

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

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.

Advanced Composition:

All English majors take EN 3414, Advanced Composition. This is the junior-level writing course for English majors and also fulfills the computer literacy requirement for English majors.

4000-level Courses:

All English majors take at least five 4000-level courses. Each semester before pre-registration begins, descriptions of the courses offered the following semester are posted across the hall from the English Department main office. You'll have lots of choices, so look these over carefully each semester.

Remember, 4000-level literature courses are not distinguished from one another according to the level of difficulty by their course numbers—the fact that 4223 is a lower number than 4953 has no relation to the difficulty of the subject matter. Make your choices according to your interests, keeping in mind that the courses must be distributed as follows:

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 Sixteenth Century

EN 4713 English Literature of the Seventeenth Century

1 course from Group II (British Literature after 1660):

EN 4643 The Eighteenth-Century British Novel

EN 4653 The Nineteenth-Century British Novel

EN 4663 The Twentieth-Century British and Irish Novel

EN 4723 The Restoration and Swift

EN 4733 Eighteenth-Century Literature

EN 4863 The Romantic Poets and Prose Writers

EN 4883 Victorian Poets and Prose Writers

1 more course from either Group I or Group II.

2 courses from Group III (American Literature)

EN 4333 Literature of the South

EN 4343 African American Literature

EN 4903 American Literature 1800-1860

EN 4913 American Literature 1860-1900

EN 4923 Twentieth-Century American Novel

EN 4933 Survey of Contemporary Literature

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Vocational Requirement:

Every English major takes one course that is relevant to career paths frequently chosen by people with degrees in English. Current offerings are the following:

EN 3303 Creative Writing (recommended for those planning a writing career of any kind)

EN 4223 Legal Writing (recommended for those going on to law school)

EN 4323 Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present (recommended for those going on to graduate school in English)

Electives:

All English majors take at least one more English course in addition to those listed above (do consider taking even more than two as general electives). These two courses may be taken from the lists above, or they may be taken from among the department's other course offerings:

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 4803 Types of Twentieth-Century Drama

EN 4813 The Twentieth-Century World Novel

EN 4823 Twentieth-Century Poetry

In Literary Criticism and Theory:

EN 4323 Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present (see "Vocational Requirement")

EN 4353 20th Century Critical Theory

In Creative Writing:

EN 3303 Creative Writing (see "Vocational Requirement")

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 Linguistics and the Teaching of English as a Second 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 4463 Studies in Second Language Acquisition

EN 4623 Language and Culture

EN 4633 Sociolinguistics