

English Major

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About

The English department believes that skillful, self-aware reading, writing, and thinking provide a foundation for meaningful living. We seek to develop forms of analysis and expression that are both critical and creative and that help us comprehend the multiple cultural practices and values of the twenty-first century. Villanova English majors acquire a broad understanding of Anglophone literary history as well as familiarity with the major genres of the tradition. A department of accomplished scholars, we focus on undergraduate education and make our majors the center of pedagogy. While preserving the value of literature as a cultural form, we cultivate in our students the analytical skills necessary for negotiating today's rapidly changing world.

Program: English
Type: Bachelor of Arts

PRIMARY MAJOR (122 credits)

There is no prerequisite to the major, but we strongly recommend that you take English 3001 (Foundational Literature in English I) early, since it will introduce you to writers, texts, and issues that are crucial to most subsequent courses.

Required Major Courses (33 credits)

English majors take a range of courses, from required courses (chosen from a number of possibilities) that provide a sense of the historical range and diversity of literature in English to electives covering contemporary writers, film, creative writing, and many more topics. Students can also form tracks (such as Professional Writing, World Literature, or Race and Ethnicity) within the major. English courses are particularly well-suited to helping students become better readers, writers, and analytical thinkers; because of those skills, and because of the breadth of literature, English courses are valuable in all aspects of our lives.

Program Notes:

- "Special Topics" signifies that the specific focus of the course varies by semester.

Course	Title	Credits
	BIPOC Literature Course	
	Pre-1800 Literature Courses	6
	Post-1800 Literature Course	6
ENG 2250	Ways of Reading:Lit Analysis	3
ENG 5000	Senior Seminar	3
	English Electives 1800 and Above	15

Core Curriculum Requirements (44 credits)

Course	Title	Credits
ACS 1000	Ancients	3
ACS 1001	Moderns	3
THL 1000	Faith, Reason, and Culture	3
PHI 1000	Knowledge, Reality, Self	3
ETH 2050	The Good Life:Eth & Cont Prob	3
	Mathematics or Statistics (1 course)	3
	Natural Science (2 courses with laboratory)	8
	Literature and Writing Seminar (1 course)	3
	History (1 course)	3
	Social Sciences (2 courses)	6
	Fine Arts (1 course)	3
	Upper-Level Theology (1 course)	3
	Language Requirement	
	Diversity Requirement (2 courses)	

Free Elective Requirement (45 credits)

Students with an English primary major have forty-five (45) required free elective credits.

Degree Credit Summary

- **Major Credits:** 33 credits
- **Core Credits:** 44 credits
- **Free Electives Credits:** 45 credits
- **Total Required Credits:** 122 Credits

Note: The above credit totals are based on the minimum number of required credits in each degree area. The minimum number of required credits in each area listed above must be met. Credits taken beyond the required minimum for one area may not be applied to another area.

SECONDARY MAJOR

Students who declare English as a **secondary major** must complete the Required Major Courses to achieve this major. Students are able to count any eligible course taken in their primary major, the core curriculum, minors, concentrations, or free electives toward these requirements.

Category Descriptions

BIPOC Literature Course

Choose one course focused on Black, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) literature from the historical requirements from the list below.

Course	Title	Credits
ENG 2304	Cont World Lit & Environment	3
ENG 2305	Black Life Writing	3
ENG 3618	Intro to African Lit I	3
ENG 3619	Intro to African Lit II	3
ENG 3650	African Drama	3
ENG 3660	Contemp. Lit & Film of India	3
ENG 3661	Black British Literature& Film	3
ENG 4003	African-American Lit Trad 1	3
ENG 4010	Early American Textual Bodies	3
ENG 4500	American Slave Narrative	3
ENG 4502	The Black Atlantic	3
ENG 4503	Indigenous Lit of the Americas	3
ENG 4602	African American Lit Trad 2	3
ENG 4603	African American Short Story	3
ENG 4610	African American Poetry	3
ENG 4618	Harlem Renaissance	3
ENG 4622	African American Women Writers	3
ENG 4623	African American Novel	3
ENG 4632	African American Drama	3
ENG 4641	American Immigrant Narratives	3
ENG 4646	Race & Ethnicity: Amer Novel	3
ENG 4648	U.S. Empire & Cont. Am. Lit.	3
ENG 4649	Intro to Asian American Lit	3
ENG 4651	Lives of the Undocumented	3
ENG 4653	Work/Play in Cont. Latinx Lit	3
ENG 4700	Caribbean Literature	3

Pre-1800 Literature Courses

Credits: 6

Choose two courses in literature before 1800, in two different areas.

Pre-1500

Course	Title	Credits
ENG 3000	Intro to OE Lang & Lit	3
ENG 3001	Foundational Lit in ENG 1	3
ENG 3150	Chaucer	3
ENG 3160	Fabulous Middle Ages	3
ENG 3170	Love & War in Medieval Romance	3
ENG 3181	Irish Epics, Visions&Hauntings	3
ENG 3190	Medieval Brit/Ir Lit. & Cult.	3
ENG 3195	Medieval Saints and Sinners	3

1500-1650

Course	Title	Credits
ENG 3001	Foundational Lit in ENG 1	3
ENG 3181	Irish Epics, Visions&Hauntings	3
ENG 3201	English Renaissance	3
ENG 3230	Eliz & Jacobean Drama	3
ENG 3250	Shakespeare	3
ENG 3260	Revenge Tragedy	3
ENG 3290	Renaissance Br/Ir Lit. & Cult.	3
ENG 3300	17th Cent Poetry & Prose	3
ENG 3350	Milton	3

1650-1800

Course	Title	Credits
ENG 3001	Foundational Lit in ENG 1	3
ENG 3195	Medieval Saints and Sinners	3
ENG 3300	17th Cent Poetry & Prose	3
ENG 3350	Milton	3
ENG 3425	British Gothic Fiction	3
ENG 3426	Science, Lit & Enlightenment	3
ENG 3427	Adventures in 18th Century Lit	3
ENG 3428	Brit Novel in Romantic Period	3
ENG 3430	Restor & 18th cent Drama	3
ENG 3440	Harlots, Rakes, & Libertines	3
ENG 3450	Dryden Swift & Pope	3
ENG 3490	18th c. Brit/Ir Lit. & Culture	3
ENG 4010	Early American Textual Bodies	3
ENG 4503	Indigenous Lit of the Americas	3

Post-1800 Literature Course

Credits: 6

Choose two courses in literature after 1800, one from each time period.

1800- 1945

ENG 3428, ENG 3590, ENG 4590, and ENG 4624 may also count toward fulfilling the requirement.

Course	Title	Credits
ENG 3425	British Gothic Fiction	3
ENG 3428	Brit Novel in Romantic Period	3
ENG 3500	Foundational Lit. in English 2	3
ENG 3501	Early Romantic Writers	3
ENG 3502	Later Romantic Writers	3
ENG 3504	19th Cent Brit Women Writers	3
ENG 3505	Poetry & Prose 1830-1865	3
ENG 3506	Poetry & Prose 1865-1900	3
ENG 3507	StrangeCases:ImagHealth&Illnes	3
ENG 3520	19th Cent British Novel	3
ENG 3525	Dickens	3
ENG 3530	Victorian Doubles	3
ENG 3535	Gender, Authorship & Anonymity	3
ENG 3540	Institutional Fictions	3
ENG 3580	Topics in 19th C Irish Lit&Cul	3
ENG 3590	19th c. Brit/Ir Lit. & Culture	3
ENG 3610	Modern British Poetry	3
ENG 3615	James Joyce	3
ENG 3617	Irish Revivalism	3
ENG 3618	Intro to African Lit I	3
ENG 3620	Modern British Novel	3
ENG 3622	Virginia Woolf	3
ENG 3630	Modern British Drama	3
ENG 3640	Irish Drama	3
ENG 4000	American Literary Trad 1	3
ENG 4001	Major American Writers I	3
ENG 4003	African-American Lit Trad 1	3
ENG 4500	American Slave Narrative	3
ENG 4501	Amer Transcendentalism	3
ENG 4502	The Black Atlantic	3
ENG 4503	Indigenous Lit of the Americas	3
ENG 4505	Concord Writers	3
ENG 4510	Early American Poetry	3
ENG 4515	American Gothic	3
ENG 4520	American Novel to 1945	3
ENG 4530	The American Renaissance	3
ENG 4540	The American Revolutionary Era	3
ENG 4545	Early American Novel	3
ENG 4590	Am. Lit. & Cult. before 1945	3
ENG 4591	Am. Lit. & Cult. before 1945	3
ENG 4600	Amer Literary Trad 2	3
ENG 4603	African American Short Story	3
ENG 4605	Amer Poetry: 1900-1950	3
ENG 4606	Alone Together-Social Dist Lit	3

ENG 4610	African American Poetry	3
ENG 4618	Harlem Renaissance	3
ENG 4619	The Works of Edith Wharton	3
ENG 4620	American Novel 1895-1950	3
ENG 4622	African American Women Writers	3
ENG 4623	African American Novel	3
ENG 4624	Crime Fiction and Gender	3
ENG 4641	American Immigrant Narratives	3
ENG 4652	Letters, Texts, & Twitter	3

1945 - Present

Course	Title	Credits
ENG 2304	Cont World Lit & Environment	3
ENG 2305	Black Life Writing	3
ENG 2360	Adaptation:Film as Literature	3
ENG 2410	The Art of Translation	3
ENG 3616	Irish American Drama & Film	3
ENG 3618	Intro to African Lit I	3
ENG 3619	Intro to African Lit II	3
ENG 3621	Contemp British Novel	3
ENG 3650	African Drama	3
ENG 3660	Contemp. Lit & Film of India	3
ENG 3661	Black British Literature& Film	3
ENG 3680	Top: 20th-21st C Irish Lit&Cul	3
ENG 3682	Contemporary Irish Literature	3
ENG 3690	Br/Ir Lit. & Cult. after 1945	3
ENG 3691	Br/Ir Lit. & Cult. after 1945	3
ENG 4600	Amer Literary Trad 2	3
ENG 4601	Major American Writers II	3
ENG 4602	African American Lit Trad 2	3
ENG 4603	African American Short Story	3
ENG 4606	Alone Together-Social Dist Lit	3
ENG 4610	African American Poetry	3
ENG 4615	Amer Poetry since 1950	3
ENG 4621	Amer Novel since 1950	3
ENG 4622	African American Women Writers	3
ENG 4623	African American Novel	3
ENG 4624	Crime Fiction and Gender	3
ENG 4630	American Drama 1945 to Present	3
ENG 4631	Amer Drama since 1960	3
ENG 4632	African American Drama	3
ENG 4636	Contemp Amer Women's Poetry	3
ENG 4640	Contemp Amer Women's Lit	3
ENG 4641	American Immigrant Narratives	3
ENG 4645	Post Modern Amer Fiction	3
ENG 4646	Race & Ethnicity: Amer Novel	3
ENG 4647	Gender & Sexuality in US Lit	3
ENG 4648	U.S. Empire & Cont. Am. Lit.	3
ENG 4649	Intro to Asian American Lit	3
ENG 4651	Lives of the Undocumented	3
ENG 4652	Letters, Texts, & Twitter	3
ENG 4653	Work/Play in Cont. Latinx Lit	3
ENG 4690	Amer. Lit. & Cult. after 1945	3
ENG 4691	Amer. Lit. & Cult. after 1945	3
ENG 4700	Caribbean Literature	3
ENG 4702	Authors On & Off the Page	3
ENG 4703	21st C. American Apocalypse	3

English Electives 1800 and Above

Credits: 15

Choose five courses numbered 1800 and above, with the exception of 1975, which cannot be counted.

- When combined, the following one-credit courses can now count as an elective in the English major ENG 2991, ENG 2994, and HON 5440.

Natural Science (2 courses with laboratory)

Credits: 8

Non-science majors meet the Core Curriculum Natural Science requirement by taking two semesters of Mendel Science Experience (MSE), thematically-based lecture/laboratory courses designed for non-science majors; or two semesters of lecture/laboratory courses designed for science majors.

Science (AST, BIO, BIOC, CHM, CBN, CSC, ENV, MAT, PHY - B.S. only, PSY - B.S. only) majors meet the science requirement through the regular program of study in their major.