English

The School of Humanities

Chair
Wesley Abram Morris

Professors
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Walter Whitfield Isle
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Associate Professors
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Assistant Professors
José F. Aranda, Jr.
Betty Joseph

Lecturers
Krista Comer
Jill “Thad” Logan
Marsha Recknagel
Mary L. Tobin

Degrees Offered: B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

The undergraduate program offers opportunities for students to improve their writing skills and explore literature while learning to appreciate it critically. The graduate program in English offers concentrations in all fields of British and American literature and literary theory.

Degree Requirements for B.A. in English

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 17–19). Students majoring in English must complete 36 semester hours in English with at least 24 hours in courses at the 300 level or above. A double major requires 30 hours in English with at least 18 hours in the upper-level courses. HUMA 101 and 102 may be counted toward the English major. All English majors must take the following:

- ENGL 210 *Major British Writers: Chaucer to 1800*
- ENGL 211 *Major British Writers: 1800 to Present*
- ENGL 260 *Introduction to the Study of American Literature*
- 3 hours in upper-level courses in each of the following areas: (1) English literature before 1800, (2) English literature after 1800, and (3) American literature

The department recommends that all English majors take courses in English and American history and, if they plan to do graduate work, at least 6 hours of upper-level courses in a foreign language.
Degree Requirements for M.A. and Ph.D. in English

For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (pages 72–73). As a part of their training, graduate students participate in the research and teaching activities of the department. The eight distribution fields in both programs are medieval literature, Renaissance literature to 1600 (including Shakespeare), 17th- or 18th-century British literature, 19th-century British literature, 20th-century British literature, American literature to 1900, 20th-century American literature, and literary theory.

M.A. Program. The English Department does not have a formal M.A. program but offers the M.A. degree to those Ph.D. students who have gained official admission to candidacy and are in the process of completing their doctorate and to those Ph.D. students who decide to leave the program before completing their doctorate. Students admitted to the Ph.D. program who want to earn the M.A. degree must:

• Satisfactorily complete at least 3 semester hours at the junior or senior level in the literature of a foreign language, not in translation, either at Rice or at another accredited institution (if they have not done so already)
• Satisfactorily complete at least 24 hours of graduate work in English, exclusive of the thesis
• Satisfy distribution requirements by taking at least 1 course in 5 of the 8 distribution fields
• Complete a thesis of approximately 50 pages and defend it in an oral examination (for students already admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree, the requirement of a thesis is waived)

Ph.D. Program. To gain official admission to candidacy, Ph.D. students must satisfy the first 4 of the following requirements, and they must receive approval for their dissertation prospectus from the department’s Graduate Studies Committee. To earn a Ph.D. degree in English, candidates must complete the last 2 requirements as well.

• Satisfactorily complete at least 6 semester hours at the junior or senior level in the literature of a foreign language, not in translation, either at Rice or another accredited institution (if they have not done so already)
• Satisfactorily complete at least 48 hours of course work in English, exclusive of the thesis, including a 3-hour pedagogy course
• Satisfactorily complete at least 24 hours of course work in English, exclusive of the thesis
• Satisfy distribution requirements by taking at least 1 course in each of the 8 fields
• Pass a 6-hour written preliminary examination focusing on one of the following (in special cases the exam may be interdisciplinary in focus):
  (1) One of seven traditional literary periods (medieval, Renaissance, British literature 1660–1880, 19th-century British literature, 20th-century British literature, American literature to 1900, or 20th-century American literature)
  (2) A theoretical tradition or topic
  (3) A combination of a traditional literary period (or portion of a period) and a theoretical topic or topics (or a genre)
• Complete a dissertation that demonstrates a capacity for independent work of high quality in traditional scholarship, critical interpretation, or critical theory
• Pass an oral examination on the thesis and related fields of study

Financial Support. Within the limits of available funds, qualified students may receive graduate scholarships or fellowships for up to 4 years. To qualify for this continuing financial aid, students must be approved for candidacy for the Ph.D. by the beginning of their 7th semester at Rice (5th semester for those entering with an M.A.).

See ENGL (pages 321–338) in the Courses of Instruction section.