

English



SCHOOL OF THE HUMANITIES



The English major will help students to achieve the following goals:

- To appreciate, understand, and contribute to English literary traditions in order to better participate in ongoing conversation with those traditions, with themselves, and with the world.
- To foster empathy and imagination.
- To enlarge awareness of the complexity and ambiguity of human experience and of God's grace.
- To develop skills in writing, research, and creative and critical thinking that will further students' vocational goal

The English Major

The English program at Messiah College assists students in studying a wide array of literatures using a variety of critical thinking and writing skills to help them become perceptive readers, insightful thinkers, and responsible writers. Professors encourage students to develop perspectives on the relationship of Christian faith to all aspects of literary endeavor.

Because many careers call for close analysis and interpretation of texts as well as fluency in writing, the English major prepares students for success in a variety of fields. Besides the obvious career choices of advanced scholarship, teaching, journalism, and publishing, Messiah English majors have pursued law, business, Christian ministry, public relations, and other professional careers.

Certification in English

In addition to the general objectives of the major, students desiring to teach can receive Pennsylvania state certification in English.

Curriculum

Credit hours shown in parentheses.

English Major (39 credits)

- ENG 108 Introduction to English Studies (3)
- ENG 304 Advanced Writing (3)

One of the following:

- ENG 307 Composition Theory and Pedagogy (3)
- ENG 308 Literary Criticism (3)
- ENG 320 Medieval-Renaissance English Literature (3)

One of the following:

- ENG 366 Selected American Authors/Topics before 1900 (3)
- ENG 381 American Literature before 1900 (3)

One of the following:

- ENG 367 Selected American Authors/Topics since 1900 (3)
- ENG 382 Modern American Literature (3)
- ENG 385 Contemporary American Poetry (3)
- ENG 390 African-American Literature (3)

One of the following:

- ENG 369 Topics in World Literature (3)
- ENG 392 Postcolonial Literature (3)

One of the following:

- ENG 493 Literature Seminar (3)
- ENG 494 Writing Seminar (3)

Students must choose from one of the following emphases:

Literature (15 credits)

Five of the following:

- ENG 345 Restoration and Early Eighteenth-Century Literature (3)
- ENG 348 Romantic Period (3)
- ENG 350 Victorian Period (3)
- ENG 352 Modern British Literature (3)
- ENG 364 Shakespeare (3)
- ENG 368 Selected British Authors/Topics (3)
- ENG 372 From Fiction to Cinema (3)
- ENG/LNG 3xx English elective (3)

Writing (15 credits)

- ENG 115 Introduction to Creative Writing (3)

Four of the following:

- ENG 109 Newswriting (3)
- ENG 302 Fiction Workshop (3)
- ENG 303 Poetry Workshop (3)
- ENG 306 Magazine Writing (3)
- ENG 3xx Literature elective other than American literature (3)

- ENG 376 Selected Writing Topic/Genre (3)
- BUS 211 Writing for Business (3)
- LNG 309 Linguistics (3)

English with Teaching Certification Major (79 credits)

- ENG 108 Introduction to English Studies (3)
- ENG 304 Advanced Writing (3)

One of the following:

- ENG 307 Composition Theory and Pedagogy (3)
- ENG 308 Literary Criticism (3)
- ENG 316 Young Adult Literature (3)
- ENG 320 Medieval-Renaissance British Literature (3)

One of the following:

- ENG 366 Selected American Authors/Topics before 1900 (3)
- ENG 381 American Literature before 1900 (3)

One of the following:

- ENG 367 Selected American Authors/Topics since 1900 (3)
- ENG 382 Modern American Literature (3)
- ENG 385 Contemporary American Poetry (3)
- ENG 390 African-American Literature (3)

One of the following:

- ENG 369 Topics in World Literature (3)
- ENG 392 Postcolonial Literature (3)

- ENG 493 Literature Seminar (3)

- LNG 309 Linguistics (3)

- LNG 312 Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language (3)

Three of the following:

- ENG 345 Restoration and Early Eighteenth-Century Literature (3)
- ENG 348 Romantic Period (3)
- ENG 350 Victorian Period (3)
- ENG 352 Modern British Literature (3)
- ENG 364 Shakespeare (3)
- ENG 368 Selected British Authors/Topics (3)
- ENG 372 From Fiction to Cinema (3)
- ENG xxx English elective (non-General Education) (3)

One of the following:

- ENG 115 Introduction to Creative Writing (3)
- COM 201 Oral Interpretation of Literature (3)
- COM 211 Media in Everyday Life (3)
- COM 218 Mass Media and Society (3)
- THE 103 Introduction to Theatre (3)
- THE 110 Introduction of Acting (3)
- THE 118 Introduction to Technical Theatre (3)
- THE 238 Children's Theatre Production (3)

- 6 credits of MAT/CSC/STA xxx Gen Ed

- Math/Comp. Sci./ Statistics (6)

- EDU 120 The Teaching Profession (1)

- EDU 201 Education and American Society (3)

- EDU 203 Educational Psychology (3)

- EDU 318 Field Experience

- for Secondary Education (1)

- EDU 331 Instructional Design

- and Assessment for Secondary Ed. (3)

Professional Semester:

- ENG 407 Secondary English Curriculum

- and Instruction (3)

- PSY 311 Adolescent Development (3)

- EDU 420 Professional Issues in Education (2)

- EDU 435 Student Teaching: Secondary (9)

English Minor (18 credits)

Fifteen (15) credits must be 300-level or above

Three credits of British Literature (3)

Three credits of American Literature (3)

Three credits of literature before 1900 (3)

Nine credits of ENG electives (9)

Although majors and course requirements may change from time to time, as stated in the College catalog, the preceding information is correct according to the 2003-2004 Catalog.



MESSIAH COLLEGE

Department of English

Majors:

- English (B.A.)
- Humanities (B.A.)

Concentration:

- Literature
- Journalism (B.A.)

Minors:

- English
- Journalism

Certification:

- English

Our Vision

Nothing is more intimate to us than language. Indeed, we call our first language our mother tongue. Our use of languages shapes who we are, deepens our interactions with others, and helps us change the world in which we live.

Through rigorous study of English language and literature, students in the Messiah College Department of English develop a deeper appreciation for and critical understanding of the many cultures that have embraced the English language. More importantly, students learn to use language creatively and critically in order to change their world for the better.

Our Mission

The Department of English is a community of writers, critics, and teaching scholars.

We are guided by the understanding that language significantly shapes our identity, deepens our interactions with others, and enables us to change the world. We emphasize the interdependence of creativity, theory, and vocation. Therefore, our curriculum offers a comprehensive education in literature, theory, creative writing, and professional writing in order to:

- Enable students to understand and contribute to literary traditions in English
- Encourage students to appreciate and critically understand the many cultures that have embraced English
- Foster students' empathy, imagination, and critical thinking
- Enlarge students' awareness of the complexity of human experience, and of God's grace

Objectives

English faculty members promote the following objectives:

- Introduce students to a wide range of literatures in English.
- Provide opportunities to develop interpretive skills based on knowledge of a variety of critical methods. These skills include the following:
 - The ability to develop coherent, close readings of literary texts that will demonstrate an understanding of their formal features.
 - The ability to write a developed interpretation of a text or set of texts that will engage critical research related to those texts.
 - The ability to understand and think critically about literary texts as culturally situated artifacts that serve various cultural purposes.
- Provide opportunities to develop creative and aesthetic skills based on the practice and knowledge of a variety of literary forms. These skills include:
 - The ability to use language creatively in the writing of fictional and non-fictional prose, drama, and poetry.
 - The ability to think reflectively about the criteria for making aesthetic judgments, and the ability to apply those criteria to their own writing and the writing of others.
- Provide opportunities for students to consider the successful application of their major to life goals and vocation.

Opportunities

Students in English will study a wide-ranging and rigorous curriculum with faculty members who have won awards for teaching and who publish in nationally recognized scholarly and creative journals.

In addition, English majors enhance their educational experience in many ways. Some students study in Cheltenham, England, for a semester, while others attend the Oxford Honors Program at Oxford University. Students can publish their creative and critical work through the *Minnemingo Review*, or work on *The Swinging Bridge*, our award-winning campus newspaper. Future editors and technical writers can gain valuable experience as tutors in our

Writing Center. Each year our reading series attracts nationally recognized poets and writers so that students can connect their work to the world beyond Messiah's campus. Recent visiting writers have included John Taggart, David Bradley, and poet laureate Robert Pinsky.

The English department promotes and rewards excellence. Students who excel in the curriculum may pursue an individualized honors program with a faculty member. Recent honors graduates have included a Rhodes Scholar and a Fulbright Scholar, while others have published their work in academic and creative journals. Alpha Upsilon, the Messiah College chapter of the International English Honor Society, annually inducts highly qualified juniors and seniors into its membership. The society supports excellence in scholarship and fosters creativity in the arts within the context of Christian faith.

From the Chair

When hunting an academic home as an undergraduate, I wanted to pursue a discipline that allowed me to investigate all of life in its varied richness. Now as a professor, I'm convinced I found such a discipline in the Department of English.

Studying literature has, at various times, led me into a deeper understanding of a variety of cultures with their unique histories, religions, and philosophies. I have even learned a great deal more about the seemingly distant fields of science and economics. The discipline of English has allowed me to write and influence others on subjects that I care about fiercely. Even more, it has helped me to understand myself and others more deeply.

But what about the student who chooses to do something other than teach? Can a major in English be of any practical use?

I'm happy to answer that question with a resounding and unequivocal "Yes!" As English faculty members, we teach passionately because we know that the study of English can equip students to be more effective citizens and stewards of their gifts in a needy society. More, our graduates demonstrate that we prepare students to pursue successful careers in a wide variety of fields. Besides the obvious fields of teaching, editing, and publishing, our graduates go on to use skills gained in our major in missions, business, law, and the ministry.

Analyses of our global economy demonstrate an ever greater need for employees who can think creatively and critically, and use language effectively. Other studies show that graduates in humanities disciplines rise in the ranks of their chosen professions more quickly and more regularly than students in other, job-specific disciplines. For these reasons, the faculty in English is pleased to be teaching in a field that allows us to pursue our highest ideals as human beings, while also preparing graduates for the career paths that await them.

The faculty in English consists of professors who are adept at combining scholarly accomplishment with success in teaching. We are proud that four members of our faculty have won collegewide teaching awards at Messiah or other universities. Our faculty publishes regularly in nationally recognized magazines and journals, has won recognition for its scholarship from the College, and holds positions of leadership in the campus community and in other professional organizations. Yet, most importantly, our faculty takes time to assist students on their educational journeys through individual advising, personal encouragement, and genuine friendship.

For these reasons, we would encourage you to consider joining us in the English department at Messiah College. Those students who do so will be prepared for a bright future. More, they will be changed through their engagement with a dynamic faculty and an exciting field of study.

We wish you God's best as you make your college choices. We hope to see you at Messiah.

—Peter Powers, Chair of the Department of English