

English Literature Major and Minor

www.english.pitt.edu

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The English major at Pitt is responsive to many of the traditional goals of a liberal arts education: it seeks to develop a broad critical and historical understanding of influential cultural traditions and to foster a range of reading and writing strategies as well as skills of critical analysis. It prepares students for careers in teaching or writing. The skills and knowledge it imparts are useful in numerous business and professional settings, as well. For example, English is highly regarded as a pre-professional major for further training in law, medicine, or business. The Director of Academic Affairs for the Association of American Medical colleges said in 1986 that English majors have a higher rate of acceptance at medical schools than students who majored in the biological and physical sciences. The literature major is designed to develop a critical understanding of literary and cultural traditions in English that is at once informed, skeptical, and appreciative. One of the distinctive features of the literature curriculum at Pitt is the recurrent concern, from introductory to the most advanced undergraduate courses, with questions of how and why we read and write and participate in cultural activities, with the contexts in which a range of literary texts and films are produced, understood, evaluated and used, and with the changing role of art and culture in the contemporary world. The major offers students opportunities to study canonical works of British and American literature from medieval times to the present; often, these texts are studied in conjunction with historical or philosophical works, with other national literatures in English, and with films or works of popular culture. In many courses, the student's own writing will be an important object of study.

Required courses for the English Literature major

The English literature major requires the completion of 36 credits distributed as follows.

Introductory courses

ENGLIT 0500 Introduction to Critical Reading
ENGLIT 0505 Lectures in Literature

Note: These courses should be completed prior to taking any ENGLIT 1000-level courses.

Three historical period courses

One of the following

ENGLIT 1100 Medieval Imagination
ENGLIT 1125 Renaissance in England
ENGLIT 1135 Early Modern Literatures in English

One of the following

ENGLIT 1150 From Enlightenment to Revolution
ENGLIT 1175 19th Century British Literature
ENGLIT 1200 American Literature to 1860

One of the following

ENGLIT 1220 Emergence of Modern America
ENGLIT 1325 The Modernist Tradition
ENGLIT 1380 World Literature in English

ENGLIT 1900 Junior seminar

Students must have completed ENGLIT 0500, ENGLIT 0505, and at least one historical period course before taking the junior seminar.

ENGLIT 1909/1910 Senior seminar

Students must have completed ENGLIT 0500, ENGLIT 0505, and at least two historical period courses before taking the senior seminar.

Five elective courses

At least two of these electives must be 1000-level courses. The remaining elective courses must be at the 0500 level or above. English Writing (ENGWRT) courses, Film Studies (ENGFLM) courses, and a maximum of two English Composition (ENGCOMP) courses at the 400 level or above may also satisfy elective requirements.

Grade requirements: A GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: There is no limit on the number of courses in the major that can be taken on an S/NC basis.

Writing (W) requirement: English literature majors automatically fulfill both of the Arts and Sciences W-course requirements. Students pursuing a second major would be required to complete an additional W course for that major.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an official Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Honors major requirements: Honors is conferred upon those graduates who maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25, with a GPA of 3.5 or higher in English department courses, based on all departmental courses taken.

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Checklist for the English Literature major

Introductory courses

_____ ENGLIT 0500
_____ ENGLIT 0505

Three historical period courses

One of the following

_____ ENGLIT 1100
_____ ENGLIT 1125
_____ ENGLIT 1135

One of the following

_____ ENGLIT 1150
_____ ENGLIT 1175
_____ ENGLIT 1200

One of the following

_____ ENGLIT 1220
_____ ENGLIT 1325
_____ ENGLIT 1380

Junior seminar

_____ ENGLIT 1900

Senior seminar (one of the following)

_____ ENGLIT 1909
_____ ENGLIT 1910

Five elective courses

Two of these courses must be at the 1000 level.

_____ ENGLIT _____
_____ ENGLIT _____
_____ ENGLIT _____
_____ ENGLIT _____ (1000-level or above)
_____ ENGLIT _____ (1000-level or above)

_____ ENGFLM _____
_____ ENGFLM _____
_____ ENGFLM _____
_____ ENGFLM _____ (1000-level or above)
_____ ENGFLM _____ (1000-level or above)

_____ ENGWRIT _____
_____ ENGWRIT _____
_____ ENGWRIT _____
_____ ENGWRIT _____ (1000-level or above)
_____ ENGWRIT _____ (1000-level or above)

_____ ENGCOMP _____
_____ ENGCOMP _____

Checklist for the English Literature minor

Critical reading

_____ ENGLIT 0500

Two historical period courses

_____ ENGLIT 1100
_____ ENGLIT 1125
_____ ENGLIT 1135
_____ ENGLIT 1150
_____ ENGLIT 1175
_____ ENGLIT 1200
_____ ENGLIT 1220
_____ ENGLIT 1325
_____ ENGLIT 1380

Junior seminar

_____ ENGLIT 1900

Two elective courses

These courses must be ENGLIT at the 0500, 0600, or 1000 level.

_____ ENGLIT _____
_____ ENGLIT _____

Note: Student must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.