

Master of Arts English: Literary Studies & Teaching Specialization

The Literary Studies & Teaching specialization offers a rigorous, individualized program of advanced study of literature in English, while preparing graduates for careers in secondary school and college-level teaching, professional training and research, and writing in a range of disciplines and modalities. Students work closely with a faculty mentor and gain practical experience in teaching composition or literature. Students choose from an array of courses and select a thesis, exam, or portfolio option. Although allowed flexibility in their course of study, students are required to complete courses in transnational literary studies, literary and critical theory, literary genre, and teaching practice. Students may also select from approved elective courses in literary studies, linguistics, and writing. Students enter the program to further their understanding of literature, to strengthen their teaching qualifications, to broaden their writing experiences, and to prepare for doctoral work. This specialization may be completed either in-person or online.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the university guidelines concerning admission to graduate degree programs, students applying to the Literary Studies & Teaching specialization must also submit a 7-10 page writing sample of literary analysis (critical analysis of a literary work with reference to secondary works of literary criticism and/or literary theory). Note: GRE scores are no longer required for admission and assistantship applications. A limited number of teaching assistantships are available on a competitive basis for resident on-campus students.

General Requirements of the Program

Students will complete a thesis, exam, or portfolio option. Students in each option take a minimum of 45 credits. At least 30 credits must be at the graduate level in English. Up to 10 credits may be taken in approved courses at the 400 level in English. Up to 5 credits may be taken in approved courses offered outside the English department.

Thesis Option

Students who choose the thesis option must complete a research thesis. To prepare a thesis prospectus and complete their thesis, students must take two credits of English 596 (Individual Study) and six credits of English 700 (Thesis) with the chair of their thesis committee. Students will create, in conjunction with a three-member faculty thesis committee, an introduction and a reading list for their thesis that includes both texts central to their thesis and texts that contextualize their thesis within their chosen field of study. After completing their thesis, students must pass an oral exam administered by the committee over the thesis, introduction, and reading list.

Exam Option

Students who choose the exam option create, in conjunction with a three-member faculty exam committee, an individualized reading list of the material covered in that student's coursework, and must pass a comprehensive written examination developed by the committee over that material. To prepare for and complete this exam, they will take three credits of English 596 (Individual Study) with the chair of their exam committee.

Portfolio Option

Students who choose the portfolio option may complete a publishable article-length paper or a multi-disciplinary writing project. A multi-disciplinary writing project requires dedicated

preparation in literary analysis, research, and writing coursework and is not intended for primarily creative writing projects. Students completing a writing project must take two 400-level or 500-level writing courses (at least one in the genre of their proposed writing project). Students completing the portfolio option must take three credits of English 596 (Individual Study) with the chair of their paper/project committee and English 589 (Portfolio).

Core Courses (15 credits)

Select THREE of the following core English Studies courses: **Credits: (15)**

- ENG 513 - Composition Theory **Credits: (5)**
- ENG 518 - Advanced Literary and Critical Theory **Credits: (5)**
- ENG 556 - Studies in Rhetoric **Credits: (5)**
- ENG 585 - Publishing Strategies and Practice for Writers **Credits: (5)**

Required Courses (17 credits)

- ENG 512 - Introduction to English Graduate Study **Credits: (2)**

Select ONE of the following Literary Studies courses: **Credits: (5)**

- ENG 515 - Advanced Studies in American Literature **Credits: (5)**
- ENG 517 - Advanced Studies in World Literature **Credits: (5)**
- ENG 519 - Advanced Studies in British Literature **Credits: (5)**

Select ONE of the following Literary Genre courses: **Credits: (5)**

- ENG 553 - Advanced Studies in Fiction **Credits: (5)**
- ENG 554 - Advanced Studies in Nonfiction **Credits: (5)**
- ENG 555 - Advanced Studies in Poetry **Credits: (5)**

Select ONE of the following Teaching Practice courses: **Credits: (5)**

- ENG 510 - Teaching First-Year Composition **Credits: (1-5)** (Must be taken for 5 credits)
- ENG 592 - Practicum **Credits: (1-5)** (Must be taken for 5 credits)

Complete one of the following three options:

Thesis Option (13 credits)

- Approved Electives **Credits: (5)**
- ENG 596 - Individual Study (Prospectus) **Credits: (1-6)** (Must be taken for 2 credits)
- ENG 700 - Master's Thesis **Credits: (1-6)** (Must be taken for 6 credits)

Exam Option (13 credits)

- Approved Electives **Credits: (10)**
- ENG 596 - Individual Study (Exam) **Credits: (1-6)** (Must be taken for 3 credits)

Portfolio Option (15 credits)

- Approved Electives (Two 400-level or 500-level writing courses required for multi-disciplinary writing projects) **Credits: (10)**
- ENG 596 - Individual Study (Paper/Project) **Credits: (1-6)** (Must be taken for 3 credits)
- ENG 589 - Portfolio **Credits: (2)**

Total Credits: 45-47

Elective Courses (select from M.A. Lit Studies curriculum above or alternative electives)

Alternative Elective Courses
ENG 420 English Linguistics (5)
ENG 504 Advanced Technical Writing (5)
ENG 564 Advanced Fiction Writing (5) by instructor permission
ENG 565 Advanced Poetry Writing (5) by instructor permission
ENG 566 Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing (5) by instructor permission
ENG 568 Contemporary Writer's Colloquium (5)
ENG 572 Workplace Writing Research Methods (5)
ENG 573 Grant Writing: Theory and Practice (5)
ENG 574 Professional Writing in New Media (5)

Students with a teaching assistantship generally complete the program within 2 years, and those without an assistantship can complete the program in 4 quarters (10-15 credits per quarter), as outlined in the sample programs of study below.

Sample 4-Quarter Program of Study (Exam Option)

Requirements	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall
Core (15)	ENG 556 (5)	ENG 513 (5)	ENG 518 (5)	ENG 585 (5)
Lit Genre (5)	ENG 555 (5)	ENG 554 (5)	ENG 553 (5)	
Lit Studies (5)	ENG 519 (5)	ENG 517 (5)	ENG 515 (5)	
Electives (10)		Elective (5)		Elective (5)
Grad Study (2)	ENG 512 (2)			
Teaching Pract. (5)				ENG 510/592 (5)
Exam Option (3)				ENG 596 Exam (3)
Total Credits (45)	12	10	10	13

Sample 4-Quarter Program of Study (Portfolio Option – Publishable Paper)

Requirements	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall
Core (15)	ENG 556 (5)	ENG 513 (5)	ENG 518 (5)	ENG 585 (5)
Lit Genre (5)	ENG 555 (5)	ENG 554 (5)	ENG 553 (5)	
Lit Studies (5)	ENG 519 (5)	ENG 517 (5)	ENG 515 (5)	
Electives (10)		Elective (5)		
Grad Study (2)	ENG 512 (2)			
Teaching Pract. (5)				ENG 510/592 (5)
Portfolio Option (5)			ENG 589 Portfolio (2)	ENG 596 Paper (3)
Total Credits (47)	12	10	12	13