

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AT HARVARD

READ IMAGINATIVE
LITERATURE

ENCOUNTER
DISTANT AND
DIFFERENT
LIVES

CREATE YOUR
OWN STORIES
IN VERSE
IN FICTION
ON STAGE

DISCOVER HOW TO
INTERPRET
OUR COMPLEX
WORLD

English courses range from Morrison to Shakespeare, from graphic novels to sonnets, from queer fan fictions to revolutionary religious tracts. Creative writing workshops allow students to explore poetry, fiction, nonfiction, screenwriting, playwriting, and television writing.

Starting in 2020-21

you can take our
new foundational courses:

English 10

Literature Today explores how and why reading and writing matter now.

English 20

Literary Forms investigates how literature adapts to an ever-changing world.

English 97

Literary Methods interrogates our assumptions about how to define and interpret literature.

A degree in English prepares students for any field that values clear expression, careful reading, critical thinking, and persuasive writing. Our concentrators go on to careers in media and publishing, as novelists, journalists, playwrights, and poets, as well as in law, education, business, medicine, politics, and many other fields.

Undergraduate Advising

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Come talk to us about what you will find in English! We're eager to help you immerse yourself in the literary worlds you know and love, discover new worlds you might not think to explore, acquire the means to find your own path, and sustain yourself on a lifelong intellectual and creative journey.

For more information:

english.fas.harvard.edu

Honors Program

14 courses (56 credits)

Required Courses and Tutorials

(4 courses)

- English 10: Literature Today
- English 20: Literary Forms
- English 97: Sophomore Tutorial
- English 98r: Junior Tutorial

Senior Thesis or Project

(1 or 2 courses)

- English 99r: Senior Thesis (two terms)
- English 99r: Senior Project (one term)

Guided & Open Electives

(8 or 9 courses)*

- Texts written before 1700
- Texts written between 1700 and 1900
- Texts written between 1900 and 2000
- Two may be creative writing workshops
- One may be a related course from outside the English Department

**A student writing a two-semester senior thesis completes only 8 electives. A student writing a one-semester senior project completes 9 electives.*

Joint Program

9 courses (36 credits)

Required Courses and Tutorials

(4 courses)

- English 10: Literature Today
- English 20: Literary Forms
- English 97: Sophomore Tutorial
- English 98r: Junior Tutorial

Joint Senior Thesis

(2 courses)

- English 99r: Senior Thesis (two terms)

Guided & Open Electives

(3 courses)

- Texts written before 1700
- Texts written between 1700 and 1900
- Texts written between 1900 and 2000

Elective Program

12 courses (48 credits)

Required Courses and Tutorials

(4 courses)

- English 10: Literature Today
- English 20: Literary Forms
- English 97: Sophomore Tutorial
- English 98r: Junior Tutorial

Guided & Open Electives

(8 courses)

- Texts written before 1700
- Texts written between 1700 and 1900
- Texts written between 1900 and 2000
- Two may be creative writing workshops
- One may be a related course from outside the English Department

Secondary Field

6 courses (24 credits)

Requirements

- English 20: Literary Forms
- Texts written before 1700
- Texts written between 1700 and 1900
- Texts written between 1900 and 2000
- Two Electives

(Two may be creative writing workshops)



New Concentration Requirements for the Class of 2023

