

English Studies

So what does it mean to study English today? As an intellectual discipline, English provides students the opportunity to study literature and language within an academic major of flexible design while cultivating sophisticated and marketable analytical and writing skills. Students examine texts from a wide range of periods, cultures, and perspectives, while at the same time choosing a concentration suited to their own intellectual and professional interests. As a discipline in which language is both the medium of expression and the object of study, our course offerings seek to go wherever the English language is or has been, including the internet, modern poetry, women writers, Old English manuscripts, comics and graphic novels, science fiction, Native American writing, romanticism, American film, Renaissance culture, literary theory, American and British novels, modernism, African-American writing, biography—in other words, all kinds of “literatures” written in English. At the heart of literary study lies a number of simple yet striking questions about language, history, and culture:

- (1) How does the study of English engage the public sphere?
- (2) How do different cultures, histories, and worldviews make texts intelligible (or unintelligible) to us?
- (3) What counts as a “text,” and why do texts need to be interpreted?

Some famous English majors:

Russell Baker—journalist
Dave Barry—humorist writer, actor
Carol Browner—former head of the EPA
Mario Cuomo—former Governor of New York
Michael Eisner—Walt Disney CEO
Kathryn Fuller—World Wildlife Fund CEO
Cathy Guisewite—cartoonist (“Cathy”)

Turning an English Major into a Career . . .

Program Requirements and Options

The Department of English offers four distinct undergraduate major strands. Students in all strands are required to take Eng 350 (Introduction to the English Major) and Eng 420 (Senior Capstone Seminar), and submit a capstone portfolio.

- Literature:** Requires 36 semester hours, with no more than 12 taken at the 300-level. Includes 27 hours of literature, 3 hours of linguistics or history of English, and 6 hours of electives.
- Writing:** Requires 36 semester hours, with no more than 15 taken at the 300-level. Includes 12 hours of advanced writing, 21 hours of literature, and 3 hours of linguistics or history of English.
- Pre-Professional:** Requires 33 semester hours as part of a double major. No more than 12 hours may be taken at the 300-level. Includes 24 hours of literature, 3 hours of linguistics or history of English, 3 hours of advanced writing, and 3 hours of electives.
- English Education:** Requires 36 semester hours. Includes 27 hours of literature, 6 hours of methods, and 3 hours of linguistics.

A **minor in English** may be earned by presenting 15 hours in English beyond 102 or 302 or 201H, with no more than six hours on the 300 level.

Membership in the Marshall chapter of **Sigma Tau Delta**, an International English Honor Society, is open to any undergraduate or graduate student who has a minimum 3.0 GPA in English courses and has completed at least three semesters of college work. Sigma Tau Delta provides an opportunity for extracurricular social and intellectual contacts among students and faculty. See the Department of English website for details and updates.

Careers in English

Is the English major **practical**? Absolutely! The Department of English at Marshall University offers a curriculum designed to enrich the professional **versatility** of each of our graduates. The ability to find new and

creative ways to analyze old or complex problems, to sift the essential from the non-important, to perform **research**, to **evaluate** evidence, and to express the results of one's analysis in effective **language**—these are skills vital to genuine achievement in nearly every **profession**. For this reason, our graduates often pursue careers in a remarkable **range** of fields, including **publishing**, editing, institutional research and development, **political analysis**, public relations, human resources, **software development**, **teaching**, grant writing, technical writing, diplomacy, advertising, **government**, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and **television**. If you plan to become an

attorney, English has always been one of the most popular undergraduate majors for law students because it develops precisely the skills a capable lawyer needs, especially the ability to construct a **logical argument** on behalf of a point of view. And the qualities that an English major develops have been repeatedly rated by Fortune 500 company executives as

the most vital skills for **business** employees to possess. A degree in English with a minor in science will also permit you to enter **medical school** and may offer a slight edge over other applicants since medicine is both a humanistic and scientific field. English is a good prologue to graduate work in library science, **international affairs**, and theology or religious education, as well as English and communications.

Some of our Exciting Course Offerings....

- 202. Writing About Literature
- 303. Appalachian Literature
- 306. Introduction to Drama
- 307. Modern Drama
- 308. Contemporary Drama
- 309. Literature and Fantasy
- 310. Biography
- 311. Science Fiction
- 313. Introduction to Poetry
- 315. Introduction to Novel
- 321. American Literature to 1860
- 323. American Literature, 1860 - Present
- 329. Twentieth Century Novel
- 331. Introduction to Short Story
- 335. Crime and Sensation Literature
- 336. Forbidden Literature
- 340. Introduction to African-American Literature
- 341. Introduction to Ethnic Literature of the U.S.
- 342. Women Writers
- 344. Film and Fiction
- 354. Scientific and Technical Writing
- 360. Introduction to Creative Writing
- 377. Creative Writing: Poetry
- 378. Creative Writing: Fiction
- 426. Appalachian Literature and Theory
- 447. English Romantic Poets
- 451. Western World Literature Since the Renaissance
- 455. Literary Criticism
- 458. Contemporary Fiction: Form and Theory
- 465. Literature of War
- 475. Introduction to Linguistics
- 476. Modern Grammar
- 478. Language, Society, and Self: An Introduction to Sociolinguistics
- 491. Creative Writing: Poetry
- 492. Creative Writing: Fiction
- 493. Creative Writing: Nonfiction

ENGLISH FACULTY

Janet Badia, Ph.D. (Ohio State Univ.)
20th-Century American and Ethnic Lit

Kellie Bean, Ph.D. (U. of Delaware)
Mod. British Drama; Film; Feminist Studies

Timothy Burbery, Ph.D. (SUNY at Stony Brook)
Milton, Renaissance Lit

Leonard Deutsch, Ph.D. (Kent State University)
American Lit, African American Lit, Film and Fiction

Whitney Douglas, Ph.D. (U. of Nebraska-Lincoln)
Composition and Rhetoric, Women's and Gender Studies

Chris Green, Ph.D. (U. of Kentucky)
Appalachian Lit, Creative Writing: Poetry

David Hatfield, Ph.D. (Louisiana State Univ.)
Scientific and Technical Writing

Hyo-Chang (Bob) Hong, Ph.D. (Ball State Univ.)
Linguistics, Old English, English as a Second Lang.

Gwenyth Hood, Ph.D. (U. of Michigan)
Medieval English Lit, Comparative Lit

Roxanne Kirkwood, Ph.D. (Texas Woman's Univ.)
Rhetoric and Composition, Professional Writing

Shirley Lumpkin, Ph.D. (McGill Univ.)
Ethnic American and Third World Lit

Mary Moore, Ph.D. (U. of California at Davis)
Renaissance Lit, Women's Poetry

Kelli P. Prejean, Ph.D. (U. of Louisville)
Rhetoric and Composition, Professional Writing

William Ramsey, Ph.D. (U. of North Carolina)
20th-Century Lit

James Riemer, Ph.D. (Bowling Green State Univ.)
20th-Century African-American Lit, Gender Studies

Katharine Rodier, Ph.D. (U. of Connecticut)
American Lit, Multiethnic Lit

Michele Schiavone, Ph.D. (SUNY at Stony Brook)
18th-Century British Lit; Sports Lit

Kateryna Rudnytzky Schray, Ph.D. (U. North Carolina)
Medieval Lit, History of Language

Sherri Smith, Ph.D. (Indiana University)
19th-Century British Lit; Women's Studies

Donna Spindel, Ph.D. (Duke University), *Interim Chair*
Early American History, Legal History

A. E. Stringer, MFA (U. of Massachusetts)
Creative Writing, Poetry

Edmund Taft, Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)
Shakespeare, Tudor Lit, Bibliography

John Teel, Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
American Lit, Detective Fiction

John Van Kirk, MFA (U. of Maryland)
Creative Writing, International Lit, Fiction

John Young, Ph.D. (Northwestern University)
20th-Century British and American Lit

Anthony Viola, Ph.D. (Ohio University)
Creative Writing (Fiction), Composition,
Workplace Writing, 20th Century American Literature



English

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