THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

SPRING 2027

ENGLISH COURSE BULLETIN







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SCHEDULES AND DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Statement of Purpose

This issue of The University of Akron English Department **Course Bulletin** reflects the efforts on the part of the Department faculty to enrich the Department curriculum.

In addition to courses in **Shakespeare, English literature, American literature,** and **world literature,** a wide range of writing and linguistics courses are offered for undergraduate and graduate students.

Prospective students will find upcoming courses described by the professors who will teach them. These descriptions provide the student with a clearer outline of **course content** and **requirements** than can be found in either The University of Akron's General Bulletin or the class schedule bulletin which is issued by the University.

Courses are arranged in this **Course Bulletin** in numerical order. Courses which satisfy the Shakespeare, linguistics, and world/multicultural literature requirements, as well as the minor requirements, are identified in the course descriptions.



The English faculty hopes this bulletin will be helpful to counselors and students in planning the best possible selection of **major courses** and **electives.**

Spring 2027
Tentative Course Schedule

*NEOMFA STUDENTS ONLY

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 281-001	Fiction Appreciation	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Chura
ENGL 281-003	Fiction Appreciation	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Ambrisco
ENGL 281-501	Fiction Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Rhoades
ENGL 283-002	Film Appreciation	MWF	8:35AM	9:25AM	Heldenfels
ENGL 283-003	Film Appreciation	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Heldenfels
ENGL 283-501	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
ENGL 315-001	Shakespeare: The Early Plays	TTh	12:15PM	1:30 PM	Rhoades
ENGL 341-001	American Literature I	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Miller
ENGL 362-501	World Literatures	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
ENGL 362-502	World Literatures	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
ENGL 367-501	Rhetoric of God	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
ENGL 371-501	Intro. to Linguistics	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
ENGL 377-001	Adv. Poetry Writing	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Biddinger

Spring 2027
Tentative Course Schedule

*NEOMFA STUDENTS ONLY

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 379-501	Adv. Script Writing	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
ENGL 389-001	Writing and Publishing Books	MWF	12:55 PM	1:45 PM	Miller
ENGL 457/557-001	Writers on Writing	MWF	2:00PM	2:50PM	Giffels
ENGL 478/578-501	Grammatical Struct of Mod English	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
ENGL 489/589-001	Seminar in English: Unclass: Digital Projects in the Archives	MW	2:00PM	3:15PM	Nunn
ENGL 489/589-002	Seminar in English: American Lit. Since the Civil War	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Chura
ENGL 489-003	Seminar in English: Young Adult Literature	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Rhoades
ENGL 615-501	Shakespearean Drama	Online	Online	Online	Nunn
ENGL 630-501	Literature of the 1930s	Online	Online	Online	Chura

Spring 2027
Tentative Course Schedule

*NEOMFA STUDENTS ONLY

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 689-501*	Seminar in English: MFA Internship*	Sat	10:00AM	12:30PM	Giffels
ENGL 689-801*	Seminar in English: Literature for Creative Writers*	M	5:20PM	7:50PM	Biddinger
ENGL 689-802*	Seminar in English: Craft & Theory: Creative Nonfiction*	W	5:20PM	7:50PM	Giffels

281: FICTION APPRECIATION

The purpose of this course is just as the title suggests: to read and appreciate fiction. Through immersion in short stories and novels that range from classics to recent works, we will enhance our skills of critical and cultural analysis, aesthetic appreciation, and identifying aspects of literary craft. This is a general education class that will operate like a book club, with the emphasis on group discussion.
Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Humanities" Requirement.

281-501: FICTION APPRECIATION [ONLINE]

The purpose of this course is just as the title suggests: to read and appreciate fiction. Through immersion in short stories and novels that range from classics to recent works, we will enhance our skills of critical and cultural analysis, aesthetic appreciation, and identifying aspects of literary craft. This is a general education class that will operate like a book club, with the emphasis on group discussion. This course is 100% online and asynchronous. *Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Humanities" Requirement.*

283: FILM APPRECIATION

Initiates students into the thoughtful study of film as a form of visual narrative. Our emphases will be on: 1) the crucial elements of filmmaking, 2) the process of close viewing, and 3) the power of critical analysis. Attention will be paid to a diversity of films, filmmakers, and genres. *Satisfies the Minor in Popular Literature & Film requirement. Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses “Arts” Requirement.*

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Spring 2027 Course Descriptions

283-501: FILM APPRECIATION [ONLINE]

Initiates students into the thoughtful study of film as a form of visual narrative. Emphasis will be placed on: 1) the crucial elements of filmmaking, 2) the process of close viewing, and 3) the power of critical analysis. Attention will be paid to a variety of films, filmmakers, and genres. Course is 100% online and asynchronous. *Satisfies the Minor in Popular Literature & Film requirement. Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Arts" Requirement.*

315: SHAKESPEARE: THE EARLY PLAYS

Introduction to early drama of Shakespeare with close reading of tragedies, histories, and comedies. Includes explanatory lectures of both the plays and their backgrounds. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*

341: AMERICAN LITERATURE I

Historical survey of major and minor American writers to 1865. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*

362: WORLD LITERATURES [ONLINE]

This course explores literatures of the non-western world through representative works. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Literature requirement and the World Literature requirement for Education majors. Also fulfills the Tier 3 Global Perspectives requirement for the General Education Program.*

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

367: THE RHETORIC OF GOD [ONLINE]

Examines the rhetorical attempts of poets, mystics, philosophers, saints, and sinners to represent the "unrepresentable" in language. We will read passages from American Transcendentalism, Buddhism, Christianity, the Gnostic Gospels, Greek rhetoric, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Metaphysical poetry, Taoism, and other sources to ponder whether the Divine can be captured in language. We will also consider works that question language's ability to point to, carry, or reference the transcendent. Central to our examination will be a consideration of the nature of language, the purpose of rhetoric, and the possibility of transcending the self. No background in rhetorical theory is needed. Course is 100% online and asynchronous. *Satisfies the General Education Global Perspectives requirement, the Global Studies Mindset Course requirement and Human Origins or Global Human Origins elective, and the English major World/Multicultural Literature requirement.*

371: INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS [ONLINE]

This course is an undergraduate level introductory course in the study of language and language use with a focus on the linguistic structure of the English language. It includes a wide range of topics that are considered essential for the study of human language in general as well as to the study of the English language and literature, including the structure of language and language use. Fundamental concepts in the core of linguistics, including morphology, syntax, semantics, phonetics, phonology, and pragmatics as well as in other fields of linguistics, such as sociolinguistics and/or historical linguistics, are covered in lectures and structured linguistic exercises. Students are expected to apply the linguistic knowledge and analytic tools learned in this class to analyze language as it is used in their daily and/or professional life. *This course is one of the required courses for the Undergraduate TESL Certificate and the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies.*

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

377: ADVANCED POETRY WRITING

Advanced Poetry Writing provides extensive practice in writing poetry and discussing classmate poems in a supportive, structured environment. This class will have a strong focus on revision, experimentation with new techniques, and building a body of work. We will also talk about next steps for writers, such as sending poetry out to literary magazines and reading poetry in public. The semester will culminate with students creating a chapbook of their original work. Open to students who have completed ENGL 277: Intro to Poetry Writing and others with permission (email Dr. Biddinger at poetry@uakron.edu to request). *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

378: ADVANCED SCRIPT WRITING [ONLINE]

This course focuses on writing for the screen and developing the visual imagination. We will study the craft of story concept, character development, structure, sequencing, conflict arcs, visual dramatics, and dialogue. The goal of the course is to help students develop a screenplay draft worthy of possible submission to agents, production companies, and legitimate contests. Therefore, we will also study how to: 1) write query letters, and 2) safely submit screenplays for professional/commercial consideration. Class will be a small, informal group responding to professional and student-created scripts. Course is 100% online and asynchronous. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

Students can receive permission to enroll without the Intro to Script Writing requirement. *Please contact Dr. Lance Svehla for permission @lms3@uakron.edu.*

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

389: WRITING AND PUBLISHING BOOKS

Colloquium on writing and publishing books, with emphasis on the varieties of reading experience; major market genres; major and independent publishers; working with agents and acquisitions editors; developmental editing; editorial and peer review; copyediting; design and production; marketing and publicity; distribution; author events; self-publishing; ebooks and other content modalities; contracts and intellectual property rights; the use of AI in writing and book publishing; and jobs in publishing. Lectures and class discussion will also focus on major news stories in publishing. Guest speakers will present their areas of expertise. Students do weekly writings and for the final project, write a proposal for a book they might write, in reality or hypothetically.

457/557: WRITERS ON WRITING

This is a class about the writing life, as portrayed through the work of people whose lives are about writing. Throughout the semester, we will explore essays and books by writers offering insight into the practical and philosophical nature of their work. We will discuss the features of creativity, techniques of the craft, the interaction of life and art, the present and future of literature, the publishing process, and other topics of relevance to active writers and readers. We will also practice our own creative and critical writing. Readings will include works by Anne Lamott, Stephen King, Michael Chabon, Joan Didion, and others. Graduate students will prepare and present a biography of the creative life of a writer of their choosing. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement. ENGL 557 may be counted as elective credit toward the MA.*

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
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478/578: GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES OF MODERN ENGLISH [ONLINE]

This course surveys sentence types in English and the component elements of the English sentence. The sentence will be viewed on its own but also as part of larger rhetorical units. In particular, it explores the grammatical structure and properties of modern English in the context of academic language development and beyond. Students are expected to apply the linguistic knowledge and analytic tools learned in this class to analyze content texts and to create teaching strategies for academic language instruction at various levels.

This course is required for the Undergraduate and Graduate Certificate in TESL and meets the requirements of the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies. ENGL 578 may also be counted toward the Graduate Certificate in Composition as elective credit toward the MA.

489/589 001: UNCLASS: DIGITAL PROJECTS IN THE ARCHIVES

UnClass: Signs from the Archive: Connecting with Akron's Deaf History and Culture

By the 1920s, Akron was known as "the crossroads of the Deaf," with more than 1,000 deaf community members living and working in the area. Akron's rubber companies actively recruited deaf workers around World War I, resulting in the formation of a visible "Silent Colony," with its own clubs, sports teams, and community groups.

This UnClass aims to collect and share stories of this often unseen and unacknowledged Akron subculture. Working with members of the deaf community and ASL users, we will create a space where these historical and cultural stories can be exchanged. The course aims to collect and present overlooked historical and cultural narratives to help build shared awareness and pride, in the deaf community and the general Akron population. These shared narratives will inform generations and bridge communication and cultural divides. *The ENGL 589 section may be counted as elective credit toward the MA.*

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
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Spring 2027 Course Descriptions

489/589 002: AMERICAN LITERATURE SINCE THE CIVIL WAR

In this course we'll read and discuss nine post-Civil War novels that collectively tell a story about the evolution of the American self: *Daisy Miller* by Henry James, Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin, *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton, *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, *Light in August* by William Faulkner, *Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, and James Welch's *Winter in the Blood*. *This ENGL 589 section may be counted as elective credit toward the MA.*

489 003: YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

This course is designed to explore, understand, and analyze works of literature classified and marketed as "Young Adult Literature" (YA). Examining a range of literary works in a variety of genres, we will assess the literary features of these works and address the arguments that frequently dismiss this literature as simplistic or unworthy of inclusion in the canon of literary greats. Readings, discussions, and writing assignments will invite students to analyze these works and examine their complex role in the literature of the past century. With an emphasis on diverse voices and perspectives, readings will include a range of works, including (but not limited to) classic adolescent novels such as S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* and contemporary best sellers, *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr and *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins.

615: SHAKESPEAREAN DRAMA [ONLINE]

This fully online course's purpose is to help students expand their familiarity with Shakespearean works and interpretive methods used to understand them. The class demands graduate-level engagement with the plays and scholarship while paying particular attention to the ways that Shakespeare's works are represented in the culture at large. This course offers concentrated study of several Shakespearean plays with emphasis on historical, critical and dramatic documents pertinent to the development of Shakespeare's art. *This course counts toward the Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation, the Graduate Certificate in Literature, and as elective credit toward the MA.*

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
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Spring 2027 Course Descriptions

630: LITERATURE OF THE 1930S [ONLINE]

A contextualized study of influential authors and key works of 1930s literature, focusing on both modernist and realist fiction. The syllabus includes works by Mike Gold, Langston Hughes, Grace Lumpkin, Zora Neale Hurston, Willa Cather, Arna Bontemps, Horace McCoy, James T. Farrell, Tillie Olsen, and John Steinbeck. This course is 100% online asychronous *and counts toward the Graduate Certificate in Literature, and as elective credit toward the MA.*

689: CRAFT & THEORY: CREATIVE NONFICTION

The Art of Immersion: Creative Research in Nonfiction

In this MFA Craft & Theory course, we will dive into obsession and the role it plays in generating creative nonfiction, either as a triggering inspiration or a burrowing passion. Through study and practice, we will experience immersion into research as a creative act, as vital as the writing itself. Readings will include essay, memoir, cultural appreciation, and literary journalism by Truman Capote, Leslie Jamison, Steve Almond, Sarah Smarsh, Hanif Abdurraqib, and Steven Hyden. (Author list subject to change.) Written work will include critical and creative essays. ***Registration is limited to students enrolled in the NEOMFA creative writing program.***

689: NEOMFA INTERNSHIP

The NEOMFA internship seminar is focused on developing skills, knowledge, resources, and hands-on experience for your professional and artistic life beyond the MFA. Emphasis will be on careers in writing, teaching, publishing, and arts organizations. Students will complete 120 hours in an internship position by the end of the semester. Those hours can be partially or fully completed prior to taking the seminar. An internship arrangement must be formalized before the start of the semester. If assistance is required, students should reach out to their gateway instructors/advisors or the seminar instructor for suggestions. The seminar will meet four times, once per month. ***Registration is limited to students enrolled in the NEOMFA creative writing program.***

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
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689: LITERATURE FOR CREATIVE WRITERS

This is a literature course for writers who are interested in developing a reading practice as part of their creative process. The course will have a manageable reading list of contemporary writing in poetry, fiction, and flash fiction, with a focus on how texts can inspire writers in their own work. We will also spend time discussing how creative writing pedagogy can incorporate literature when teaching at various levels and in different settings. The book list will include work by Desiree Cooper, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Richard Siken, among others. Assignments will include creative responses to readings, a review of a recent book (of the student's choosing), and a final project that blends creative and critical elements.

Lit for Creative Writers counts toward the NEOMFA literature requirement and ***is limited to students in the NEOMFA program.***

Contact for student registration emails and questions: David Giffels at dg36@uakron.edu.

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



The BA in English (330000BA)

Our course of study of literature, language, rhetoric, and creative writing fosters the development of critical thinking, skilled communication, appreciation of cultural contexts, informed citizenship, and knowledge of the various literary texts representing human thought and inquiry through the centuries.

Students majoring in English studies go on to become successful professionals in their chosen fields. Graduates have taken the department's reputation into the world outside the campus gates and hold careers ranging from positions in successful law practices, to jobs as published authors, technical writers, and journalists.

The Department of English urges all English majors to meet with the English Department Advisor at least once a year to discuss their progress toward the degree.

Please visit The University of Akron's Undergraduate Bulletin page for the English BA for the current degree requirements.

Minors in English

Minor in English (330000M)

1. 18 hours of courses in the English Department with at least 6 of those hours at the 300/400 level.



Minor in Creative Writing (330007M)

1. **Two** introductory creative writing courses (Min. 6 Credits) from:
    - ENGL 276 Introduction to Creative Nonfiction Writing
    - ENGL 277 Introduction to Poetry Writing
    - ENGL 278 Introduction to Fiction Writing
    - ENGL 279 Introduction to Script Writing

2. **At least one** advanced creative writing course (Min. 3 Credits) from:
    - ENGL 377 Advanced Poetry Writing
    - ENGL 378 Advanced Fiction Writing
    - ENGL 379 Advanced Script Writing
    - ENGL 381 Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing

3. ENGL 457 **Writers on Writing**

4. **Two additional courses** in any form of creative writing or literature from Department offerings, 300 or 400 level.

Minor in Popular Literature and Film (330009M)

1. 12 hours of courses in popular literature or film at the 300/400 level in the English Department.

2. 6 hours of courses in any literature or film topics at any level in the English Department.

NOTE: The following courses taken to fulfill specific requirements in the English major CANNOT also be used to fulfill the 18 hours requirement in this minor: ENGL 300 Critical Reading & Writing; ENGL 301 English Literature 1; ENGL 315 Shakespeare: Early Plays; ENGL 316 Shakespeare: Mature Plays; ENGL 341 American Literature 1; one course in World or Multicultural literature.

Procedure for Minors

- See the department advisor Prof. Lisa Rhoades for information and guidance. Take the required courses.

- Students must achieve an overall GPA of at least 2.0 to earn the minor.

- If a student desires a minor from the same department/school as their major, there is a college requirement for a minimum of nine (9) non-overlapping credits between the minor and the major, as well as between the minor and other minor programs in the department/school.

- Courses ENGL 110, ENGL 111, and ENGL 112 **DO NOT** count toward any minor degree requirements.

Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies (330008C)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - wz23@uakron.edu

Completion of five linguistically oriented courses is required as follows: the foundation course, two core courses and at least two elective courses. Three or more of the courses must be at the 300/400 level. (Subject to approval by the program director, other theoretically oriented linguistics courses may substitute for core courses.) To obtain the certificate, the student must have at least two semesters of a second language.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

FOUNDATION (REQUIRED)

ENGL 371 Introduction to Linguistics **OR**
ENGL 466 Linguistics and Language Arts

CORE (MINIMUM OF TWO OF THE FOLLOWING)

ENGL 470 History of the English Language
ENGL 477 Sociolinguistics
ENGL 478 Grammatical Structures of English
PHIL 481 Philosophy of Language
SLPA 230 Language Science and Acquisition **OR**
SLPA 430 Aspects of Normal Language Development

ELECTIVES (MINIMUM OF TWO OF THE FOLLOWING)

ENGL 400 Anglo Saxon
ENGL 473 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL
ANTH 101 Human Cultures
ANTH 251 Human Diversity
CPSC 430 Theory of Programming Languages
CPSC 440 Compiler Design
CPSC 460 Artificial Intelligence and Heuristics Programming
SPAN 403 Advanced Grammar
PHIL 170 Introduction to Logic
PHIL 374 Symbolic Logic
PHIL 418 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
PHIL 471 Metaphysics
POLIT 402 Politics and the Media
POLIT 403 Media, Crime and Public Opinion
COMM 325 Intercultural Communication
SLPA 101 American Sign Language I
SLPA 210 Introduction to Clinical Phonetics

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.

Undergraduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (330003C)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - wz23@uakron.edu

This program is intended for both native and non-native speakers of English who seek training in the teaching of English as a second language (ESL) and wish to obtain an initial qualification to teach ESL/EFL (English as a Foreign Language) in educational settings other than public schools in Ohio and other states or in countries outside the United States. The program is designed to introduce the student to central issues in the theory and practice of teaching English to non-native speakers through courses in modern and applied linguistics, in second language pedagogy, and in related disciplines.

Students who do not have English as a native language must demonstrate adequate proficiency in English with a valid TOEFL score of 550 (paper based)/213 (computer based)/79 (Internet based/iBT) or higher, or a valid IELTS score of 6.0 or higher.
The awarding of this certificate is not contingent upon completion of a degree program. Undergraduate certificate programs require a 2.00 grade point average.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

CORE (MINIMUM OF FOUR OF THE FOLLOWING)

ENGL 371 Introduction to Linguistics **OR**
ENGL 466 Linguistics and Language Arts
ENGL 473 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL*
ENGL 478 Grammatical Structures of English
ENGL 477 Sociolinguistics **OR**
ENGL 470 History of the English Language

ELECTIVES** (MINIMUM OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING)

ENGL 470 History of the English Language
ENGL 477 Sociolinguistics
ENGL 487 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners
SPAN 403 Advanced Grammar
EDCI 456 Scaffolding Language and Content to Second Language Learners
EDCI 485 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners
EDCI 487 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language
COMM 325 Intercultural Communication
SLPA 230 Language Science & Acquisition
SLPA 430 Aspects of Normal Language Development

*Students should have successfully completed ENGL 371 or ENGL 466 prior to taking this course.
**Choice to be decided in consultation with the program director.

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.





The 3 + 3 Juris Doctor Degree.

Earn your bachelor's and law degrees in six years instead of the usual seven!

The English major provides students with an excellent pathway to Law School. With an emphasis on critical reading skills, logical reasoning, and analytical writing, the English degree prepares students for the rigorous demands of Law School and sets them up for success on the LSAT. Working with controlled class sizes and personal attention, the English Faculty sharpen students' intellectual skills, making this the ideal undergraduate degree for future lawyers.

Available now!

For more information, please contact Prof. Lisa Rhoades at rhoades@uakron.edu .

Department of English BA/MA Combined Degree Pathway

You can earn your bachelor's and master's in less time and at a significant savings.

The Combined Degree Pathway program is a 5-year bridge program between our undergraduate B.A. degree in English and our graduate M.A. in English degrees. Selected students can complete up to 9 credits of graduate coursework during their fourth undergraduate year at the University of Akron. Students will then transition into our M.A. graduate program, pending satisfactory fulfillment of their undergraduate degree and graduate program admission requirements. Selected students have the potential to earn both an undergraduate and graduate degree from the University of Akron in 5 years.

The advantages to the accelerated program include:

- **Flexibility during graduate school.**
  Students can complete graduate classes while fulfilling undergraduate degree requirements.
- **Reduced time.**
  Students start fulfilling graduate school requirements sooner. The ADP Program engages students in graduate level courses before their peers and provides the opportunity to make connections with graduate instructors and other students in the program.
- **Cost saving.**
  Students can save tuition costs by completing up to 9 graduate credit hours at the undergraduate price. These same graduate credits will be applied to their graduate degree at The University of Akron.



Curriculum

The 5-Year Combined Degree Pathway Program curriculum includes the same coursework offered in the English undergraduate and graduate programs. Check out our handbook here.

Interested students should contact our Assistant Chair, Prof. Lisa Rhoades at rhoades@uakron.edu.



Graduate Programs in English

Admission Requirements

M.A. Program

To be accepted into the M.A. program, the English Department requires that applicants have a B.A. in English, a minor in English, or other suitable course preparation.

To qualify for admission, a student must meet the Graduate School requirement of a minimum overall GPA of 2.5-2.74 or better.

Complete the online application through the Graduate School. Applicants must request that official transcripts of undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate work, be sent to the Graduate School. The Graduate School also requires that you submit a Statement of Purpose via their online portal. Applications should be received at least six weeks prior to registration, which may occur in the fall, spring, or summer terms.

NEOMFA Program

Applicants to the NEOMFA in Creative Writing must be accepted by the Graduate School at The University of Akron or one of the other two participating universities. They must also submit three letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a writing portfolio. The portfolio will be reviewed by an admissions committee of members from all three universities. Applicants using The University of Akron as a “gateway” school for the MFA must additionally satisfy the requirements for the M.A. program listed above.

For those students admitted to the NEOMFA program, up to nine credits from previously uncompleted graduate degrees may be accepted for transfer credit. Of the nine elective credits, up to six may be from Advisor-approved courses not solely restricted to graduates.

Financial Aid
Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Graduate Teaching Assistantships in the Department of English are awarded on a competitive basis to MFA students. Applications for fall appointments will be accepted until February 1.

Students may renew twice, for a total of **three years of support.**

Along with the application form, applicants for assistantships must submit a clean copy of a writing sample in the form of a typed essay completed in a college course (5-10 pages), a letter of application, and two letters of recommendation. Scores from the Graduate Record Examination are not required. Please email all materials directly to the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Hillary Nunn, at nunn@uakron.edu.

The letter of application should address:

- why you are interested in the position
- what prepares you for the position both as far as your work history and academic preparation, and
- how your experiences and interests would contribute to the program's academic atmosphere.



The MA in English (330000MAT)

The MA in English provides students with a strong practical and theoretical grounding as they prepare to move forward into careers or into other graduate and professional schools.

Students will learn

1. advanced methods for deeper study of literatures written in English,
2. the fundamentals of Composition as a discipline, and
3. practical writing skills through courses in professional and rhetorical writing.

Courses will place texts within wider cultural and multicultural debates. Through assigned writings, students will articulate informed viewpoints on real-world issues and practice various forms of professional and critical writing, learning to interpret texts in contexts ranging from academic debate to the contemporary classroom to a variety of professional settings.

A minimum of **30 credit hours** is required.

Core classes for MA students consist of the following 18 credits at the 600-level:

ENGL 611 Argumentation and Research Writing
ENGL 673 Theories of Composition
ENGL 665 Literary Criticism **OR**
ENGL 690 Critical Approaches to Literature

One additional 600-level literature course
ENGL 689 Grant Writing **OR**
ENGL 689 Professional Writing Theory and Practice
ENGL 699 Master's Thesis/Capstone (3 credit hours)

Students must take 12 additional credit hours in English, selecting from classes listed in the Course Bulletin that are offered at either the 500 or 600-level.

Master's Thesis/Capstone

In consultation with a faculty member, students complete either a Capstone Project or a Thesis. In the Capstone Option, students complete a customized final project along with a Portfolio based on the revision and presentation of 3-6 course artifacts, at least one of which is an academic paper. In the Thesis Option, students complete a sustained, publishable 60–100-page scholarly treatment of a subject in Literature or Composition studies.

Application Deadline

Applications to the master's degree program in English are accepted on a rolling basis.

Financial Aid Information

Paying for college is a vital part of the education process! It is important to be informed of the many sources of aid available. Student loans are available to degree-seeking graduate students. Information on student loans can be found through the Office of Student Financial Aid. The Office of Student Financial Aid is located in Simmons Hall.



The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (NEOMFA) (330007MFA)

The University of Akron, Cleveland State University, and Kent State University offer jointly the MFA in Creative Writing. This degree provides students with opportunities to develop their skills in writing fiction, poetry, drama, and creative nonfiction. The MFA is the terminal degree. Through extensive practice in workshops and craft and theory courses, students will develop their creative writing abilities while also studying literature and completing a relevant internship.

Admission Requirements

Students must be accepted by the Graduate School at The University of Akron or one of the other two participating universities. Applicants must also submit three letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a writing portfolio. The portfolio will be reviewed by an admissions committee of members from all three universities.

Deadline for full-time applicants seeking funding:
January 15 (fall matriculation)

Deadlines for part-time applicants and other students not seeking funding:
November 15 (spring matriculation)
April 15 (fall matriculation)

The deadline for all assistantships in the Department of English is February 1.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete the following courses among the participating universities:

Writing Workshops	15 credits
Craft and Theory Courses	9 credits
Literature Courses	6 credits
Internship	3 credits
Thesis	6 credits
Electives	9 credits



A total of **48 credit hours** is required for the MFA in Creative Writing.

Up to nine credits from previously uncompleted graduate degrees may be accepted for transfer credit in the NEOMFA program. Email David Giffels with questions at dg36@uakron.edu. More information is available at https://neomfa.org/.

Graduate Certificate in Literature (330010GC)

Dr. Hillary Nunn, Coordinator - nunn@uakron.edu

To be eligible for the graduate certificate in literature, a person must be admitted to the University as a graduate student (with either full or provisional status). An eligible person interested in the program should contact the certificate coordinator.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Of the four required courses (12 credits), two must be core courses, ENGL 690: Critical Approaches to Literature and ENGL 615: Shakespearean Drama*; three of the four courses must be at the 600-level; and one must be in American literature.

*unless the student has passed a comparable course with a grade of B or better.

Graduate students who are not enrolled in a University of Akron graduate degree program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School. Students who are currently in a graduate program should contact the Certificate Coordinator to add certificate programs.

More information can be found at the Graduate School Website.



EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.

Graduate Certificate in Composition (330002GC)

Dr. Lance Svehla, Coordinator - lms3@uakron.edu

To be eligible for the certificate in Composition, a person must be admitted to the University as a graduate student. Graduate students who are not enrolled in a University of Akron graduate degree program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School. Students who are currently in a graduate program should contact the certificate coordinator to add certificate programs.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGL 673 Theories of Composition
ENGL 674 Research Methodologies in Composition
OR
ENGL 676 Theory and Teaching of Basic Composition

ELECTIVES*

(9 credits from the following list chosen with the certificate coodinator)

ENGL 600 Teaching Coll Comp Practicum
ENGL 610 New Directions in the Teaching of Writing
ENGL 611 Argument and Research Writing
ENGL 625 Autobiographical Writing
ENGL 650 New Rhetorics
ENGL 651 The Pragmatists
ENGL 660 Cultural Studies
ENGL 670 Modern Linguistics
ENGL 679 Scholarly Writing
ENGL 566 Linguistics and Language Arts
ENGL 570 History of the English Language
ENGL 573 Theoretical Foundations and Priciples of ESL
ENGL 574 African American English
ENGL 577 Sociolinguistics
ENGL 578 Grammatical Structures of English

*Other courses may be considered in consultation with the coordinator.

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.

Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (330003GC)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - wz23@uakron.edu

This program is intended for both native and non-native speakers of English who seek training in the teaching of English as a second language (ESL) and wish to obtain an initial qualification to teach ESL/EFL (English as a Foreign Language) in educational settings other than public schools in Ohio and other states or in countries outside the United States.

The program is designed to introduce students to central issues in the theory and practice of teaching English to non-native speakers through courses in modern and applied linguistics, in second language pedagogy, and in related disciplines.

Students who do not have English as a native language must demonstrate adequate proficiency in English with a valid TOEFL score of 550 (paper based)/213 (computer based)/79 (Internet based/iBT) or higher, or a valid IELTS score of 6.5 or higher.

The awarding of this certificate is not contingent upon completion of a degree program. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 is required. The certificate requires the completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours of course work, including 4 core courses and 1 elective course.

Graduate students who are not enrolled in a University of Akron graduate degree program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School. Students who are currently in a graduate program should contact the Certificate Coordinator to add certificate programs.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

ENGL 566 Linguistics and Language Arts
ENGL 573 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL*
ENGL 578 Grammatical Structures of English
ENGL 577 Sociolinguistics **OR**
ENGL 570 History of the English Language

ELECTIVES**

ENGL 570 History of the English Language
ENGL 577 Sociolinguistics
ENGL 587 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners
EDCI 556 Scaffolding Language and Content to Second Language Learners
EDCI 541 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners
EDCI 543 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language
SLPA 530 Aspects of Normal Language Development

*Students should have successfully completed ENGL 371 or ENGL 466 prior to taking this course.
**Choice to be decided in consultation with the program coordinator.

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.



Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation (530113GC)

Dr. Hillary Nunn, Coordinator - nunn@uakron.edu

The University of Akron's Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation offers a cohesive set of coursework for high school English teachers who wish to meet the credentialing standard for dual-credit instructors in the state of Ohio. Our online Certificate forms a foundation for the teaching of general education courses in both Composition and Literature, providing 18 hours of coursework in the discipline for those teachers who already have or are working toward master's degrees. Classes are offered through web-based instruction by experienced professors. No travel to campus is required.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Participants must have a master's degree in education or other subject area, or they must be actively enrolled in an Education Master's program, in UA's MA in English program, or the NEOMFA.

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGL 611 Argument and Research Writing
ENGL 629 Twentieth Century Literature
ENGL 610 New Directions in the Teaching of Writing
ENGL 690 Critical Approaches to Literature
ENGL 673 Theories of Composition
ENGL 615 Shakespearean Drama

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.



Student Groups

THE UPSTART CROWS

Upstart Crows is a group of graduate and undergraduate students from many majors who are interested in literature and share a common love for the written word. The Upstart Crows hosts “open mic” poetry nights, travels to see plays performed in Akron and Cleveland, and engages in a variety of other intellectual and social activities throughout the year. New members from all majors are always welcome.

Contact Dr. Hillary Nunn (nunn@uakron.edu) for more information.

Stay up to date on events! Go to our Facebook page: Upstart Crows UA

SOCIETY OF AKRON GRADUATE ENGLISH SCHOLARS (SAGES)

SAGES is a student organization open to all English graduate students that focuses on helping English graduate students develop professionally by providing members with tools to help them publish, present, and prepare for the future. SAGES also strives to promote unity among English graduate students by creating events, providing resources, and visiting places that benefit scholars.

Contact Dr. Hillary Nunn (nunn@uakron.edu) for more information.

Department Contacts

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English Department Program Codes

330000BA	English Major
330000M	Minor in English
330007M	Minor in Creative Writing
330009M	Minor in Popular Literature & Film
330000MAT	MA in English
330007MFA	Creative Writing - NEOMFA
330003C	Undergraduate Certificate in TESL
330008C	Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies
530113GC	Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation
330002GC	Graduate Certificate in Composition
330003GC	Graduate Certificate in TESL
330010GC	Graduate Certificate in Literature



Contact Us

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

https://www.uakron.edu/english/

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SOCIAL MEDIA