



English Literature Major and Minor

www.English.Pitt.edu

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Your love of reading and the infinite worlds that books contain might be the door to a future full of possibilities. English Literature majors work closely with faculty to develop versatile skills in critical thought and problem solving by exploring the literary past and present—from Harry Potter to Hamlet and from Sherlock Holmes to Katniss Everdeen. Prepare yourself for an increasingly globalized world of professional employment and cultural interaction through an immense variety of course offerings, which can also be complemented by electives in English composition, creative writing, and film. Choose from among five subject areas, or “concentrations,” and take charge of your preparation for post-graduate career paths while immersing yourself in and analyzing many of the greatest works ever written. The skills you master as an English Literature major will go with you to classrooms, boardrooms, or operating rooms.

Required courses for the English Literature major

The English literature major requires the completion of 36 credits distributed as follows. Students must choose one of the concentrations described as follows. Students who declare this major after April 1, 2016 must follow the requirements laid out in this document.

Introductory courses

ENGLIT 0506 Literary Field Studies

Two period courses, to be selected from the list of approved courses for the student’s chosen concentration.

Seven elective courses at the 0500 level or above.

- At least four of these courses should fall within the designated area of concentration selected by the student. Students may apply for special approval with the director of the Literature program to count an elective not previously listed in a given area of concentration.
- At least three of these courses must be from the 1000-level or above.
- Students may take up to two courses from other programs in the Department of English (Composition, Film, Writing) designated within their area of concentration. Students may apply for special approval with the director of the Literature program to count an additional elective from another English program.
- At least one of these courses should also fulfill a breadth of study requirement. Students should ask instructors or advisors whether a particular course or section fulfills this requirement.
- Independent study, directed study, teaching assistantships, and internships may count toward any concentration depending upon the nature of the student’s work.

Advanced courses

ENGLIT 1900 Project Seminar

ENGLIT 1910 Senior Seminar

Grade requirements

A GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option

There is no limit on the number of courses in the major that can be taken on an S/NC basis.

Writing (W) requirement

English literature majors automatically fulfill both of the Dietrich School W-course requirements. Students pursuing a second major would be required to complete an additional W course for that major.

Honors major requirements

Honors is conferred upon those graduates who maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25, with a GPA of 3.5 or higher in English department courses, based on all departmental courses taken.

Senior Honors Thesis

This option is available to students who maintain a minimum GPA of 3.75 or higher in English department courses, based on all departmental courses taken. Students should consult their professor or advisor about this option.

Internships are strongly encouraged and can fulfill both credits and elective coursework for the major. Undergraduate Teaching Assistantships may also satisfy elective credit for the major. Consult your advisor.

Concentrations

(For a full list of courses in each concentration, consult www.englishlit.pitt.edu/undergraduate/major-requirements. Note that some titles have changed, so students should check the course numbers to determine whether they have taken a course under a different title.)

1. **The Invention of Literature** (Concentration in Literary History and the English Language)
2. **Media and Technology** (Concentration in Media Literacy and Narrative)
3. **English for the World** (Concentration in Global Literatures, Politics, and Professions)
4. **Environment, Science, and Culture** (Concentration in the Intersections of Humanities, Sciences, and the Natural World)
5. **Children and Culture** (Concentration in Children's Literature)
6. **Self-Designed Option** (Choose courses to build your own concentration in the major)

Advising

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Checklist for the English Literature major

Introductory courses

_____ ENGLIT 0506

Two historical period courses

_____ ENGLIT _____

_____ ENGLIT _____

Seven elective courses, at the 0500-level or above; two courses can be ENGCOMP, ENGFLM, or ENGWRT.

_____ ENGLIT/ENGCOMP/ENGFLM/ENGWRT _____

_____ ENGLIT/ENGCOMP/ENGFLM/ENGWRT _____

_____ ENGLIT/ENGCOMP/ENGFLM/ENGWRT _____

_____ ENGLIT _____

_____ ENGLIT _____ (1000-level or above)

_____ ENGLIT _____ (1000-level or above)

_____ ENGLIT _____ (1000-level or above)

Advanced courses

_____ ENGLIT 1900

_____ ENGLIT 1910

Checklist for the English Literature minor

Required courses

_____ ENGLIT 0506

Five elective courses

_____ ENGLIT (0500 level and up)

_____ ENGLIT (0500 level and up)

_____ ENGLIT (0500 level and up)

_____ ENGLIT (1000 level)

_____ ENGLIT (1000 level)

ENGLIT 1900 Project Seminar is recommended but not required.

Note: Student must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.