

THE ENGLISH MAJOR

The English major requires 36 credits: 12-15 at the lower division and 21-24 at the upper division. The English major allows for three electives, two of which must be 100-level courses. Students may complete a major and a minor within the English Department: English majors can also be Writing minors, and Writing majors can also be English minors. Courses cannot “double count” for both a major and a minor within the department. Transfer students majoring in English must take at least 18 credits in English at Drake. Students with advanced placement (A.P.) in English will be credited one lower-level elective toward the major.

English majors will be required to take four lower-division courses: a “Common Core.” These courses focus on historical and topical areas deemed essential to the responsible study of English and are meant to foster a shared sense of disciplinary identity by encouraging department-wide dialogue, discussion, and debate about issues of significance to students and scholars of English.

The Lower Division (12-15 credits)

Gateway (3 credits)

Gateway courses introduce students to critical methods as well as current and historical issues, questions, and topics central to the field.

ENG 50

History and Traditions (3 credits)

Courses in this category focus students’ attention on questions related to the history of English studies and the traditions it examines. This category includes a.) courses whose primary aim is to introduce students to critical methods for situating literary, filmic, and cultural interpretations within the historical and cultural contexts of their creation, dissemination, reproduction and reception; b.) courses whose primary aim is to explore the historical development of a particular form, topic, or critical method; and c.) courses that examine historically distant texts in order to provide historical understanding or insights into contemporary developments in culture, literary genre, and the practices of writing, reading, and criticism.

Any ENG course numbered 40-49

Culture and Identity (3 credits)

Courses in this category focus students’ attention on the ways texts represent, reflect, construct, and engage with culture and, in doing so, enact and reflect on individual and group identities. This category includes courses that critically examine—through reading or writing or both—representations of markers of cultural and individual identity, critical responses to those representations, and the way such representations articulate to real-world questions of power and value.

Any ENG course numbered 60-79

Writing (3 credits)

Courses in this category engage students in the study of thematic and formal traditions through writing. This category includes a.) courses that introduce students to particular forms of writing (poetry, fiction, drama, and criticism); b.) courses that explore ways of using writing to pose and explore particular kinds of questions (about class, gender, sexuality, race, etc.); and c.) courses that train students in using writing within particular institutional contexts (professional, public, and academic). These courses are characterized by an emphasis on drafting and revision and on the in-class examination of student-generated writing.

Any ENG course numbered 80-99

In addition to the four Common Core courses, students majoring in English may take up to one lower-division elective, including an FYS taught by a member of the English faculty, which will count toward the 36-credit total required for the major.

English 50 must be taken in the Drake University English Department. Otherwise, college courses transferred with Drake course-number equivalents will be allowed to count toward the Common Core. Unnumbered English transfer credits or AP credits may count toward the lower-division electives only.

The Upper Division (21-24 credits)

Upper-division courses are open to students with 30 or more college credits at the time of registration (not including courses in progress). Students must take three credits in each of the below categories and at least six credits of electives at the upper level.

Single Author or Genre (3 credits)

Genre courses examine the history, criticism, theory, and status of a single genre, such as detective fiction, epic, romance, short story, sitcom, and so on. Single author courses focus on the body of work of a single important author, such as Emily Dickinson, Charles Dickens, or Walter Mosley, among others, and include the study of works about that author.

ENG 130, 131, 132, 133, 135, 133, 135, 136

Theory, Criticism, and Language (3 credits)

These courses focus on theories of criticism, interpretation, linguistics, and representation. Students will engage in a variety of interpretive and critical methodologies and will investigate ways in which foundational concepts of criticism are constructed and used. Courses in this category focus on theoretical approaches to criticism and interpretation, particular critical methodologies, and focused topics in literature.

ENG 102, 123, 126, 139, 173, 174

Historical (Pre-20th Century) (3 credits)

These courses focus on the intensive study of historically distant texts (pre-1900) situated in their historical contexts, and/or texts in relation to the traditions or genres of which they are part.

Courses in this category focus on texts in relation to the historical, national, or cultural context of their creation and reception, as well as on the history of the English language.

ENG 104, 124, 134, 142, 143, 144, 146, 147, 148, 151, 152

20th Century to Present (3 credits)

These courses focus on the intensive study of more recent texts (20th and 21st century) situated in their historical contexts, and/or texts in relation to the traditions or genres of which they are part. Courses in this category focus on texts in relation to the historical, contemporary, national, or cultural context of their creation and reception.

ENG 125, 137, 147, 148, 153, 154, 155, 158, 164

Rhetoric and Media Studies (3 Credits)

Rhetoric courses focus on the nature of representations and communicative practices and how they mediate our lives and experience, with particular attention to the contested and changing character of identity, community, public life, ethics, and morality. Media studies courses will investigate texts that include strong visual elements; texts which require readers to interface in non-traditional or experimental ways; interactive texts; and hybrid texts. Courses in this category focus on performed, hybrid, or technologically mediated texts (including film, television, internet, and radio) and theories of their production, reception, and interpretation.

ENG 105, 108, 117, 121, 127, 129, 138

ENGLISH MAJOR: 36 CREDITS

Lower-level requirements	
3 credits Introduction to the Field	ENG 050: LITERARY STUDY
3 credits History and Traditions	ENG 040: TOPICS IN LITERARY HISTORY ENG 041: INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDY ENG 042: APPROACHES TO AMERICAN LITERATURE BEFORE 1900 ENG 043: APPROACHES TO BRITISH LITERATURE BEFORE 1900 ENG 044: READING DRAMA ENG 045: GENRES ENG 046: BOOK HISTORY AND SOCIAL CHANGE ENG 047: READING SHAKESPEARE ENG 048: THE CLASSIC THEN & NOW
3 credits Culture and Identity	ENG 060: TOPICS IN CULTURE & IDENTITY ENG 061: AMERICAN LITERATURE AFTER 1900 ENG 062: BRITISH LITERATURE AFTER 1900 ENG 064: AFRICAN AMERICAN LIT BEFORE 1920 ENG 065: AFRICAN AMERICAN LIT AFTER 1920 ENG 066: READING RACE & ETHNICITY ENG 067: ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE ENG 075: INTRO TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES ENG 077: READING GENDER
3 credits Writing	ENG 080: TOPICS IN WRITING ENG 081: INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LINGUISTICS

	<p>ENG 082: AI IN FICTION ENG 086: READING AND WRITING SEXUALITY ENG 087: READING AND WRITING NATURE ENG 088: READING AND WRITING ABOUT CLASS ENG 090: READING AND WRITING DRAMA ENG 091: READING AND WRITING POETRY ENG 092: READING AND WRITING THE SHORT STORY ENG 093: READING AND WRITING NON-FICTION ENG 094: BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE WRITING</p>
Upper-Level requirements	
3 credits Single Author or Genre	<p>ENG 130: STUDIES IN LITERARY GENRES ENG 131: MAJOR HISTORICAL FIGURES (BEFORE 1900) ENG 132: DETECTIVE FICTION ENG 133: MAJOR CONTEMPORARY FIGURES (SINCE 1900) ENG 135: ADOLESCENT LITERATURE ENG 136: SCIENCE FICTION</p>
3 credits Theory, Criticism, and Language	<p>ENG 102: STRUCTURE OF MODERN AMERICAN ENGLISH ENG 123: ADVANCED TOPICS IN THEORY AND CRITICISM ENG 126: FILM AND TELEVISION HISTORY AND CRITICISM ENG 139: LANGUAGE AND LOGIC ENG 173: CRITICAL THEORY ENG 174: THEORIES OF LANGUAGE AND DISCOURSE</p>
3 credits Historical (Pre-20 th Century)	<p>ENG 104: HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ENG 124: ADVANCED TOPICS IN HISTORY AND TRADITION ENG 134: TRANSATLANTIC LANDSCAPES ENG 142: MEDIEVAL LITERATURE ENG 143: EARLY MODERN LITERATURE (1500-1780) ENG 144: SHAKESPEARE: TEXTS/CONTEXTS ENG 146: 19TH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE ENG 147: 20TH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE ENG 148: CONTEMPORARY BRITISH LITERATURE ENG 151: SALEM WITCH TRIALS ENG 152: 19TH CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE</p>
3 credits 20 th Century to Present	<p>ENG 125: ADVANCED TOPICS IN CULTURE AND IDENTITY ENG 137: GENDER AND HORROR ENG 147: 20TH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE ENG 148: CONTEMPORARY BRITISH LITERATURE ENG 153: 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE ENG 154: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LITERATURE ENG 155: REPRESENTING DETROIT ENG 158: SOUTH AFRICAN LITERATURE ENG 164: LATINO/A LITERATURE</p>
3 credits Rhetoric and Media Studies	<p>ENG 105: AESTHETICS OF EVERYDAY LIFE ENG 108: VISUAL RHETORICS</p>

	ENG 117: ADAPTATIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS ENG 121: RHETORICS OF SPACE AND PLACE ENG 127: ADVANCED TOPICS IN NEW MEDIA ENG 129: ADVANCED TOPICS IN FILM ENG 138: ARGUMENTATION AND ADVOCACY
9 credits Electives within the department.	Any 2 ENG courses, including writing courses. 1 elective may be at the lower level.

ENGLISH COURSES THAT CARRY THE EQUITY AND INCLUSION DESIGNATION:

- ENG 021 TV TROPES
- ENG 064 AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE BEFORE 1920
- ENG 065 AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE AFTER 1920
- ENG 066 READING RACE & ETHNICITY
- ENG 075 INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES
- ENG 088 READING AND WRITING ABOUT CLASS
- ENG 135 ADOLESCENT LITERATURE
- ENG 155 REPRESENTING DETROIT