfolios and how to write the centerpiece of the portfolio, the reflective essay.

What we'll accomplish

1. You'll be prepared to apply for your first job or graduate program.
2. You'll have a portfolio and reflective essay that you will be asked to submit to the Department to help us assess our program.

SAMPLE CURRICULUM FOR THE B.A. IN ENGLISH

FRESHMAN YEAR

Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
Course			Credit	Course			Credit
EN	1103	English Composition I ^a	3	EN	1113	English Composition II	3
FLX	1113	Foreign Language I ^b	3	FLX	1123	Foreign Language II	3
MA	1313	College Algebra ^c	3	MA	1323 or 2113	Trigonometry or Statistics	3
HI	xxxx	Required History course ^d	3	CO	1003 or 1013	Fund. of Pub. Speaking or Intro. to Comm.	3
		Required Social Science Course ^e				Required Science course ^f	3-4
EN	1111	English Studies	1				
Total Credit Hours			16	Total Credit Hours			15-16

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
Course			Credit	Course			Credit
EN	2213	English Literature Before 1800 ^g	3	EN	2223	English Literature After 1800 ^g	3
EN	2243	American Literature Before 1865 ^g	3	EN	2253	American Literature After 1865 ^g	3
FLX	2133	Foreign Language III	3	FLX	2143	Foreign Language IV	3
		Required Social Science course ^e	3			Required Social Science course ^e	3
HI	xxxx	Required History course ^d	3			Required Science course ^f	3-4
Total Credit Hours			15	Total Credit Hours			15-16

JUNIOR YEAR

Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
Course			Credit	Course			Credit
EN	3414	Critical Writing and Research in Lit. Studies	4	EN	4xxx	Course from Group I (British Lit. before 1660) ^h	3
EN	xxxx	Vocational Elective ⁱ	3	EN	4xxx	Course from Group II (British Lit. after 1660) ^h	3
		Required Social Science course ^e	3			Required Social Science course ^e	3
		Required Fine Arts course ^d	3			Required Science course ^f	3-4
PHI	xxxx	Required Philosophy course ^d	3			General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours			16	Total Credit Hours			15-16

SENIOR YEAR

Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
Course			Credit	Course			Credit
EN	4xxx	Course from Group III (Postcolonial & World Lit.) ^h	3	EN	4xxx	Course from Group IV (American & Contemporary Lit.) ^h	3
EN	4xxx	Course from Group IV (American & Contemporary Lit.) ^h	3	EN	xxxx	English Elective ^j	3
		Upper-division Humanities (HI/PHI/FL) course	3			General Elective	3
		Required Social Science course ^e	3			General Elective	3
		General Elective	3			General Elective	3
EN	4111	Portfolio and Reflective Writing	1				
Total Credit Hours			16	Total Credit Hours			15

^a Students with an ACT English subscore of 28+ may take EN 1173 Accelerated English Composition II in their first semester. Students with an ACT English subscore of 32+ who are members of the Honors College may take EN 1113H Honors English Composition II in their first semester. Upon successful completion, they will receive S credit for EN 1103.

^b The major requires fourth semester proficiency in a foreign language. Students with previous background should take a placement test to determine the appropriate class level.

^c Students must take either College Algebra and Trigonometry or Statistics (6 hours) or Calculus (MA 1463) or higher (3 hours). Students with an ACT Math subscore of 26+ may take specified sections of Trigonometry or Statistics and upon successful completion earn S credit for MA 1313.

^d See Arts & Sciences list for approved courses.

^e Six Social Science classes are required. At least two must come from the Arts & Sciences list. No more than two courses per discipline, covering at least four different disciplines.

^f Students must take three Science classes: One Life Science course with lab, one Physical Science course with lab, and one more Science course in any field, with or without a lab. See Arts & Sciences list for approved courses.

^g The four required literature survey courses may be taken in any order.

^h 4000-level literature courses may be taken in any order. See departmental list for courses approved for each Group.

ⁱ See departmental list for approved courses.

^j Any English course except EN 2203 Introduction to Literature.

Check Sheet for the B.A. in English

	Sem	Tran	Gra	Cre	UD?
English Studies (EN 1111)	___	___	___	___	___
Comp I (EN 1103, 1163, or 1103H)	___	___	___	___	___
Comp II (EN 1113, 1173, or 1113H)	___	___	___	___	___
Public Speaking (CO 1003 or 1013)	___	___	___	___	___
Foreign Language 1113 Elementary I	___	___	___	___	___
Foreign Language 1123 Elementary II	___	___	___	___	___
Foreign Language 2133 Intermediate III	___	___	___	___	___
Foreign Language 2143 Intermediate IV	___	___	___	___	___
College Algebra (MA 1313) and Trigonometry (MA 1323) or Statistics (ST 2113)	___	___	___	___	___
OR	___	___	___	___	___
Calculus (MA 1463) or higher _____	___	___	___	___	___
Life Science w/ Lab (BIO, EPP, or AN 1344) _____	___	___	___	___	___
Physical Science w/ Lab (CH, GG, GR, PH) _____	___	___	___	___	___
Natural Science (any field, no lab nec.) _____	___	___	___	___	___
“Early” History (HI 1063, 1163, 1213, OR 1313)	___	___	___	___	___
“Late” History (HI 1073, 1173, 1223, OR 1323)	___	___	___	___	___
Upper Division Humanities (HI, PHI, FL) OR Study Abroad _____	___	___	___	___	___
Social Sciences from at least 4 areas: AN, CRM, GR, PS (but not PS 1182/1192), PSY, SO, and selected AAS, CO, EC, & GS. No more than two per area (one CO, EC); at least two from A&S list.					
SS _____	___	___	___	___	___
SS _____	___	___	___	___	___
SS _____	___	___	___	___	___
SS _____	___	___	___	___	___
SS _____	___	___	___	___	___
SS _____	___	___	___	___	___
Fine Arts Appreciation _____	___	___	___	___	___
Philosophy _____	___	___	___	___	___
English Literature I (EN 2213)	___	___	___	___	___
English Literature II (EN 2223)	___	___	___	___	___
American Literature I (EN 2243)	___	___	___	___	___
American Literature II (EN 2253)	___	___	___	___	___
Critical Writing and Research (EN 3414)	___	___	___	___	___
EN 3 ___ or 4 ___ Professional _____	___	___	___	___	___
EN 4 ___ Pre-1660 British (Group I) _____	___	___	___	___	___
EN 4 ___ Post-1660 British (Group II) _____	___	___	___	___	___
EN 4 ___ 1 course from Group III (Postcolonial and World Literatures) or 1 more course from either Group I or II	___	___	___	___	___
EN 4 ___ American (Group IV) _____	___	___	___	___	___
EN 4 ___ American or Contemporary (Group IV)	___	___	___	___	___
EN _____	___	___	___	___	___
EN 4111 Portfolio and Reflective Writing	___	___	___	___	___

Check Sheet for the B.A. in English

Electives:	Sem	Tran	Gra	Cre
_____	---	---	---	---
_____	---	---	---	---
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**For English courses that fulfill major requirements, refer to pages 8 and 9.
For courses in all other departments that fulfill requirements, refer to page 15.**

As you plan, you need to know the following details that sometimes cause trouble for students who are unaware of them:

1. You need a total of 124 hours for the BA in English. No more than 62 of them may be transferred from a community college.
2. You need a total of 31 hours of upper-division credit (that is, courses at the 3000 or 4000 level) in the college of Arts and Sciences and in residence in order to graduate. 25 of those hours are required (your upper-division English courses and an UD Humanities or Study Abroad), but remember the other 6 hours as you choose the rest of your courses.
3. You need at least a C in all of your English courses at the 2000 level and above.
4. You must take EN 3414, Critical Writing and Research, before your first 4000-level literature course.

A few notes on CAPP:

This checklist is a duplicate of the online CAPP compliance available to you through Banner. CAPP is a very useful tool, but there can be problems with relying on it exclusively, because it is only as good as its programming. For example, CAPP sometimes counts more than two courses from the same area toward the social science requirements, but the university does not. CAPP also doesn't know what to do with special topics courses or many transfer courses. When in doubt, ask your advisor.

Specific courses for Arts & Sciences core requirements

History

HI 1063	Early U.S. History	3
HI 1073	Modern U.S. History	3
HI 1163	World History Before 1500	3
HI 1173	World History Since 1500	3
HI 1213	Early Western World	3
HI 1223	Modern Western World	3
HI 1313	East Asian Civilizations to 1300	3
HI 1323	East Asian Civilizations since 1300	3

Natural Sciences³

AN 1344	Introduction to Biological Anthropology	4
BIO 1004	Anatomy and Physiology	4
BIO 1023	Plants and Humans	3
BIO 1123	Animal Biology	3
BIO 1134	Biology I	4
BIO 1144	Biology II	4
BIO 2113	Plant Biology	3
BIO 3103	Genetics I	3
BIO 3304	General Microbiology	4
CH 1043	Survey of Chemistry I	3
or CH 1213	Chemistry I	
CH 1053	Survey of Chemistry II	3
or CH 1223	Chemistry II	
CH 1051	Experimental Chemistry	1
CH 1211	Investigations in Chemistry I	1
CH 1221	Investigations in Chemistry II	1
EPP 2213	Introduction to Insects	3
GG 1111	Earth Sciences I Laboratory	1
GG 1113	Survey of Earth Sciences I	3
GG 1121	Earth Sciences II Laboratory	1
GG 1123	Survey of Earth Sciences II	3
GR 1114	Elements of Physical Geography	4
PH 1011	Physical Science Laboratory I	1
PH 1063	Descriptive Astronomy	3
PH 1021	Physical Science Laboratory 2	1
PH 1013	Physical Science Survey I	3
PH 1023	Physical Science Survey 2	3
PH 1113	General Physics I	3
PH 2213	Physics I	3
PH 1123	General Physics II	3
PH 2223	Physics II	3
PH 1133	General Physics III	3
PH 2233	Physics III	3
PSS 3301	Soils Laboratory	1
PSS 3303	Soils	3

Social and Behavioral Sciences

(6 courses in 4 areas; at least 2 courses from list; only 1 CO or EC)

AN 1103	Introduction to Anthropology	3
AN 1143	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	3
AN 1543	Introduction to Archaeology	3
AN/EN 2403	Introduction to the Study of Language	3
CO 1223	Introduction to Communication Theory	3
CO 1403	Introduction to the Mass Media	3
EC 2113	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
EC 2123	Principles of Microeconomics	3
GR 1123	Introduction to World Geography	3
GR 2013	Cultural Geography	3
GR 3113	Conservation of Natural Resources	3
GR 4123	Urban Geography	3
GR 4203	Geography of North America	3
PS 1113	American Government	3
PS 1313	Introduction to International Relations	3
PS 1513	Comparative Government	3
PS 2713	Introduction to Engineering and Public Policy	3
PSY 1013	General Psychology	3
PSY 3073	Psychology of Interpersonal Relations	3
SO 1003	Introduction to Sociology	3
SO 1103	Contemporary Social Problems	3
SO 1203	Marriage and Family	3

Fine Arts

Choose one of the following:		3
ARC 1013	Architectural Appreciation	
ARC 2313	History of Architecture I	
ARC 3313	History of Architecture II	
ARC 3323	History of Architecture III	
ART 1013	Art History I	
ART 1023	Art History II	
ART 1113	Art Appreciation	
CO 1503	Introduction to the Theatre	
MU 2323	Music History III	
MU 1113	History and Appreciation of Music	
PE 1323	History and Appreciation of Dance	
MU/AAS 1103	African American Music	

Philosophy

PHI 1103	Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHI 1113	Introduction to Logic	3
PHI 1123	Introduction to Ethics	3
PHI 3023	History of Western Philosophy I	3
PHI 3033	History of Western Philosophy II	3
PHI 3013	Business Ethics	3
PHI 3153	Aesthetics	3

EN Course Rotation

When will the course I want to take be offered?

Listed below is the projected rotation of the EN courses that are not offered every semester; these courses are offered only once a year or once every other year. This rotation is a projection only and does not constitute a promise that the courses will be offered as indicated. However, the courses are usually offered in accordance with this list, so you can use it as a guideline in order not to miss courses that especially interest you. We always offer several of these courses in the summer, as well.

Fall, even-numbered years

EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar
EN 3523 Shakespeare and Film
EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction
EN 4243 Writing Center Tutor Training
EN 4303 Craft of Poetry
EN 4323 Literary Criticism Plato to Present
EN 4393 Postcolonial Literatures and Theory
EN 4453 Methods in TESOL
EN 4463 Second Language Acquisition
EN 4473 Phonetics
EN 4503 Shakespeare (early)
EN 4623 Language and Culture
EN 4663 C20 British and Irish Novel
EN 4703 C16 English Lit
EN 4863 Romantic Poetry and Prose
EN 4903 American Lit 1800-1860
EN 4933 Contemporary Lit
EN 4943 Form and Theory of Fiction

Spring, odd-numbered years

EN 2403 Introduction to the Study of Language
EN 2434 Literature and Film
EN 2443 Science Fiction
EN 3513 Women and Literature
EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry
EN 4223 Legal Writing
EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy
EN 4313 Craft of Fiction
EN 4333 Southern Lit
EN 4413 History of the English Language
EN 4433 Approaches to TESOL
EN 4443 English Syntax
EN 4513 Shakespeare (late)
EN 4523 Chaucer
EN 4633 Language and Society
EN 4723 British Lit/Cult 1660-1700
EN 4803 Types of Drama Since 1900
EN 4883 Victorian Poetry and Prose
EN 4913 American Lit 1860-1900
EN 4953 Form and Theory of Poetry

Fall, odd-numbered years

EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar
EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction
EN 4303 Craft of Poetry
EN 4243 Writing Center Tutor Training
EN 4353 Critical Theory Since 1900
EN 4453 Methods in TESOL
EN 4463 Second Language Acquisition
EN 4473 Phonetics
EN 4503 Shakespeare (early)
EN 4533 Milton
EN 4623 Language and Culture
EN 4643 C18 British Novel
EN 4813 World Novel Since 1900
EN 4823 Poetry Since 1900
EN 4833 Am Short Story
EN 4933 Contemporary Lit

Spring, even-numbered years

EN 2403 Introduction to the Study of Language
EN 2443 Science Fiction
EN 3513 Women and Literature
EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry
EN 4223 Legal Writing
EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy
EN 4313 Craft of Fiction
EN 4343 African-American Lit
EN 4413 History of the English Language
EN 4433 Approaches to TESOL
EN 4443 English Syntax
EN 4513 Shakespeare (late)
EN 4633 Language and Society
EN 4653 C19 British Novel
EN 4713 C17 English Lit
EN 4733 Brit/Lit Culture 18th Century
EN 4923 American Novel Since 1900
EN 4953 Form and Theory of Poetry

English Department Scholarships

Application forms for all of the scholarships are available on the department website, and details for each are available through the faculty contacts listed.

For any English major (except incoming freshmen):

Contact: Dr. Kelly Marsh, KMarsh@english.msstate.edu

Roger LeMoyne Dabbs Memorial Scholarship

Helen W. Skelton Annual Scholarship

Ann Pittman Andrews Memorial Scholarship

For upper-division English majors:

Howell H. Gwin Scholarship

Contact: Dr. Matthew Little, littmatt@ra.msstate.edu

William H. Magruder Memorial Scholarship

Contact: Dr. Kelly Marsh, KMarsh@english.msstate.edu

The Lewis & Betty Nolan Book Award

Contact: Dr. Amy Mallory-Kani, am3466@msstate.edu

For creative writing students (preference given to transfer students):

Eugene Butler Creative Writing Award

Contact: Dr. Mike Kardos, mpk36@msstate.edu

English Department Writing Competitions

The MSU Writing Contest

Any MSU student may enter in one or more of these five categories:

Fiction

Poetry

One-Act Play

Informal Essay

Formal Essay

The contest is held every year, and the deadline is right around the end of the fall semester (look for informational flyers in late November).

For more information about this contest, you may contact Dr. Katie Pierce or Dr. Mike Kardos.

The Peyton Ward Williams, Jr.

Distinguished Writing Award

Papers are nominated for this award by professors in 3000-level and 4000-level English courses.

The Linda Brasher/Mary Ann Dazey

Writing Award

Papers are nominated for this award by professors in English 3414: Critical Writing and Research in Literary Studies.

SIGMA TAU DELTA

ΣΤΔ

The English Honor Society

Who is eligible?

English majors with a G.P.A. of 3.0 overall and in 12 hours of English courses after composition.

How and when can one join?

Students with these qualifications (usually second-semester sophomores) are notified that they are eligible and are invited to join. There is an induction banquet each fall semester.

How much does it cost?

There is a one-time induction fee of \$40.00.

What does the group do?

The group meets monthly to plan the induction banquet and ceremony and other events and to develop a service project for the year.

What are the advantages?

ΣΤΔ members are eligible to apply for a number of scholarships (including one for study abroad) and internships, as well as to enter writing and web site competitions. ΣΤΔ also offers opportunities for participation in their annual conference and submission to their literary magazine and their scholarly journal.

You can find out more about this national English honor society at www.english.org.

You can find out more about MSU's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta by stopping by Dr. De Gabriele's office at Lee 2003, emailing him at pdegab@english.msstate.edu or calling 325-3644.

About the Writing Center:

The Mississippi State University Writing Center dedicates itself to helping all MSU students develop as writers and critical thinkers. We are available in person and online to writers who want to think about, talk about, and work on their writing and the ideas they want that writing to communicate. We're open almost 70 hours a week and offer 30- and 60-minute consultations as well as walk-in appointments, free of charge, to all MSU students.

We are prepared to work with writers on a variety of genres (including assignments for class, professional documents and materials, and creative works as well), and we are also prepared to work with writers during any stage of their writing processes (to brainstorm, develop, revise, and edit). It's a good idea to think of us as a place to work on your writing, rather than as a finishing service. We won't edit your writing—we will, however, work with you to develop and support ideas, locate and use research, and address audiences appropriately. We'll also work with you to become a better self-editor.



You can schedule an appointment three different ways:

- By registering and scheduling with our online system at <http://msstate.mywonline.com>.
- You can call our main location at 662-325-1045 and one of our staff members will assist you in registering and scheduling through our online system.
- You can stop in at our main location during working hours and one of our staff members will assist you in registering and scheduling through our online system.

We also take walk-in appointments at all of our locations, as long as we have a writing consultant who is not already scheduled.

Locations

Directions and Information

For our main location and mobile locations, you can schedule appointments for either 30 minutes or 60 minutes. Walk-in appointments are taken on a first-come, first-served basis if we have any open times available. All online appointments are scheduled for 45 minutes.

The House at 94 President's Circle (Main Location)

Across the street from Allen Hall, next to the McCarthy Gym parking lot.

Mobile in Templeton Athletic Center

Lower level of the Templeton Athletic Center, across from the elevator.

Mobile in the Library with Research Services

In Research Services on the main floor of the Library.

Online

Once you make an online appointment, log back in to <http://msstate.mywonline.com> five to ten minutes before the start of your appointment. Then, open this appointment and click "Start or Join Online Consultation." This will open your online session and connect you with a writing consultant.

See <http://msstate.mywonline.com> for this semester's hours for all locations.

Requirements for graduation:

Courses:

You will need to take all courses and fulfill all requirements as explained on pages 13-14.

Grades and GPA:

You need at least a C in all English courses at the 2000 level and above. Also, you will need an overall grade point average of 2.0. (You have the option of re-taking two courses in which a D or F is earned. Nevertheless, do strive to maintain at least a 2.0 at all times, or you risk academic probation and even suspension.)

Senior Checksheet:

When you have accumulated 75 credits, you will be notified that you must see the Director of Undergraduate Studies in English to complete your 75-Hour Checksheet. The Checksheet takes into account all courses you have completed and lists all that you have left to complete in order to earn your degree. It is checked and signed by you, the Director of Undergraduate Studies in English, and the Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences. *Please note that the timing of this is not based on how long you have been a student or when you plan to graduate, and it is not optional.* If your 75-Hour Checksheet is not completed on time, you will be placed on hold, and you will not be allowed to register for the following semester.

Application for Graduation:

During your final semester at MSU, you will apply to graduate through Banner. During this process, you will also apply for any minors you expect to earn. Remember that there is a specific deadline for this application every semester that usually falls within the first six weeks or so of classes—missing the deadline means paying a fine.

Some Advice about Letters of Recommendation

Whom to ask:

Keep this in mind from the time you take your first English courses: the most effective recommendations come from professors who have read your work, talked to you about your work during office hours, and heard your contributions to class discussions. Identify individuals who know your work in these ways, and then stop by, call, or e-mail to ascertain whether they will be willing to write you a recommendation.

When to ask:

Be sure to give those you ask clear deadlines and plenty of time to meet them. Even when the recommendation appears to be a one-page form, an accompanying letter is nearly always expected. Writing recommendations takes time, so plan accordingly.

Recommendation forms:

Be sure that you provide the recommendation form, if there is one, as well as clear submission instructions. Fill out your portion completely and sign it. The form will offer you the choice of waiving your right to access the recommendation. As you make your choice, remember that waiving this right is a guarantee that the recommendation has been written in confidence and is therefore likely to be honest and complete—such a recommendation may well be taken more seriously than one that is open to you.

Write a thank-you note:

Your recommender would also be very glad to know how the application process turns out!

Creative Writing

The English Department offers a number of courses in creative writing:

EN 3303 Creative Writing:

Basic techniques in writing fiction and poetry; meter and rhyme, metaphor and image, plot, characterization, and dramatic detail.

EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry

An intermediate course in the craft and art of poetry writing, focusing on techniques such as lineation, formal strategies, and poetic language. (For students who have taken EN 3303 or who have been approved by writing faculty.)

EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction

An intermediate course in the craft and art of fiction writing, focusing on techniques such as setting, dialogue, and characterization. (For students who have taken EN 3303 or who have been approved by writing faculty.)

EN 4303/6303 Craft of Poetry:

The craft and practice of writing poetry. (For students who have taken EN 3803 or who have been approved by writing faculty.)

EN 4313/6313 Craft of Fiction:

The craft and practice of writing fiction. (For students who have taken EN 3903 or who have been approved by writing faculty.)

We also offer the following, recommended to complement creative writing courses:

EN 4943/6943 Form and Theory of Fiction:

Theoretical aspects of fictional technique, genre, style; readings include novels, short stories, and writings about the craft of fiction.

EN 4953/6953 Form and Theory of Poetry:

Poetic theory; formal conventions, techniques, and innovations in the tradition of English and American poetry.

If you are interested in creative writing, consider taking EN 3303 in fulfillment of your professional requirement, and take the other courses as electives. Doing so will allow you to explore this interest, enhance your English major, and, perhaps, lead you to a graduate program in creative writing (for example, the master's program in English at MSU offers an emphasis in creative writing).

Every semester the Creative Writing faculty arrange student readings and invite published poets and fiction writers to read from their work here on campus: keep an eye out for announcements about these events.

UNDERGRADUATE MINOR IN LINGUISTICS

Linguistics is the study of language, including the structure of sounds, words, and sentences, how our brains process it, how people learn it, and the roles it plays in our societies. Studying linguistics raises students' awareness of patterns in the language of their daily lives and can contribute to careers such as language teaching, editing and publishing, speech therapy, advertising, and more.

The Minor in Linguistics is open to undergraduate students in any major except General Liberal Arts with a focus in Linguistics.

CURRICULUM

The minor requires a minimum of 18 semester hours with a grade of C or above in each course. Possible courses are listed below. Up to two additional Special Topics or Directed Individual Study courses will count toward the minor when approved in advance by the Linguistics Committee. Courses that are cross-listed in more than one department may be taken under any cross-listing.

REQUIRED COURSE

EN 4403/AN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics

3-5 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

EN 2403/AN 2403 Introduction to the Study of Language

EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar

EN 4413 History of the English Language

EN 4443 English Syntax

EN 4463 Studies in Second Language Acquisition

EN/PSY 4473 Phonetics

EN 4623/AN 4623/SO 4623 Language and Culture

EN 4633/AN 4633/SO 4633 Language and Society

0-2 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

AN 1103 Introduction to Anthropology

AN 1143 Cultural Anthropology

AN 4143 Ethnographic Methods

CO 4203 Nonverbal Communication

CO 4273 Intercultural Communication

CSE 3813 Introduction to Formal Languages

PHI 1113 Introduction to Logic

PHI 4223 Philosophy of Cognitive Science

PSY 3713 Cognitive Psychology

PSY 3723 Cognitive Neuroscience

PSY 4653 Cognitive Science

PSY 4713 Language and Thought

RESTRICTIONS

- No more than two courses which are not cross-listed in English may count toward the minor.
- Only one of EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar or EN 4443 English Syntax may count toward the minor.
- Only one of PSY 3713 Cognitive Psychology or PSY 4653 Cognitive Science may count toward the minor.

*For more information or to declare your intention to pursue the Linguistics Minor,
contact Dr. Ginger Pizer at gpizer@english.msstate.edu*

TESOL

TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

CERTIFICATE

AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

**Prepare for opportunities abroad
Learn techniques for language teaching
Work with English language learners in Mississippi**

Five courses are required for the TESOL Certificate:

Two courses in theoretical background:

- EN 4403/6403 Introduction to Linguistics
(in your first semester in the certificate program)
- EN 4463/6463 Studies in Second Language Acquisition

One of the following courses on the grammatical structure of English:

- EN 4443/6443 English Syntax
- EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar
(for undergraduate Elementary and Secondary English/Language Arts Education majors only)

Two of the following courses in language teaching methodology:

- EN 4453/6453, Methods in TESOL
- EN 4433/6433, Approaches to TESOL
- EN 4493/6493 TESOL Practicum (study abroad)

Note: On its own, the TESOL Certificate does not lead to K-12 ESOL certification, which is required to teach in the public school system in the U.S. However, the certificate can be added to a current or in-progress Mississippi educator's license to obtain an ESL supplemental endorsement.

**Contact Information: Wendy Herd, wherd@english.msstate.edu
Or visit our website: <http://www.english.msstate.edu/tesol/tesol.html>**

Careers for English Majors

Following an address to faculty, students, and alumni at MUW on October 15, 2004, Bill Bradley (Olympic gold medalist, NBA star, former senator and candidate for the presidential nomination) answered this question posed by a student: “What advice do you have for those of us who want to go into politics?” His response started this way: “Learn how to write an English sentence.” After talking about the importance of writing skills, he went on to say that aspiring politicians should learn the history of their country and have a grasp of its imaginative literature—its poetry, fiction, and drama—as these convey the goals and ideals of its people. As Bradley’s response indicates, an English major’s skills and knowledge are in demand everywhere.

With such a broad range of possibilities before you, you might be having trouble choosing among them, but there are lots of resources to help you decide how to put your English major to work for you.

The Career Center on campus has excellent computer resources to help you assess your own skills and interests and to help you research fields you don’t know much about yet.

The Arts and Sciences liaison is Cassandra Latimer, Assistant Director of the Center; her expertise is in helping students, including students with humanities degrees, to research job possibilities.

The Director of Undergraduate Studies can also help. She can often put you in touch with MSU English professors and others who have experience in career areas that interest you, and she has several books you can check out:

Great Jobs for English Majors (De Galan and Lambert; 2nd edition; 2000)

Careers for Bookworms & Other Literary Types

(Eberts and Gisler; 3rd edition; 2002)

Careers for Writers and Others Who Have a Way with Words

(Bly; 2nd edition; 2003)

What Can You Do with a Major in English? (O’Hara; 2005)

As you get ready to make use of these resources, give some thought to which of the skills you have developed as an English major you would like to make the center of your career: Writing? Reading? Analysis? Research? Or is it all about the literature for you? Whatever your answer to that question, the following will help you get started thinking about the possibilities:

Law

If what you have loved most about your studies of English literature is the analysis of texts, you might consider law school. English is one of the best undergraduate majors for law students. If this is your goal, do talk to a pre-law advisor; one of them is the English Department’s Dr. Matt Little.

Education

If it’s all about the literature for you, then you’ll be thinking about whether teaching literature might be for you. You can teach in a private high school with your English major or become certified through the College of Education to teach in the public schools. With a master’s degree in English, you will be qualified to apply for jobs teaching at two-year colleges. With a Ph.D. in English, you will be qualified to apply for jobs at universities. You might also consider exporting your skills and teaching English in other countries; if this appeals to you, consider earning the TESOL certificate as part of your undergraduate degree.

Reading and Researching

As with writing, look for jobs researching in places that may not be immediately obvious. Government agencies of various kinds, think tanks, and businesses hire people whose primary responsibility is research. Researchers get jobs in radio and television, as well, where people are needed to generate topics and check the accuracy of what is presented.

Publishing

Whether you think of yourself as primarily a reader or primarily a writer, there are jobs in publishing you might like. Book publishers and magazines need people who read in acquisitions and editing, people who write in marketing and promotion. Magazines also need people who are primarily researchers to check the accuracy of what they print. English majors are likely to be attractive to employers in these industries, and are likely to find they really make good use of their skills in a publishing environment.

Theological Studies

Your analytical skills might also lead to seminary or divinity school. Analyzing texts is an important part of the study of theology. Another important part is understanding the needs of a wide variety of people, and the breadth of human knowledge an English major gains through reading literature can be of considerable use in this regard, as well.

Librarianship

This career combines reading and research in an environment dominated by books; for librarians at university libraries, writing is also a key component. The English major is excellent preparation for this career, which requires a master's degree in library science.

If you're not drawn to any of these possibilities, remember not to rule anything out-- English majors find jobs everywhere. Go to our English home page to see what some recent graduates are currently doing.

Writing

If what you want is to write, you should look for jobs in all of the obvious places *and* the less obvious ones. You might enjoy a job writing for a magazine or newspaper. You might find interesting career opportunities as a technical writer in any number of different settings, including government agencies and private industry. Many businesses employ people whose primary responsibility is writing, including advertising firms, public relations firms, and large corporations. These jobs are not always high profile, so identifying them takes some research. Creative writing on a freelance basis is a dream of many English majors, and can be combined if necessary with teaching, publishing, or a steady writing job.

Graduate School for English Majors

Recent English Majors have been accepted into

- English/Creative Writing Ph.D. programs
- Law Schools
- Business Schools
- Education MA/PhD programs
- Or have pursued the Alternate Route to Teaching Certification in Mississippi

For each of these graduate programs, English Majors must take an important standardized exam their junior or senior year: the **GRE** (Graduate Record Examination), the **LSAT** (Law School Admissions Test), **GMAT** (Graduate Management Admissions Test), or **Praxis I and II**.

The Mississippi State University Assessment & Testing Services accepts appointments to take most of these exams at its computer based testing center on campus. The Law School Admissions Council offers the LSAT three times a year at a designated location.

These tests are challenging and English Majors who are admitted into nationally ranked programs often prepare for them ahead of time.

The educational testing services at www.ets.org, www.mba.com, or www.lsac.org, offer preparation books for each exam, and students can purchase other preparation guides at a local bookstore. Companies such as Stanley Kaplan and Princeton Review also offer courses in test preparation.

For more information about these graduate exams and to register to take them, contact

MSU Assessment & Testing
180 Magruder Street
(Basement of Rice Hall)
662-325-6610
testing@saffairs.msstate.edu
<http://www.ats.msstate.edu/>

“Being that can be understood is language.”

Hans-Georg Gadamer

“There are only two or three human stories,
and they go on repeating themselves as fiercely
as if they had never happened before.” Willa Cather

“Poetry, that is to say the poetic, is a primal necessity.”

Marianne Moore

“Thinking isn’t agreeing or disagreeing.
That’s voting.” Robert Frost

“Unless one is a genius, it is best
to aim at being intelligible.”

Anthony Hope

“The thing that teases the mind
over and over for years, and at
last gets itself put down rightly on
paper—whether little or great, it
belongs to literature.” Sarah Orne Jewett

“The first law of storytelling: every man is bound to leave a story better than he found it.”

Mrs. Humphrey Ward

“I know I can’t change the future,
but I can change the past.”

Toni Morrison

“It is necessary to write, if the days are not to slip empty by. How else, indeed, to clap the net over the butterfly of the moment? For the moment passes, it is forgotten; the mood is gone; life itself is gone. That is where the writer scores over his fellows: he catches the changes of his mind on the hop.” Vita Sackville-West