

Mission Statement

The English Major at City College aims, first of all, to provide students with an appreciation of literature as a form of knowledge and understanding from which they can derive both pleasure and instruction.

Through thoughtful engagement with works of literature, English majors also learn how to think critically about themselves and their world and to develop their own powers of expression.

Building upon basic skills of analysis and interpretation introduced through the College's core courses and General Education requirements, classes in the English major foster close, critical and imaginative exploration of how texts make and share meaning, with attention to their historical, aesthetic and cultural frameworks.

A sequence of introductory, elective and advanced courses depends knowledge of literary history and its traditions, with special emphasis upon the development of genres (including a wide variety of poetic, dramatic, and narrative structures), periods, and movements. At the same time, coursework introduces students to a variety of critical approaches to literary study and theoretical debates.

Our emphasis on debate, argumentation, research, and the careful crafting of prose prepares students for careers in journalism, teaching, law, publishing, public relations, communications, technical and creative writing, administration, and government.

Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with a B.A. in English with a concentration in literature will:

1. Discuss a range of canonical and non-canonical English, American, and Anglophone literary texts.
2. Differentiate the major historical periods of English and American literature.
3. Utilize a critical vocabulary to analyze various ways that literary meaning is produced.
4. Interpret literary works within critical contexts, such as biographical, historical, formalist, cultural, and feminist, among others.
5. Compose coherent, persuasive literary critical essays grounded in textual evidence.
6. Be familiar with some of the basic methods of literary research.
7. Be prepared for graduate study in English or for careers that call for superior communication skills.

Students graduating with a B.A. in English with a concentration in creative writing will, in addition to the above:

1. Discover a writing voice that is unique to them and through that voice enter a world they can explore intimately.
2. Create a body of work that explores the technical elements of a genre or genres as well as the expressive possibilities of language.
3. Analyze and discuss the work of their peers in a workshop setting.
4. Explain the special characteristics of their writing within the context of literary tradition as well as their own experience.

Students majoring in English with a Secondary Education concentration will:

1. Fulfill all of the learning outcomes of a student majoring in English literature.
2. Be prepared for certification to teach in New York City's high schools through coursework undertaken with the School of Education.

Learning Outcome Grid

(Outcomes are numbered from 1 to 9 as listed below Last Updated, Feb 2007)

LITERATURE

1. Know how to read closely, critically, and deeply
2. Know a broad range of literary texts written in English
3. Be familiar with the basic periods in the history of English and American literature
4. Have a critical and aesthetic appreciation of a variety of literary modes, genres, and uses of figurative language
5. Know how to construct written arguments grounded in textual evidence and strengthened by research
6. Be able to write clear, strong prose
7. Know how to discuss a literary text in its biological, historical, aesthetic, and philosophical contexts
8. Possess an awareness of literature as both a tradition and a set of responses to that tradition
9. Be prepared for graduate study, particularly in literary studies, or for a career in journalism, publishing, law, teaching, administration, or public relations

Courses	Learning Outcomes								
Literature	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
330 Critical Reading and Writing	6/6	3/6	3/6	5/6	6/6	6/6	2/6	3/6	5/6
331 Critical Reading and Writing	8/8	4/8	4/8	7/8	8/8	8/8	6/8	4/8	6/8
35200 Rep. Writers of M. Ages	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	1/2	2/2	2/2
35202 Chaucer: Canterbury Tales	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
35300 Rep. Writers of Ren.	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	1/2	2/2	2/2
352012 Shakespeare I and II	3/3	2/3	2/3	3/3	3/3	3/3	2/3	3/3	2/3
35500 Rep. Writers of 18C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18C Novel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
35600 Rep. Writers of Romantic Period									
35700 Rep. Writers of Victorian Period	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
35701 19C British Novel									
35800 Modernist Writers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3600 Rep Writers: Early American	2/2	1/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2
36100 Rep Writers: U.S. 19C	2/2	1/2	1/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2
37001 African American Lit.	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
37006 Comp. Africana Fiction									
37501 Women Writers, M Ages & Ren	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
37502 19C Women Writers									
37503 20C Women Writers	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
38007 Intro to Comp Lit.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
39006 Science Fiction	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
39203 Political Novel	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X

Learning Outcome Grid

(Outcomes are numbered from 1 to 10 as listed below Last Updated, Feb 2007)

CREATIVE WRITING

1. Know how to read closely, critically, and deeply
2. Know a broad range of literary texts written in English
3. Be familiar with the basic periods in the history of English and American literature
4. Have a critical and aesthetic appreciation of a variety of literary modes, genres, and uses of figurative language
5. Know how to construct written arguments grounded in textual evidence and strengthened by research
6. Be able to write clear, strong prose
7. Have an advanced practical understanding of the formal construction of various literature genres
8. Use language with originality, and with a special appreciation of the resources of figurative language
9. Have a special appreciation of their own writing as an imaginative response both to their immediate experiences and to a larger world of thinking and writing
10. Be prepared for graduate study, particularly in literary studies, or for a career in journalism, publishing, law, teaching, administration, or public relations

Courses	Learning Outcomes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Creative Writing										
220 Intro to Cr. Writing	5/6	5/8	0/8	5/8	0/8	7/8	3/8	6/8	8/8	3/8
320 Workshop in Fiction	4/5	3/5	0/5	4/5	0/5	5/5	3/5	5/5	5/5	5/5
321 Workshop in Poetry	2/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	0/2	0/2	0/2	2/2	2/2	0/2
322 Workshop in Drama										
323 Workshop in Film										
324 Children's Literature										