

Major Day Information Sheet

Department: English

Location: Humanities Building, 4th Floor

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Major: English

Description of Major:

The English Major offers three concentrations: Literature, Creative Writing, or Writing & Rhetoric. In all three concentrations, students engage in the close analysis of literary texts in historical, critical, and cultural contexts, learning to read critically and to write persuasively and creatively. With its emphasis on critical thinking and robust self-expression, the English major prepares students for a wide range of careers.

The concentration in **Literature** emphasizes the rigorous study of literary and cultural texts from British, American, and non-Western traditions. In small, seminar-style classes, students read, discuss, and write about historical and contemporary literature and formulate original interpretations through careful reading and research.

In the **Creative Writing** concentration, students practice writing in various literary genres, finding their own style, learning traditional forms of expression as well as experimental approaches. In a supportive workshop environment, students respond to each other's work and develop comprehensive individual portfolios of writing by the end of each semester.

The **Writing & Rhetoric** concentration emphasizes the study of the elements of persuasive writing, along with intensive practice in a range of genres. Students learn to write powerfully and precisely as they develop expertise in nonfiction, academic, and workplace writing needed in a range of careers and higher degrees.

Is a minor available?

Yes. A minor consists of four ENG courses at or above the 100-level.

Students in this major should enjoy the following subjects:

Reading, writing, attending the theater, critical thinking, discussing literature, and debating.

Special requirements to be accepted into this major (ex. Exam, volunteer experience, GPA):

2.0

Classes to consider if you are interested in this major:

After completing the core English courses, students may take any courses numbered 100 or above (upper division courses).

Fall 2012 upper division courses:

- English 126: News Writing
- English 128: Early British Literature
- English 158: Early American Literature
- English 164 Explorations in Creative Writing
- English 165 Poetry Workshop

- English 169 Post-colonial Literature: The Black Atlantic
- English 171 Introduction to Classical Rhetoric
- English 231 Twice-Told Tales: Marriage, Murder, and Madness

Examples of jobs alumni of this major have obtained:

- Assistant to NYC Councilmember
- Public Relations in music industry
- High School Teacher
- Lawyer
- Grant writer
- Middle School administrator
- Social Worker
- Published author
- Magazine editor
- Corporate Librarian