Declaring the English Major
Students currently enrolled in any English course may declare the major. Please see the chair, Professor Siobhan Phillips (Historic President’s House, Rm. 2, x1729, phillisi@dickinson.edu). Declared majors receive enrollment preference in upper-level courses.

Students with an interest in English who are not yet ready to declare the major are encouraged to consult with Professor Phillips or any other faculty member in the department for advice on course selection.

The English Major
Eleven courses, of which the following are required: 101, 220; six literature courses at the 300-level (two must be pre-1800 and two post-1800); 403; 404; one 200- or 300-level elective. At least two 300-level courses must be taken at Dickinson. Majors must also complete ENGL 300, a P/F non-credit research course taken in conjunction with the first 300-level literature course. At least two of the six required 300-level ENGL courses must be taken in the Dickinson English department.

English majors and their faculty advisors work together to design a schedule of advanced courses that offers both breadth in approach and subject matter and depth in an area of the student’s interest.

ENGL 220 – Introduction to Literary Studies
In literary studies, we explore the work texts do in the world. This course examines texts of different kinds (e.g., novel, poetry, film, comic book, play, etc.) to investigate how literary forms create meanings. It also puts texts in conversation with several of the critical theories and methodologies that shape the discipline of literary study today (e.g., Marxist theory, new historicism, formalism, critical race theory, gender theory, postcolonial theory, ecocriticism, etc.). This course helps students frame interpretive questions and develop their own critical practice. A writing-intensive course, it serves as the gateway to all 300-literature classes.

NEW 200-level English Courses
Last spring, the English Department created two new intermediate courses.

221 Workshop in Writing
This course develops writing and analytical thinking skills through the careful examination of the rhetorical practices of a topic chosen by the professor. Class offerings have included topics such as writing and: wellness, natural history, digital environments, the self, identity and queer studies, popular culture, memoir, creative nonfiction, biography, graphic novel, and other subgenres of fiction, poetry, or film and media studies. Seminars, workshops, group tutorials. This course is cross-listed as WRPG 211.
Attributes: Appropriate for First-Year, Writing in the Discipline

222 Topics in Methods and Theory
This course offers a focused introduction to a particular literary method, and/or methods from a related field. Attributes: Appropriate for First-Year, Humanities

Spring 2019 – ENGL 221 & ENGL 222
• ENGL 221-01 Multiculturalism: Race, Rhetoric, Writing
  9TR Menon HPH Small Seminar
• ENGL 221-02 Visual Poetry
  1:30-4:30W Johnston Bosler 306
• ENGL 222-01 Philosophy and Literature
  1:30MR DeBlasio Bosler 313

New 300-Level Curriculum
Last spring, the English Department approved a redesign of the 300 level of the major! Advanced courses now center on questions central to the discipline of literary studies. General descriptions are listed here. You can find detailed descriptions of spring 2019 300-level courses on p. 3.

311 Questions of Author and Audience
Examines how authors’ lived experience has shaped texts and how audience reception has reshaped and reimagined those texts.

321 Questions of Culture, Nation, and Identity
Examines texts’ accounts of and implication in systems of power and privilege. These classes focus on questions of agency, gender, race, and ethnicity in both individual and collective identities.

331 Questions of Form, Medium, and Materiality
Examines the genres, conventions, and forms through which texts are produced, circulated, and understood.

341 Questions of History, Period, and Influence
Examines how authors and texts engage aesthetic and/or socio-political histories.

351 Special Topics in Textual Study
Special topics in literature, theory, film, and media. Examines questions of the relationships among primary texts and their historical methodological, and/or theoretical contexts not otherwise addressed in ENGL 311, 321, 331, and 341.
300 – Literary Studies Research Lab
Alongside your first 300-level course in the English department, you must complete the Literary Studies Research Lab (LSRL). This Pass/Fail non-credit research module meets twice during the semester, and creates a bridge between your work in English 220 and the research and writing expectations for 300-level courses.

LSRL adopts current best practices for using Dickinson’s library resources, and helps students to understand the tools, application, and proper MLA citation for all subsequent research in the English Department.

The Senior Experience in the English Major
To graduate with an English major, all students must complete English 403 (senior seminar) and 404 (senior writing workshop). Students remain with the same group and professor throughout 403 and 404. Written work in 403 need not supply the basis for the 404 project. The department encourages original projects developing from student interest. We encourage students to consult any faculty member about their projects.

For more, please see page 4.

English Independent Study, Research, and Tutorials
If you wish to do an independent study, research, or tutorial (English 500, 550, or 600), remember that you need to prepare. Discuss your proposal with your faculty member by the end of course request period. Independent studies, research, and tutorials may substitute for advanced courses in one’s major program. They may not substitute for any part of the senior experience. Please see Professor Phillips if you have any questions.

Creative Writing Minor
The Creative Writing minor can be completed with any major, including English. The CW minor is 6 courses:

- CRWR 218: Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry & Fiction
- CRWR 219: Topics in Creative Writing
- CRWR 317 or 319: Adv. Creative Writing: Fiction or Poetry *
- CRWR 317 or 319: Adv. Creative Writing: Fiction or Poetry *
- A CRWR elective: another 219, 316, 317, or 319
- A literature course in any language

*The advanced course can be repeated in the same genre.

For more information, please contact the creative writing chair Professor Susan Perabo (e-mail: perabo@dickinson.edu) x1847.

English Majors Committee (EMCs)
EMCs members provide feedback in faculty hiring decisions, assist with the logistics of the Cogan Alumni Fellowship, and help plan department events. Feel free to contact any of the members with an idea or concern about the department. Current committee members are: seniors Jennifer Ailey, Maia Baker, David Blosser, Molly Gorelick, Elaine Hang, Shannon Nolan, Kristina Rodriguez, Kayleigh Rhatigan, Rebeca Stout, and Olivia Watson; juniors Emily Messer, Cormac Stevens, Phoebe Serlemitsos, and Sarah Tran, and sophomores Lisa Clair, Skylar Devitt, Marie Laverdiere, Trang Nguyen, and Jahmirah Warrick.
Student Organizations

English majors are often active in the Belles Lettres Literary Society (one of the oldest literary societies in the country) and/or The Dickinson Review, the college’s student literary magazine. Both student-led organizations offer academic, artistic, and social opportunities for students who love to read and write. For more information about these organizations, contact Professor Susan Perabo.

Internships for English Majors

Internships afford you the opportunity to try out a career field, apply what you learn in the classroom to the working world, and gain valuable experience and contacts.

English majors’ recent internships include positions at: Content and Surface; Yale University Press, Bethlehem Press, and Chelsea Green Publishing; the History of Women in the Military Forum at West Point; York County Courthouse Self-Help Center; National Society of Friends Newsletter; National Archives Records Administration; Dept. of Education and Public Progress; and James A. Michener Art Museum.

Please contact Amity Fox (fox@ dickinson.edu), internship coordinator, or the Career Center at x1740.

Study Abroad

If you are interested in off-campus study, please contact the college’s Center for Global Study and Engagement (x1341, Stern Center).

A Note on Study Abroad in England

If you hope to study abroad in England, consider the Dickinson Program in England, Norwich Humanities or Dickinson at Oxford, Mansfield College.

The Norwich Humanities program offers a fall semester, a spring semester, or a full year abroad at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. Any option fits well into the Dickinson English major, though the department encourages students to opt for the full year.

The University of East Anglia has strong course offerings in English and American literature, American studies, dramatic literature and performance studies, film and television studies, and popular culture. Students may also elect to take courses outside the major across a wide range of disciplines. The program also includes a second interdisciplinary course for all Dickinson students, as well as numerous opportunities for travel. Interested students should contact the Center for Global Study and Engagement, x1341, for Norwich programs or Professors Johnston and Perabo. Prof. Karen Kirkham (Theatre & Dance) is the on-campus coordinator for 2018-19.

Information is available at: https://dickinson.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10004

Dickinson also has a year-long program with Mansfield College, Oxford. English majors with a 3.7 GPA who plan to complete at least three 300-level literature classes by the end of sophomore year may be eligible to apply. Please contact Professor Ed Webb or the Center for Global Study and Engagement as early as possible, and no later than the beginning of your third term (fall sophomore year) at Dickinson. Information is available at: https://dickinson.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10072

Spring 2019 - Upper Level Course Descriptions

ENGL 311-01 (pre-1800)
Chaucer’s Women
Professor Skalak
Patient Griselda, sensual Alisoun, long-suffering Constance, the irrepresible Wife of Bath - in The Canterbury Tales, Chaucer provides a wide range of women who alternately uphold and challenge the medieval boundaries of femininity. In this class we will explore medieval conceptions of gender, sexuality, and authority by way of Chaucer’s most memorable women, read alongside confessional manuals, scientific treatises, and religious tracts that provide insight into how medieval scholars conceptualized the differences between men and women. [Cross-listed with MEMS 200-03 and WGSS 301-03.]

ENGL 321-02 (post-1800)
Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East
Professor Nichols
The Middle East has become an increasingly important part of the world in the past half century. We will read numerous “contemporary” Middle Eastern poets and poems that have contributed to American views of the Mideast and will examine the Arab world’s view of these same images, ideas, and language. Our goal will be to see the
ENGL 321-03 (post-1800/US Diversity)
Celtic Revival/Harlem Renaissance
Professor Seiler
This course studies two major art movements of the modernist period, both of which tie formal innovation to questions of national citizenship, racial equality, and political autonomy. How did these “minor” literatures challenge majority national or imperial cultures? What events and forms galvanized the social and aesthetic work of the Celtic Revival (Ireland) and the Harlem Renaissance (US)? Primary readings cover several genres (fiction, drama, poetry, and essays); primary authors include, among others: Langston Hughes, James Joyce, Nella Larsen, Alain Locke, J.M. Synge, Jean Toomer, and W.B. Yeats.

ENGL 331-01 (post-1800)
The Video Game
Professor Steirer
This course will introduce students to the nascent field of game studies, exposing them to foundational debates between two branches of scholarship—narratology and ludology—over what the video game is and how it should be studied. Should the video game be considered a variation on the forms and genres of traditional literary and film texts or is it better seen as a non-textual medium rooted in competition and play? Is the concept of authorship relevant with respect to video games—and if so, who should we identify as the author? Students will read theoretical and historical texts about games while also playing a variety of console, mobile, and computer games, which may include Heavy Rain, Spelunky, Mortal Kombat X, Fallout 3, Proteus, Puzzle and Dragons, and Grand Theft Auto V. [Cross-listed with FMST 320-01.]

ENGL 341-01 (pre-1800)
Early Modern Lyric
Professor Johnston
The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in England generally are recognized as the Golden Age of the lyric—the short—poem. We will begin our reading of the sixteenth-century poem with adaptations of Petrarchan sonnets by Wyatt and Surrey, and move to the mastery of the form by Sidney and Spencer. The seventeenth century begins with the revival of the sonnet by Shakespeare, and includes brilliant passionate poems declaring the love of God and the love of women and men by Herbert, Donne, Wroth, Marvell, and others. In addition to learning the techniques of describing and analyzing these poems aesthetically, we will also discuss the cultural contexts in which our poets lived. Our objective will be to interrogate T.S. Eliot’s assertion, early in the twentieth century, that a lyric poem is “the voice of the poet speaking to himself or nobody.” As we read and discuss we will ask ourselves, both consciously and unconsciously, how private or how porous brief poems might be. Can artists write in a vacuum, as Eliot implies, alienated from political and financial directives, keeping their work “pure and unsullied?” Instead, if great art is to some extent driven by cultural concerns, such as religious controversy, struggles to define and defend the monarchy, and incipient women’s rights, then how do we know where these outside issues enter into the art? [Cross-listed with MEMS 200-04.]

ENGL 341-02 (pre-1800)
English Literature, 1660-1776
Plagues, Petticoats, Poems & Plays
Professor Sider Jost
Canonical authors and marginal voices of the long eighteenth century. Plagues, fires, invasions, fashion, theology, flirtation, lexicography, heavy drinking, slavery, rebellion, municipal sanitation, love. Pepys, Dryden, Behn, Addison, Pope, Swift, Pilkington, Johnson, Boswell, Piozzi, possibly early Austen. [Cross-listed with MEMS 200-05.]

ENGL 404
Senior Writing Workshop - ENGL 404
A workshop for independent critical writing, leading to a substantial research paper on a topic of the student's choice, subject to approval. Peer review and editing, sequential drafts, and bibliographic exercises will be required throughout the term.

“Seniors, please note: You will be with the same 403-404 group, meeting on the same day and at the same time, for the entire academic year. If you are a double major and/or have senior course work requirements in another department, it is your responsibility to plan ahead. Please find out when your other required courses will be meeting and choose a 403-404 time that will work for you all year.