

# ENGLISH

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## THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

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## **COURSES**

Detailed information on current semester course offerings can be found at [www.english.rice.edu](http://www.english.rice.edu). Please note that undergraduate level courses range numerically from ENGL 100 through ENGL 499, and graduate courses begin with ENGL 500.

## **DEGREES OFFERED: BA, PHD**

The undergraduate program offers a broad spectrum of courses, including British and American literature, creative writing, women and gender studies, cultural studies, literary theory, media studies, and film. Beyond a critical appreciation of literature, students also will sharpen their written communication and analytical skills. The graduate program in English offers concentrations in all fields of British and American literature and literary theory.

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN ENGLISH**

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (Undergraduate Student section, pages 2–5). 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 200 *Seminar in Literature and Literary Analysis*
- ENGL 300 *Practices in Literary Study*
- ENGL 400 *Major Seminar*

## 2 DEPARTMENTS / English

- Nine hours at the 300 level or above in periods before 1900 A.D.; six of the nine hours must be in periods before 1800 A.D.; but only one may be a Shakespearean course
- Three hours at the 200 level or above in a course that focuses on noncanonical traditions, such as courses in women, African American, Chicano/a, Asian American, ethnic, global, and diasporic writers

The department recommends that all English majors take courses in British and American history and, if they plan to do graduate work, at least six hours of upper-level courses in a foreign language.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR PHD IN ENGLISH

For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (Graduate Student section, pages 3–4). As part of their training, graduate students participate in both the teaching and research activities of the department. Upon entering, students will be assigned a Program Advisory Committee (PAC), consisting of two or three faculty members. In consultation with their PAC, students will design their own individualized program structured by the minimal requirements listed below. For more detailed information, please ask for a copy of the department's program outline.

**PhD Program**—To gain admission to PhD candidacy, students must satisfy the first seven of the following requirements, and they must receive approval for their dissertation prospectus from the department's graduate committee. To earn a PhD in English, candidates also must complete the last two requirements. Students must:

1. Satisfactorily complete a minimum of 12 graduate courses, of which at least 10 must be graduate seminars. With the approval of the PAC, students may enroll in ENGL 621 *Directed Reading*, either as a traditional directed reading course or as a 400-level English course to which a graduate component has been added. ENGL 621 counts toward the 12 required graduate courses but does not count as a graduate seminar. Students also are encouraged to take graduate courses in other departments related to their areas of interest. These will count toward the 12-course requirement but not usually for distribution.
2. Satisfactorily complete the following two required courses: ENGL 600 *Topics in Literary Theory* and ENGL 605 *Third-Year Writing Workshop*. These count toward the 12-course requirement.
3. Satisfactorily complete the distribution requirement, which consists of two courses before 1800 and two after 1800. These count toward the 12-course requirement.
4. Satisfactorily complete the teaching requirement by serving twice as a teaching assistant, completing ENGL 510/511 *Pedagogy*, and teaching a lower-level course designed in conjunction with the instructor of ENGL 510. ENGL 510 does count toward the 12-course requirement.
5. Pass a six-hour written preliminary examination focusing on two lists of books: one representing the full range of a literary period as defined by the student and his or her preliminary committee, the other representing a second literary period, a single author, a genre traced over a period of time more comprehensive than that covered by the first list, or a particular theoretical or critical approach studied with reference to its own history and traditions, as well as to the historical field of the first exam.

6. Complete a dissertation prospectus that proposes a topic and an approach, offers a context to the topic in terms of work already done, offers an outline of chapters or sections, and includes a substantial bibliography.
7. Complete a dissertation that demonstrates a capacity for independent and original work of high quality.
8. Pass an oral exam on the dissertation and related fields of study.

**MA Degree**—The English department does have a terminal MA program, but offers the MA degree to those PhD students who have achieved candidacy and are in the process of completing the doctorate and to qualified PhD students who leave the program before completing the doctorate. To receive an MA students must:

- Satisfactorily complete at least 30 hours of graduate work in English at Rice University. Courses must be those that count towards the PhD in English. Students must satisfactorily complete ENGL 600 and distribution requirements for the PhD (see above).
- Satisfactorily complete two teaching assistantships (ENGL 601/602 and two research assistantships). These do not count toward the 30-hour requirement.

**Financial Support**—Within the limits of available funds, qualified students may receive graduate scholarships or fellowships for up to five years. To qualify for this continuing financial aid, students must be approved for candidacy for the PhD by the beginning of their ninth semester at Rice.

**See ENGL in the Courses of Instruction section.**