English Advising Handbook

The Globe Theater

http://www.wvstateu.edu/english

Revised
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Planning for the Future

Careers and Graduate Study

Majoring in English is excellent preparation for many careers or directions of graduate study, and we’re always happy to hear from influential professionals that the workplace values the skills you learn: analyzing and critiquing texts orally and in writing.

Local Lawyers have extolled the typical English major’s analytical capabilities to uncover layers of information, to find the essential idea or message, to play with that information, and to use it to support an idea.

Critical, evaluative thinking and sharp, clear writing are rarer every day, so they are both important training to complete and valuable commodities to possess.

We’ve listed some professional fields where English majors are often successful in finding productive careers. We’ve also listed disciplines which English majors are suited to explore in graduate school.

Careers
Advertising
Business and Management
Education:
  Teaching
  Administration
Freelance Writing
Government and Politics
Journalism
Military:
  Communications
  Technical Writing
Paralegal and Law
Publishing and Editing
Research and Library
Technical Writing:
  Science
  Industry
Television and Film Writing

Graduate School
Administration
American Studies
Business
Classics
Comparative Literature
Education
English
Humanities
Journalism
Law
Library Science
Literature
Master of Fine Arts (MFA)
Political Science
Religion
Rhetoric and Composition
Technical and Professional Writing
Activities and Aids for English Majors

The Kanawha Review

The Kanawha Review is an annual publication of WVSU and is sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs. The faculty editor, Dr. Rob Wallace, is a member of the English Department, and WVSU students with some background in writing, literature, and/or art may serve as student editors. Students, former students, and alumni of WVSU are encouraged to submit stories, essays, scripts, drawings, woodcuts, and photographs for future issues. For more information, contact Dr. Wallace.

The Yellow Jacket

The Yellow Jacket, WVSU’s student newspaper, is published at least twice a month during the school year. The Yellow Jacket provides opportunities for students in reporting, writing, editing, advertising, and graphics.

Lambda Iota Tau

Lambda Iota Tau is an international literary honor society. Membership constitutes a reward for academic excellence and includes various benefits (such as a chance to win a scholarship). To join, you must have completed at least 12 hours in literature on a literary topic or of creative writing. For more information, contact Dr. McConnell, the faculty advisor.

Sigma Tau Delta

Sigma Tau Delta is the International English Honor Society, and membership in it reflects high achievement in language and literature, including writing, with various benefits (such as a chance to win a scholarship). To join, you must have completed three semesters, with a minimum of two courses in English language or literature beyond freshman composition, maintaining a “B” average, and rank in the top 35% of your class. For more information, contact Dr. McConnell, the faculty advisor, and see www.english.org/sigmatd/index.shtml.

English Majors’ Luncheon

The English Department has a luncheon each fall and spring semester for English majors and minors, English Education majors, and prospective majors, so that faculty and students may meet and visit in an informal setting. From time to time, we invite speakers who represent various fields you can enter with a degree in English. The English club also offers programs, and the winners of the poetry, fiction, and essay contests read their work.

Giardina Fiction Prize

Each fall, you can enter your fiction, one short story, in competition for an annual prize honoring the service of Prof. Denise Giardina, long-time creative writing instructor at WVSU. The winner will receive $100 and have the story published in the next issue of The Kanawha Review. All entries will be considered for publication in The Kanawha Review.

Marshburn Poetry Prize

Also each fall, you can enter your poetry, whether lyrical, narrative, dramatic, or imagistic, and in either free verse or a traditional form, in competition for an annual prize honoring the service of Prof. Sandra Marshburn, long-time editor of The Kanawha Review and creative-writing instructor at WVSU. The winner will receive $100 and have the verse published in the next issue of The Kanawha Review. All entries will be considered for publication in The Kanawha Review.

English Department Essay Contest

Each spring brings an essay contest open to all currently enrolled WVSU students in two categories. Category 1 is for students enrolled in English 101 and 102 in the calendar year of the contest; entrants submit a personal narrative or expository essay of between 500 and 1000 words. The prize is $100. Category 2 is for any other students, who submit a personal narrative or expository essay (including literary analysis), of between 500 and 1000 words. The prize is $150. In addition to the monetary awards, winners are invited to read their essays at the spring English majors’ luncheon. Submission guidelines and contest deadline are posted and announced each spring. Entries are judged by a panel of department faculty.

The English Club

Since 2006, students majoring or minoring in English get together for films, picnics, volunteer activities, conversation, etc. See Dr. McConnell, the club’s faculty sponsor, for information about joining and participating.
Advising Procedure

Check with the Department Chair or the Secretary for the name of your English Department advisor. If you prefer a particular individual, check with that person and both of you ask the Department Chair for that person to be your advisor. If you are an English Education major, you should also have an advisor in the Education Department. See your advisor regularly. For long-term planning, check the Tentative Course Rotation Schedule (back cover).

When the next semester’s schedule is available and before registration for that semester starts, make an appointment with your advisor. With your advisor’s assistance, fill out an Advising Sheet, using the appropriate Program Checksheet. Remember to check General Education Requirements carefully. Your advisor will approve your suggested schedule, place a copy in your folder, and give you your semester Personal Identification Number (PIN), which will let you register over the phone or by computer via the MyState link.

Courses are offered by arrangement only in unusual circumstances and only when a course has not been regularly scheduled. This course must be required for graduation. Approval of such courses is governed by a college-wide policy stated in the University Catalog. Since instructors must agree to undertake such arrangements in addition to their normal class loads, courses by arrangement should not be regarded as routine services. You and the professor fill out a special form giving the details of the arrangement, which then must be approved by the Chair and the Dean.

Exceptions to program requirements may sometimes be made in the form of course substitutions, normally only when you have completed most of the requirements for graduation or student teaching and have no opportunity in the near future to take a required course. Substitutions will be made from courses closely related to the required course. You must complete a special form giving the reasons for the substitution; this is best done late in the semester you take the course being used for a substitution, and the form must be approved by the Chair and the Dean.

When you see your advisor, you should also update your assessment portfolio.

Courses for Majors and Minors
(The University Catalog has full course descriptions).

Writing

Technical
- 112 Technical Writing
- 202 Writing for the Sciences
- 204 Writing for Business and Other Professions
- 228 Introduction to Desktop Publishing
- 310 Technical and Report Writing
- 311 Editing for Technical Writers
- 410 Digital Literacies
- 412 Information Design

Creative/Expository
- 303 Expository Writing
- 304 Introduction to Creative Writing
- 429 Writing for Publication
- 430 Poetry Writing Workshop
- 431 Fiction Writing Workshop
- 432 Creative Nonfiction Workshop

Journalism
- 225 Journalism I
- 227 Copy Editing
- 326 Journalism II

Literature

Prerequisites
- 150 Introduction to Literature
- 250 Introduction to English Literature

Criticism
- 334 Principles of Literary Criticism
- 441 Contemporary Critical Theory

British
- 315 Shakespeare
- 402 Early English Literature through the 15th Century
- 403 The English Renaissance, 1500-1600
- 405 Literature of the Restoration and 18th Century
- 406 The Victorian Period
- 409 Modern British Literature
American
- 316 American Literature to 1860
- 317 American Literature 1860-1940
- 408 Contemporary American Literature

Special Audiences
- 324 Literature for Children
- 325 Young Adult Literature

World
- 154 Mythology and Folklore
- 320 Literature of the Western World, Part I
- 321 Literature of the Western World, Part II
- 350 World Literature I
- 351 World Literature II

Diversity Component
- 337 The Black Writer in America
- 338 Black Novelists in America
- 339 Black Poets in America
- 340 Readings in African Literature
- 342 Women Writers
- 343 Appalachian Literature and Culture

Other Literature Courses
- 345 Popular Literatures (Mystery, Science Fiction, or Gothic Literature)
- 346 Film and Literature
- 347 Immigrant Experience in America
- 348 History as Literature
- 360 Studies in a Major Author
- 413 Development of the Novel
- 414 The Modern Novel
- 415 The Modern Drama
- 440 Interpreting the Holocaust

Language
- 230 Introduction to General Linguistics
- 255 The Power of Language
- 306 Principles of Grammar
- 401 History of the English Language

Bachelor of Arts in English

Literature Option

College and General Education (51-53 Credit Hours)

Courses in the English Department (42 Credit Hours)

Core (21 Credit Hours)
- 230 Introduction to General Linguistics
- 250 Introduction to English Literature
- 303 Expository Writing
- 315 Shakespeare
- 334 Principles of Literary Criticism
- 401 History of the English Language
- 477 Senior Seminar

Select One American Literature (3 Credit Hours)
- 316 American Literature to 1860
- 317 American Literature 1860-1940
- 408 Contemporary American Literature

Select One Diversity Component (3 Credit Hours)
- 337 The Black Writer in America
- 338 Black Novelists in America
- 339 Black Poets in America
- 340 Reading in African Literature
- 342 Women Writers
- 343 Appalachian Literature and Culture

Select One World Literature (3 Credit Hours)
- 320 Literature of the Western World I
- 321 Literature of the Western World II
- 350 World Literature, Classical Era
- 351 World Literature, Modern Era

 Majors who started by 2006-07
- Select five more literature courses of the 300-400 level
Cognates (9 Credit Hours)

Foreign Language (6 Credit Hours)
  • Foreign Language at 200 level or above
    (not foreign culture taught in Eng)

British, American, or World History Course (3 Credit Hours)
  • Can be cross-listed with General Education

Electives
  • 19 Credit Hours

Total Credit Hours
For students under the 2013+ Catalog, 120
For students before 2013 Catalog, 123

Bachelor of Arts in English

Professional Writing Option

College and General Education (51-53 Credit Hours)

Courses in the English Department (45 Credit Hours)

Core (30 Credit Hours)
  • 112 Technical Writing
  • 204 Writing for Business and Other Professions
  • 225 Journalism I
  • 228 Introduction to Desktop Publishing
  • 250 Introduction to English Literature
  • 303 Expository Writing
  • 304 Introduction to Creative Writing
  • 315 Shakespeare
  • 334 Principles of Literary Criticism
  • 477 Senior Seminar

Select One Language (3 Credit Hours)
  • 230 Introduction to General Linguistics
  • 255 The Power of Language
  • 306 Principles of Grammar
  • 401 History of the English Language

Select One American Literature (3 Credit Hours)
  • 316 American Literature to 1860
  • 317 American Literature 1860-1940
  • 408 Contemporary American Literature

Select One Diversity Component (3 Credit Hours)
  • 337 The Black Writer in America
  • 338 Black Novelists in America
  • 339 Black Poets in America
  • 340 Readings in African Literature
  • 342 Women Writers
  • 343 Appalachian Literature and Culture

Select One Writing Workshop (3 Credit Hours)
  • 227 Copy Editing
  • 430 Poetry Writing Workshop
  • 431 Fiction Writing Workshop
  • 432 Creative Nonfiction
Select One Advanced Writing (3 Credit Hours)
- 310 Technical and Report Writing
- 311 Editing for Technical Writers
- 326 Journalism II
- 429 Writing for Publication

Cognates (15-21 Credit Hours)

Foreign Language (6 Credit Hours)
- Two Foreign Language classes at 200 level or above
  (no foreign culture classes taught in English)

Select One Art/Technology (3 Credit Hours)
- 217 Art Computer Graphics
- 230 Art Graphic Design

Area Study
Students under the 2003+ Catalog need outside of English courses 9 Credit Hours

Electives (as needed to meet your requirements)
- Students in the 2013+ catalog, 120 Credit Hours
- Students before 2013 catalog, 123 Credit Hours

Bachelor of Arts in English

Technical Writing Option

College and General Education (51-53 Credit Hours)

Courses in the English Department (42 Credit Hours)

Core (30 Credit Hours)
- 112 Technical Writing
- 160 Practical English Grammar and Usage
- 204 Writing for Business and Other Professions
- 228 Introduction to Desktop Publishing
- 310 Technical Report Writing
- 311 Editing for Technical Writers
- 410 Digital Literacies
- 412 Information Design
- 477 Senior Seminar

Select One English Literature (3 Credit Hours)
- 250 Introduction to English Literature
- 315 Shakespeare
- 402 Early English Literature through the 15th Century
- 403 The English Renaissance
- 405 Literature of the Restoration and the 18th Century
- 406 English Romanticism
- 407 The Victorian Period
- 409 Modern British Literature

Select One American Literature (3 Credit Hours)
- 316 American Literature to 1860
- 317 American Literature, 1860-1940
- 408 Contemporary American Literature

Select One Diversity Component (3 Credit Hours)
- 337 The Black Writer in America
- 338 Black Novelists in America
- 339 Black Poets in America
- 340 Readings in African Literature
- 342 Women Writers
- 343 Appalachian Literature and Culture
- 347 The Immigrant Experience in America
Select One Comparative/World Literature (3 Credit Hours)
• 320 Literature of the Western World, Part I
• 321 Literature of the Western World II
• 350 World Literature, Classical Era
• 351 World Literature, Modern Era
• 413 Development of the Novel
• 414 The Modern Novel
• 415 The Modern Drama

Cognates (18 Credit Hours)

Foreign Language Classes at 200 level or above (6 Credit Hours)

Area Study; 12 Credit Hours from 1 outside field of study
(12 Credit Hours)

Electives
To bring students in the 2013+ Catalog to 120 Credit Hours
To bring students before the 2013 Catalog to 123 Credit Hours

Minors in English

Minor in Literature (15 Credit Hours)
• 250 Introduction to English Literature
• 334 Principles of Literary Criticism
• Three more courses in literature from the 300-400 level

Minor in Writing (15 Credit Hours)

Writing Courses (12 Credit Hours)
• 303 Expository Writing (Required)
  (Select three more writing courses)
• 225 Journalism I
• 227 Copy Editing
• 304 Introduction to Creative Writing
• 326 Journalism II
• 429 Writing for Publication
• 430 Poetry Writing Workshop
• 431 Fiction Writing Workshop

Linguistics (3 Credit Hours)
• 230 Introduction to General Linguistics
• 255 The Power of Language
• 401 History of the English Language

Minor in Technical Writing (15 Credit Hours)

Before Fall 2012
• 112 Technical Writing
• 204 Writing for Business and Other Professions
• 306 Principles of Grammar
• 310 Technical and Report Writing

And Select Either
• 303 Expository Writing
• 429 Writing for Publication

After Fall 2012
• 112 Technical Writing
• 160 Practical English Grammar and Usage
• 310 Technical and Report Writing
• 311 Editing for Technical Writers

And Select Either
• 202 Writing for the Sciences
• 204 Writing for Business and Other Professions
Bachelor of Science in Education

Grades 5-Adult

College and General Education (52 Credit Hours)

Courses in the English Department (48 Credit Hours)

Core (30 Credit Hours)
• 250 Introduction to English Literature
• 255 The Power of Language
• 303 Expository Writing
• 315 Shakespeare
• 322 Teaching Writing and Grammar, 5-Adult
• 325 Young Adult Literature
• 334 Principles of Literary Criticism
• 401 History of the English Language
• 421 Teaching English in Secondary School
• 477 English Senior Seminar

Select One Language (3 Credit Hours)
• 230 Introduction to General Linguistics
• 306 Principles of Grammar

Select One World Literature (3 Credit Hours)
• 320 Literature of the Western World, Part I
• 321 Literature of the Western World, Part II
• 350 World Literature: Classical Era
• 351 World Literature: Modern Era

Select One English Literature (3 Credit Hours)
• 402 Early English Literature through the 15th Century
• 403 The English Renaissance
• 405 Literature of the Restoration and the 18th Century
• 406 English Romanticism
• 407 The Victorian Period
• 409 Modern British Literature

Select Two American Literature Courses (6 Credit Hours)
• 316 American Literature to 1860
• 317 American Literature, 1860-1940
• 408 Contemporary American Literature

Select One Diversity Component (3 Credit Hours)
• 337 The Black Writer in America
• 338 Black Novelists in America

• 339 Black Poets in America
• 340 Readings in African Literature
• 342 Women Writers
• 343 Appalachian Literature and Culture

Courses in the Education Department (30 Credit Hours)
• 200 Foundations of Education
• 201 Human Growth and Development
• 202 Educational Psychology and Learning
• 300 Educational Technology
• 316 Integrated Methods
• 319 Content Area Literacy
• 327 Exceptionalities and Human Diversity
• 331 Curriculum for Special Education
• 426 Creating, Managing, and Assessing Public School Learning Communities
• 480 Student Teaching

Electives (To bring total Credit Hours to 129)
Endorsement Program in Language Arts, Grades 5-9

College and General Education (52 Credit Hours)

Courses in the English Department (33 Hours)

Core
- 250 Introduction to English Literature
- 255 The Power of Language
- 303 Expository Writing
- 315 Shakespeare
- 322 Teaching Writing and Grammar, 5-Adult
- 477 English Senior Seminar

Select One Language (3 Credit Hours)
- 230 Introduction to General Linguistics
- 306 Principles of Grammar
- 401 History of the English Language

Select One World Literature (3 Credit Hours)
- 320 Literature of the Western World, Part I
- 321 Literature of the Western World, Part II
- 350 World Literature: Classical Era
- 351 World Literature: Modern Era

Select One American Literature (3 Credit Hours)
- 316 American Literature to 1860
- 317 American Literature, 1860-1940
- 408 Contemporary American Literature

Select One Special Audiences (3 Credit Hours)
- 324 Literature for Children
- 325 Young Adult Literature

Select One Diversity Component (3 Credit Hours)
- 337 The Black Writer in America
- 338 Black Novelists in America
- 339 Black Poets in America
- 340 Readings in African Literature
- 342 Women Writers
- 343 Appalachian Literature and Culture

Course in the English or in Education Department (3 Credit Hours)
Select Either
- English 421 Teaching English in Secondary Schools
- Education 321 Teaching Writing in the Elementary School

Courses in the Education Department (33 Credit Hours)
- 200 Foundations of Education
- 201 Human Growth and Development
- 202 Educational Psychology and Learning
- 300 Educational Technology
- 316 Integrated Methods
- 319 Content Area Literacy
- 320 Teaching Reading in the Elementary School
- 327 Exceptionalities and Human Diversity
- 331 Curriculum for Special Education
- 426 Creating, Managing, and Assessing Public School Learning Communities
- 480 Student Teaching
College and General Education for English Majors

**Freshman Experience ARH 101 (1 Credit Hour)**

**Interdisciplinary Matrix (6 Credit Hours)**
- General Education 100 Origins (3 Hours)
- General Education 200, CJ 313, Educ 227, or SWK 202 (3 Hours)

**International Perspectives: Select French or Spanish (6 Credit Hours)**
- French 101 and 102
- Spanish 101 and 102

**History of Civilization (3 Credit Hours)**
- History 201 or 202

**English (6 Credit Hours)**
- English 101
- English 102

**Mathematics (3 Credit Hours)**
- Mathematics 111 or higher

**Speech (3 Credit Hours)**
- Comm. 100

**Lifetime Health and Fitness (2 Credit Hours)**
- HHPLS 122 or 157

**Literature (3 Credit Hours)**
- English 150

**Fine Arts (6 Credit Hours): Select from two different disciplines**
- Art 100 or 101
- Comm 140 or 170
- Music 104 or 107
  (Professional Writing and Technical Writing Majors need Art 101)

**Natural Science (6-8 Credit Hours)**
**Select Two**
- Biology 101, 108, 110, or 120
- Physics 101, 102, 103, 106, 110, 120, or 170
- Chemistry 100

**American Traditions (3 Credit Hours) Select One:**
- Political Science 101
- History 207 or 208

**Social Structures and Behavior (3 Credit Hours) Select One:**
- Business Administration 312
- Political Science 100
- Psychology 151
- Sociology 101

**Total 51-53 Credit Hours**
College and General Education for Teacher Education

Freshman Experience: CPS 101 (1 Credit Hour)

Speech Communication: Comm 100 (3 Credit Hours)

English (12 Credit Hours)
- 101
- 102
- 150
- 303

General Education (6 Credit Hours)
- Gen Ed 100 Origins
- Gen Ed 200 Human Diversity or Educ 227

International Perspectives (3 Credit Hours) Select One:
- French 101  Spanish 101  Sociology 305  English 440
- French 102  Spanish 102  Sociology 308
- French 443  Spanish 205  Political Science 210

Math 111 or 120 (3 Credit Hours)

Fine Arts: Select two from different disciplines (6 Credit Hours)
- Art 100 or 101
- Music 104 or 107
- Comm 140 or 170

Science (7 Credit Hours)
- Biology 101
- Chemistry 100 or Physics 101 or 103

History (6 Credit Hours)
- History 201 or 202
- History 207 or 208

Sociology 101 (3 Credit Hours)

Health and Human Performance 122 or 157 (2 Credit Hours)

Total 52 Credit Hours

Assessment of Majors

Purpose

As faculty in the English Department, we want to develop graduates who are proficient in analytical thinking, in critical reading of both literary and nonfictional texts, and in a variety of writing modes. All graduates should be able to use their knowledge of features of language, interpretive approaches to literature in English from several periods, and the process of composing. To strengthen the program and students in the program options of Literature, Professional Writing, Technical Writing, and English Education, we want to document the learning development of our majors. For this documentation, we use a four-stage process to assess progress and achievement through portfolios, interviews, and surveys. Two of the three papers for the portfolio must be nonfiction prose.

Method

Stage One

Students submit a paper from a 100-level class to the instructor of their English 250 course. The students complete the self-assessment form by writing a paragraph describing (1) the purpose of the paper, (2) how the paper was prepared, and (3) their view of the paper’s strengths and weaknesses. (If you don’t have a paper from that first year, then submit one from the earliest time in your college career that you can locate).

Stage Two

Two or three semesters before graduation, students submit a paper from a 200-, 300- or 400-level class to their advisors. The students complete the self-assessment form, writing a paragraph describing (1) the purpose of the paper, (2) how the paper was prepared, and (3) their view of the paper’s strengths and weaknesses.

Stage Three

During the semester students graduate or while they take English 477, Senior Seminar, they submit a third paper from a 300- or 400-level course to their advisor, along with the completed self-assessment form. This includes a paragraph describing (1) the purpose of the paper, (2) how the paper was prepared, and (3) their view of the paper’s strengths and weaknesses.
By the end of the final semester, another faculty member will also assess the student's portfolios. Using the appropriate form, these faculty members will evaluate the students' samples and briefly describe their strengths and weaknesses in the chosen Department option (Professional Writing, Technical Writing, Literature, or English Education).

Stage Four

Data about the English Department graduates will be retrieved from the surveys administered by the Office of Student Assessment to all graduating seniors. Data will also be retrieved from alumni surveys. This data will include self-assessments and measures of satisfaction with the program and faculty, as well as post-graduation status (e.g., employment, graduate studies, etc.).

Using the Results

Material created by these assessments will enable students to measure their own progress in meeting departmental objectives as they assemble and comment on their own work. (Please note that, although the Department requires student assessment, this assessment is not part of any student’s grades). The assessment will also allow the Department to advise students more effectively, individually and collectively, and to determine whether the curriculum enables students to meet those objectives.

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**Praise Song**

*by Lucille Clifton*

To my aunt blanche
who rolled from grass to driveway
into the street one sunday morning.
i was ten. i had never seen
a human woman hurl her basketball
of a body into the traffic of the world.
Praise to the drivers who stopped in time.
Praise to the faith with which she rose
after some moments then slowly walked
sighing back to her family.
Praise to the arms which understood
little or nothing of what it meant
but welcomed her in without judgment,
accepting it all like children might,
like God.
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1 If your program requires 230, you can use 306 via a Course Substitution form—see your advisor or the Chair.

2 441 can substitute for 334; this requires a Course Substitution form.

3 Also, 399 and 449 courses offered as proposed & approved. With substantive overlap, these can substitute for required courses.