

English

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Departmental Mission Statement: The mission of the English department is to prepare students to become part of the larger critical conversation that takes place among students, teachers, critics, and texts. We seek to enhance their critical understanding of the discipline, to help them express their own ideas and respond to those of others, and to help them to formulate and engage in critical argument.

Communicating Plus - English: The Communicating Plus Program at Ripon College emphasizes students' development of skills in four areas: written communication, oral communication, critical thinking and problem solving. The English department focuses each course and the department offerings overall on developing the student's abilities to analyze critically, to respond sensitively, to understand broadly, and to express oneself effectively in oral and written forms. The regular or core courses for the major or minor give extended attention to the development of these skills through instruction, practice, and assessment by self, peers, and faculty. Each graduating class reviews with the faculty their individual development and the strengths of the major in the senior portfolio course.

Requirements for a major in English: Thirty-three credits beyond ENG 110 including: ENG 230, 251, 340, 430, 500. English majors will also be required to use one elective slot to take a course with significant attention to American literature. Students should consult with their advisors to determine which courses will fulfill that requirement. One course outside the English department, if approved by the chair, may substitute for up to four credit hours of electives. Off-campus programs (such as the Newberry Library, London-Florence, or Bonn Study Program) provide significant opportunities for work relevant to the English major. The chair of the English department will determine how the off-campus courses will substitute in the major. Grades earned in all English courses except 110 and 402 are counted in computing departmental honors.

Requirements for a minor in English: Twenty credits beyond ENG 110 including: ENG 230, 251, 340.

Requirements for a teaching major in English: Thirty-seven credits including: ENG 230, 246, 251, 340 (Shakespeare), 430, 500; one of the following: ENG 211, 213, 310, 312; a course that includes a representative sample of world literature, including western and non-western texts (students should consult with their English advisor in selecting this course).

The following courses are required for teacher licensure but do not count toward the major: ENG 110 or equivalent, ENG 402 and one of the following: CMM 115, 248, 326; THE 248.

Requirements for a teaching minor in English: Twenty-four credits including ENG 230, 246, 251, 340 (Shakespeare); one of the following: ENG 211, 213, 310, 312, and a four-credit course that includes a representative sample of world literature, including western and non-western texts (students should consult with their English advisor in selecting this course).

The following courses are required for teacher licensure but do not count toward the minor: ENG 110 or equivalent; ENG 402.

Note: Students completing licensure programs in Early Childhood/Middle Childhood (Ages 0-11; Birth - Grade 5) or Middle Childhood/Early Adolescence (Ages 6-12/13; Grades 1-8) are exempt from ENG 402.

Note: ENG 110 or its equivalent is a prerequisite for all other English courses.

110. Literature and Composition

Staff

Four credits.

An introduction to literature and to college-level writing. An emphasis on reading and analyzing imaginative literature is integrated with the study of the writing process. Frequent writing is required. Enrollment limited to 20 students per section.

200. Topics in Literature

Staff

Four credits.

The study of a characteristic theme, genre, or period in literature. These courses are taught at the introductory level and are open to all interested students. They offer students the opportunity to study literary topics not offered in the regular curriculum. Different courses under this number may be repeated for credit. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses and possible prerequisites. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

211. Creative Writing: Poetry

Graham/Gannon

Four Credits. Offered in 2015-16 and alternate years.

Introduction to the art and craft of poetry writing. Regular reading and writing assignments and a major project are required. Enrollment limited to 16 students.

213. Creative Writing: Fiction

Graham/Gannon

Four Credits. Offered in 2016-17 and in alternate years.

Introduction to the art and craft of fiction writing, concentrating on the short story. Regular reading and writing assignments and a major project are required. Enrollment limited to 16 students.

220. Poetry Aloud

Graham

Four credits.

This course emphasizes poetry as part of a living oral tradition, along with some of poetry's many connections to music. Numerous kinds of poetic expression are covered, such as William Blake's "Songs of Innocence and Experience," Langston Hughes' blues and jazz poems, Beat Generation performances, and more recent phenomena such as stand-up poetry, rap, and poetry slams. Particular attention to the many contexts in which poetry is presented to an audience. Readings (on and off the page) supplemented by audio and video recordings and author visits.

230. Literary Criticism

Pleiss Morris/Unger

Four credits.

Analysis of literary works from several critical perspectives. The course explores different critical approaches to literature in order to illustrate how the approach can change our understanding and appreciation of a literary text. Frequent writing develops the students' analytical skills and writing abilities.

243. Women's Literature

Staff

Four credits. Offered in 2016-17 and alternate years.

Works in various genres by women writers. Attention to issues surrounding women's writing, possibly including the following: how and why has women's writing been marginalized? Is there a style of writing that is essentially female? How do women's texts handle the issue of oppression? To what extent is feminist criticism a useful tool for studying literature? For comparison, the course may include writings by men, but the main focus will be the work of women. Same as WOM 243.

246. The American Experience

Graham/Unger

Four credits.

An examination of what is characteristic of the American tradition. Three topics are of special importance: American nature, the relationship between the individual and the larger society, and the American multicultural experience as different from the white European experience. Readings cover an historical range from Puritan to modern times, with an emphasis on texts written before 1900.

251. Foundations of English Literature

Pleiss Morris/Truesdell

Four credits.

Major works from *Beowulf* to *Paradise Lost*. The course will give attention to the development of lyric poetry, the transition from romance to epic, and the emergence of drama. Works studied will be viewed in relation to the historical and social contexts, the major literary movements that characterize each age, and the development of the language from Old to Middle to Modern English.

260. Topics in Cultural Identity

Staff

Four credits.

Different courses under this number may be repeated for credit. A slot to be filled by various courses which examine themes of cultural identity: the ways in which major cultural entities or currents within cultures define themselves or interact with other cultures in their literature. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

300. Departmental Studies

Staff

Four credits.

Special subjects in English not covered by regular courses. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses and possible prerequisites. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

310. Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry **Graham/Gannon**

Four credits. Offered in 2015-16 and alternate years. Continuing work in poetry writing. Students will produce a term project in poetry. Frequent writing and regular workshop discussion of works in progress are required, along with readings and other class activities. Enrollment limited to 16 students. *Prerequisite: ENG 211 or 213 or consent of the instructor.*

312. Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction **Graham/Gannon**

Four credits. Offered in 2016-17 and alternate years. Continuing work in fiction writing. Students will produce a term project in fiction. Frequent writing and regular workshop discussion of works in progress are required, along with readings and other class activities. Enrollment limited to 16 students. *Prerequisite: ENG 211 or 213 or consent of the instructor.*

322. Period Studies: Romanticism **Woods**

Four credits. Offered in 2015-16 and alternate years. A study of the changes in literature that took place as Neoclassical ideas evolved to the Romantic viewpoint. Not necessarily an historical survey, but a study of change, its causes and effects. This course will be an attempt to come to terms with Romanticism both as an historical event in literature and as an ongoing attitude. Authors and texts may vary, though there will be some attempt to: present Neoclassical texts as a contrast, convey the internationality of Romanticism, and ground the texts in their fullest historical contexts.

324. Period Studies: Modernism **Unger**

Four credits. Offered in 2016-17 and alternate years. This course covers American and British literature from 1880-1945, what's commonly referred to as modernism. But what exactly is modernism, or literary modernism, and how are these related to the onset of modernity in Anglo-American culture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? This class is devoted to exploring such questions through the poetry, prose, and drama of this era, while also considering major historical events (World War I, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Great Depression) and other artistic mediums (music, film, and the visual arts) that shape the creation of modernist literature.

340. Major Author **Staff**

Four credits. Different courses under this number may be repeated for credit. A slot to be filled by various courses focusing on a single major author. Attention to the arc and scope of the whole career, the accompanying critical tradition, and the literary/historical context. Authors selected for coverage will meet all or most of these requirements: they will have produced a substantial body of work; demonstrated ambition and range of imaginative scope; acted as a significant influence upon other writers; attracted substantial critical attention; and be widely understood to be of major significance. Offerings will vary, but Shakespeare will be offered each year. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

402. English Teaching Methods **Truesdell**

Two credits. Study of the methods of teaching Language Arts in middle school and high school. The course examines things like curricular planning, modes of presentation, and teaching composition. Does not count toward a major. *Prerequisite: junior standing.*

430. Senior Seminar**Pleiss Morris/Unger**

Four credits. Offered each term.

A sustained exploration of a literary topic such as a period or a genre. Students will undertake an independent research project and develop it into a major paper through a collaborative writing process. *Prerequisites: senior standing and permission of the chair of the department.*

500. Senior Portfolio**Truesdell**

One credit. Offered each term.

A course in which seniors review their careers as English majors, polish a piece of work, and publish an anthology containing one piece of writing by each student. Grading is S-U. *Prerequisite: senior standing.*

541, 542. Independent Study**Staff**

Variable credit course, 1-4 credits.

Independent study involving substantial critical, scholarly, or creative writing. For exceptional students. No more than twelve credit hours of independent study or internship may be taken, and no more than eight credit hours may be in one department. A registration form is required. *Prerequisites: junior or senior standing, consent of the department chair and a department project director, and 12 credits toward the major.*

551, 552. Independent Study: Internship**Staff**

Variable credit course, 2-4 credits each semester.

Supervised field work in an area related to the study of literature or language of special interest to the student. A formal written proposal is required at the time of pre-registration. At the conclusion of the internship, participants are expected to produce a narrative in which they reflect upon their experience. No more than twelve credit hours of independent study or internship may be taken, and no more than eight credit hours may be in one department. A registration form is required. *Prerequisites: junior or senior standing, consent of the department chair and a department project director, and 12 credits toward the major.*