Concentration Requirements

Students majoring in English may choose to concentrate in any of several areas: Creative Writing; Cultural Studies; English for Early Childhood or Elementary Education; English for Secondary Education; Literary Studies; or Rhetoric and Composition. A student with a clearly defined interest that isn’t encompassed by any of these concentrations may propose an individualized Student-Designed concentration.

Students may pursue multiple concentrations by fulfilling the requirements of each (up to 6 credits may be counted for more than one concentration).

The requirements of each concentration are described below.

Creative Writing Concentration

This concentration enables students to gain an in-depth understanding of the creative writing process through the writing and revising of original poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and drama. Coursework will foster the development of voice, knowledge of craft, and ability to read literary work from a writer’s perspective. In addition to working closely with Eastern’s published faculty, students will have access to frequent visiting writers of international acclaim. Other opportunities include pre-professional coursework and internships in editing and publishing as well as global field courses to study creative writing abroad. As a complement to their courses in the craft of writing, students pursuing the Creative Writing concentration are required to take at least one literature course (preferably early in their coursework), and are encouraged to take others as part of the English major. Students should consider courses in literature from a variety of genres, areas, and periods.

Writing Intensive Gateway:
Students pursuing the Creative Writing concentration must take ENG 205 Introduction to Creative Writing and may choose either ENG 203 or ENG 204 to complete the gateway requirement.

Creative Writing Concentration Requirements (18 credits):

Category I: Writing in Forms and Genres (200-level) – 3 credits
Choose one course:
- ENG 207 Forms in Creative Writing
- ENG 209 Writing for Children and Young Adults

Category II: Literature – 3 credits
Choose one course:
- ENG 225 Fiction
- ENG 226 Drama
- ENG 227 Poetry
- ENG 228 Poetry of Women
- ENG 234 Contemporary Fiction
- ENG 247 Drama and Society
- ENG 321 Nineteenth-Century American Short Story
- ENG 325 Modern Drama
- ENG 328 Children’s Literature
- ENG 332 Modern British and American Poetry
- ENG 333 The Modern Novel

Category III: Creative Writing Workshops (300-level) – 9 credits
Choose three courses:
- ENG 301 Writing Fiction
- ENG 302 Writing Poetry
- ENG 308 Playwriting
- ENG 353 Storytelling
- ENG 372 Creative Writing Abroad
- ENG 376 Advanced Forms/Theory/Practice in CW
- ENG 380 Creative Nonfiction
- ENG 381 Advanced Fiction Workshop
- ENG 382 Advanced Poetry Workshop
Category IV: Professional Experiences – 3 credits

Choose one course:

- ENG 238 Literary Magazine Edition
- ENG 363 Copyright in the Digital Age
- ENG 383 Literary Publishing
- ENG 480 Independent Study (in Creative Writing)
- ENG 481 LAW Ind. Study in Writing for Publication
- ENG 495 Internship in Writing or Editing

Certain sections of ENG 365 Topics in Literature or Language may be designated as meeting a requirement in one or more of the above categories. Students should see the department chair or department website for more information.

Cultural Studies Concentration

The Cultural Studies concentration offers an opportunity to examine texts using an approach focused on the study of cultural formations and their effects. The theory and praxis of Cultural Studies will link the courses in this concentration, so that a connecting thread will be a close examination of power, agency, subjectivity and how gender, race, and class produce and reflect our exploration of different texts.

Writing Intensive Gateway:

Students in the Cultural Studies concentration may choose any two courses from ENG 203, ENG 204, and ENG 205.

Cultural Studies Concentration Requirements (18 credits):

ENG 242  Literature and Cultural Studies – 3 credits

Choose five courses, at least three of which must be at the 300-level – 15 credits

ENG 216 Scottish Literature and Culture
ENG 218 Eighteenth-Century Britain in Global Context
ENG 220 Introduction to Literacy Studies
ENG 255 African American Literature
ENG 258 Native American Literature
ENG 258 Asian American Literature
ENG 259 Chicano/Chicana Literature and Culture
ENG 260 Introduction to Women’s Studies
ENG 314 Indigenous Studies
ENG 350 Southwestern Literature
ENG 351 Feminist Theories
ENG 352 Lesbian Literature
ENG 310 Contemporary African American Poetry
ENG 369 Cultural Studies and Creative Writing
ENG 480 Independent Study (on appropriate topic)

Certain sections of ENG 365 Topics in Literature or Language and of ENG 373 Studies in Rhetoric and Composition may be designated as meeting course requirements in the Cultural Studies concentration. Students should see the department chair or department website for more information.

Students in the Cultural Studies concentration are strongly encouraged to include courses in Rhetoric and Composition among their electives.
English for Early Childhood or Elementary Education Concentration

This concentration is designed for English majors who want to pursue a career in teaching at the preschool or elementary levels. While English majors who pursue other concentrations can certainly become certified teachers, this concentration assembles a group of courses that the English department believes best prepare students for success both in their own future classrooms and on certification examinations.

Students pursuing Early Childhood or Elementary Education may also wish to consider the Liberal Studies major with a concentration in English and coursework in mathematics, sciences, and history/social science. For more information, see http://www1.easternct.edu/english/liberal-studies-major/.

Writing Intensive Gateway:
Students pursuing the English for Early Childhood or Elementary Education concentration should take ENG 203 and ENG 204.

English for Early Childhood or Elementary Education Concentration Requirements (18 credits):

ENG 130 Literary Analysis  
ENG 223 Survey of American Literature  
ENG 328 Children’s Literature  
ENG 338 Linguistic Analysis  

Choose one course in Creative Writing:
ENG 205 Introduction to Creative Writing  
ENG 206 Multimodal Writing Workshop  
ENG 230 Reading and Writing Electronic Literature  

Choose one course in Reading Culture:
ENG 228 Poetry of Women  
ENG 242 Literature and Cultural Studies  
ENG 250 World Mythologies  
ENG 255 African American Literature  
ENG 256 Native American Literature  
ENG 247 Contemporary Drama and Society  

ENG 241 Critical and Creative Thinking  
ENG 380 Creative Nonfiction  
ENG 353 Storytelling  
ENG 258 Asian American Literature  
ENG 259 Chicano/Chicana Literature and Culture  
ENG 310 Contemporary African American Poetry  
ENG 314 Indigenous Studies  
ENG 350 Southwestern Literature  

Students may also count independent studies (ENG 480) on appropriate topics towards the completion of their concentration requirements.

Students pursuing the English for Early Childhood or Elementary Education concentration are encouraged to take one or more elective classes in Rhetoric and Composition.

English for Secondary Education Concentration

This concentration is designed for English majors who want to pursue a career in teaching at the secondary level. While English majors who pursue other concentrations can certainly become certified teachers, this concentration assembles a group of courses that the English department believes best prepare students for success both in their own future classrooms and on certification examinations.

Writing Intensive Gateway:
Students pursuing the English for Secondary Education concentration should take English 203 and English 204.
Secondary Education Concentration Requirements (18 credits)

ENG 130  Literary Analysis  
ENG 223  Survey of American Literature  
ENG 329  Adolescent Literature  
ENG 340  History and Development of the English Language  
ENG 341  Modern American Grammar  

Choose one  English Literature Survey:  
ENG 214  English Literature to 1798  
ENG 215  English Literature from 1798

Students may also count independent studies (ENG 480) on appropriate topics towards the completion of their concentration requirements.

Students pursuing the English for Secondary Education concentration are encouraged to take one or more elective classes in Rhetoric and Composition.

Literary Studies Concentration

The concentration in Literary Studies invites students to study literature as an imaginative artifact conditioned by history, culture, and society. Students read various literary genres such as poetry, prose, and drama with sensitivity to literary and rhetorical devices, as well as aesthetic features, in order to understand how a text produces meaning, and how an interpretation is shaped by a community of readers. Given details from the imagined world of the literary text, students engage with ambiguity, draw inferences, employ critical terminology, and ultimately shape persuasive analytic readings in response to the patterns, representations, and ideas found in these works.

Writing Intensive Gateway:
Students in the Literary Studies concentration must take ENG 203 Introduction to Writing Literary Criticism and may choose either ENG 204 or ENG 205 to complete the gateway requirement.

Literary Studies Concentration Requirements (18 credits):
Choose one course from each of the three categories:

I. Literary Analysis, Form, and Theory  – 3 credits

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<tr>
<td>ENG 125 Introduction to Literature</td>
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<td>ENG 130 Literary Analysis</td>
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<td>ENG 225 Fiction</td>
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<td>ENG 226 Drama</td>
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II. Literary History and Traditions  – 3 credits

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<tr>
<td>ENG 212 American Literature to 1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 213 American Literature from 1865</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 214 English Literature to 1798</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 215 English Literature from 1798</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 223 Survey of American Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ENG 234 Contemporary Fiction</td>
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<td>ENG 317 Renaissance Literature</td>
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<td>ENG 321 Nineteenth-Century American Short Story</td>
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<td>ENG 325 Modern Drama</td>
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III. Literary History and Traditions  – 3 credits

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<tr>
<td>ENG 310 Contemporary African American Poetry</td>
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<td>ENG 318 Literary Theory</td>
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<td>ENG 327 Renaissance Drama</td>
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<td>ENG 328 Children’s Literature</td>
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<td>ENG 332 Modern British and American Poetry</td>
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<td>ENG 333 The Modern Novel</td>
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<td>ENG 335 Shakespeare’s Comedies</td>
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<td>ENG 336 Shakespeare’s Tragedies</td>
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<td>ENG 345 American Ethnic Minority Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 354 Women and Education in the Middle Ages</td>
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III. Literature in Cultural Context – 3 credits

- ENG 216 Scottish Literature and Culture
- ENG 228 Poetry of Women
- ENG 233 Contemporary Poetry
- ENG 252 Lit. and Culture of the Harlem Renaissance
- ENG 255 African American Literature
- ENG 256 Native American Literature
- ENG 257 Contemporary Drama and Society
- ENG 258 Asian-American Literature
- ENG 259 Chicano/Chicana Literature and Culture
- ENG 307 Medieval Women Mystics
- ENG 314 Indigenous Studies
- ENG 316 Love and War in Medieval British Literature
- ENG 320 Victorian Literature and Culture
- ENG 239 Medieval World through Film
- ENG 337 Sex and Love in Chaucer
- ENG 339 Shakespeare and Film
- ENG 342 Literature of New England
- ENG 344 Literature of Africa
- ENG 350 Southwestern Literature
- ENG 352 Lesbian Literature
- ENG 356 Women Writers to 1900
- ENG 357 Twentieth-Century Women Writers

IV. Electives Within the Literary Studies Concentration – 9 credits

Choose any three additional literature courses listed above.

Sections of ENG 365 Topics in Literature or Language may be designated as fulfilling different categories in the Literary Studies concentration. Students may count multiple sections of ENG 365 towards the completion of their concentration requirements, provided that those sections are on different topics.

Rhetoric and Composition Concentration

The Rhetoric and Composition concentration provides students with a thorough foundation in the subfields of rhetorical theory and composition studies. Rhetoric is a field with deep roots in the Western academic tradition. Aristotle defines it as “the faculty of observing in any given case the available means of persuasion.” The study of rhetoric prepares students to be careful and critical readers and producers of texts (political arguments, films, literature, advertisements, social media, cultural movements, etc.). Composition studies, whose roots are in rhetoric, focuses on understanding the literacy practices of various groups (e.g., fifth graders, book clubs, advocacy groups, and scientists) and theories and practices of teaching writing in various contexts (e.g., college classrooms, writing centers, prisons, and community centers). Through coursework in composition studies, students gain greater critical understanding of the processes they and others use to write, and develop strategies for improving their own writing and helping others to develop as writers as well.

Writing Intensive Gateway:

Students pursuing the Rhetoric and Composition concentration must take ENG 204 and may choose either ENG 203 or ENG 205 to complete the gateway requirement.

Rhetoric and Composition Concentration Requirements (18 credits):

Choose two courses – 6 credits

- ENG 206 Multimodal Writing Workshop
- ENG 220 Introduction to Literacy Studies in Composition
- ENG 271 Classical Rhetoric, Modern Contexts

Choose four courses – 12 credits

- ENG 300 Business and Technical Writing
- ENG 306 Digital rhetorics and literacies
- ENG 362 Writing for Digital Environments
- ENG 370 Composition Theory and Pedagogy
- ENG 371 Rhetorical Theory and Criticism
- ENG 373 Studies in Rhetoric and Composition
- ENG 374 Rhetoric of Hollywood Film
- ENG 380 Creative Nonfiction
- ENG 480 Independent Study (on appropriate topic)
Students may count multiple sections of ENG 373, Studies in Rhetoric and Composition to complete their concentration, provided that those sections are on different topics.

Internships in tutoring writing (either in the Writing Center or for sections of College Writing Plus) taken for academic credit may not be counted toward the Rhetoric and Composition concentration, but may be counted as electives in the English major.

**Student-Designed Concentration (18 credits)**

Students with a well-developed area of interest that does not fit comfortably within any of the English department’s defined concentrations may opt to design their own concentrations in consultation with a faculty advisor. Students pursuing a self-designed concentration must complete the gateway coursework required of all English majors (ENG 202 plus two writing-intensive English courses in different areas) as well as a capstone experience (either the two-semester sequence of ENG 461 and 462 or an independent ENG 499; students in the University Honors program may substitute HON 380/488).

While the English department does not offer specific prescriptions as to what form a student-designed concentration must take, students should work in close collaboration with their faculty advisor to ensure that their proposed course of study addresses the goals that the department has set for all majors. A student-designed concentration must consist entirely of English courses, though students are encouraged to choose electives in other fields that complement their concentration. Students wishing to pursue interdisciplinary work that cannot be adequately addressed by English courses alone should consider the university’s option for an individualized major.