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 233 Contemporary Poetry
- 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 329 Adolescent 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 Editing
- ENG 363 Copyright in the Digital Age
- ENG 383 Literary Publishing
- ENG 385 Independent Study (in Creative Writing)
- ENG 480 LAW Ind. Study in Writing for Publication
- ENG 481 Internship in Writing or Editing
- 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 256 Native American Literature
- ENG 258 Asian American Literature
- ENG 259 Chicano/Chicana Literature and Culture
- ENG 260 Introduction to Women’s Studies
- ENG 310 Contemporary African American Poetry
- ENG 313 Native American Novel
- ENG 314 Indigenous Studies
- ENG 350 Southwestern Literature
- ENG 351 Feminist Theories
- ENG 352 Lesbian Literature
- ENG 360 Digital Game Studies
- 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.

**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):**

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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.

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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.

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

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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 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
- ENG 125 Introduction to Literature
- ENG 130 Literary Analysis
- ENG 225 Fiction
- ENG 226 Drama
- ENG 227 Poetry
- ENG 310 Contemporary African American Poetry
- ENG 358 Literary Theory
- ENG 359 Film Theory

II. Literary History and Traditions – 3 credits
- ENG 212 American Literature to 1865
- ENG 213 American Literature from 1865
- ENG 214 English Literature to 1798
- ENG 215 English Literature from 1798
- ENG 223 Survey of American Literature
- ENG 234 Contemporary Fiction
- ENG 317 Renaissance Literature
- ENG 321 Nineteenth-Century American Short Story
- ENG 325 Modern Drama
- ENG 327 Renaissance Drama
- ENG 328 Children’s Literature
- ENG 332 Modern British and American Poetry
- ENG 333 The Modern Novel
- ENG 335 Shakespeare’s Comedies
- ENG 336 Shakespeare’s Tragedies
- ENG 345 American Ethnic Minority Literature
- ENG 354 Women and Education in the Middle Ages
III. Literature in Cultural Context – 3 credits

ENG 216 Scottish Literature and Culture
ENG 228 Poetry of Women
ENG 233 Contemporary Poetry
ENG 239 Medieval World through Film
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 313 Native American Novel
ENG 314 Indigenous Studies
ENG 316 Love and War in Medieval British Literature
ENG 318 Restoration Literature
ENG 319 Age of Sensibility
ENG 320 Victorian Literature and Culture
ENG 322 The Romantic Period
ENG 329 Adolescent Literature
ENG 331 Early Eighteenth-Century Literature
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
ENG 359 The Lord of the Rings

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.