
Graduate Program in English

Pamela Bromberg, *Director and Professor of English*

Lowry Pei, *Chair and Professor*

David Gullette, *Professor*

Afaa Michael Weaver, *Alumnae Professor*

*Renee Bergland, *Associate Professor*

Kelly Hager, *Associate Professor*

Cathryn Mercier, *Associate Professor*

J. Douglas Perry, Jr., *Associate Professor*

**Richard Wollman, *Associate Professor*

Sheldon George, *Assistant Professor*

Jacqueline Horne, *Assistant Professor*

Rachel Ruggles, *Administrative Assistant*

**On leave academic year 2006–2007*

** *On leave spring semester 2007*

The Master of Arts

The Master of Arts in English program provides a strong foundation in English and American literature and in literary theory and analysis. The curriculum is designed to provide study to supplement and consolidate the student's undergraduate work in literature and writing and to allow some further specialization.

Admission: Admission requires a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and a superior undergraduate record. Students are admitted to the program on either a full- or part-time basis. The applicant for admission must submit an official transcript of the undergraduate record, a statement of purpose in seeking the degree, a critical writing sample, and recommendations from two former teachers. An interview is optional. Students are admitted to this program in fall, spring, and summer. Inquiries should be addressed to the program director, Department of English, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA, 02115-5898.

Degree Requirements: The program of study is individually prescribed; the student is permitted to take certain courses in subjects closely adjacent to English provided these courses are directly relevant to a coherent plan of graduate work. The MA candidate is expected to demonstrate reading knowledge in a language other than English before receiving the degree. A master's thesis is optional.

The master's degree requires the satisfactory completion of 32 semester hours. No more than eight semester hours of transfer credit for graduate study elsewhere may be allowed toward the master's degree. Each student entering the MA program is required to take ENGL 405 Contemporary Critical Theory unless he/she has had the equivalent.

The remainder of the program is elected from courses best adapted to the student's needs and interests as determined in consultation with the program director. The length of time allowed for completion of coursework and the language requirement is seven years.

Other Programs

The program offers a writing option. Appropriate courses include ENGL 402 Seminar in the Teaching of Writing, ENGL 505 Advanced Creative Writing: Non-Fiction, and ENGL 510 Advanced Poetry Workshop .

COURSES

ENGL 400 Directed Study: Graduate Level (F-1,2; S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Offers an opportunity for students to study a topic of their choosing. Requires the consent of a supervising faculty member; approval of the program director; and a brief proposal outlining the focus, purpose, and projected outcome, to be submitted to the program director during the semester prior to registration. Staff.

ENGL 402 Seminar in the Teaching of Writing (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Serves graduate students interested in the theory and practice of teaching writing at the undergraduate and secondary school level. Focuses on reading of research and texts in the field, regular writing assignments, and classroom observation and simulation. Pei.

ENGL 405 Contemporary Critical Theory (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Introduces graduate students to the concepts and practices of contemporary literary and cultural criticism. Surveys poststructuralist, psychoanalytic, Marxist, new-historicist, postcolonial, feminist, and gender theory, bringing these perspectives to bear on key literary and historical texts. (Also listed as GCS 405 and SPAN 405.) Bromberg.

ENGL/GCS 406 Feminism and Literature (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Surveys feminist approaches to literary analysis and production, examining poetry and fiction that engages with sex, gender, and sexuality, while also studying feminist literary criticism, literary history, feminist theory, gender theory, and queer theory in literary context. Bergland.

ENGL 410 History of the Book (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Covers a wide variety of topics concerned with the history and development of the book, both as a physical object and as the bearer of intellectual content. Berger.

ENGL/GCS 412 Special Topics: Theoretical Approaches to Cultural Narratives (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies a recent work in critical or cultural theory in depth and applies it to the analysis of multicultural and popular cultural narratives (to novels and stories by writers working within and outside Anglo-American tradition, to television and film series). Examples of theoretical approaches include aesthetic theory, post-colonialism, and new historicism. Hager.

[ENGL/CHL 423 19th Century American Children's Literature

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2006–2008.]

See description on page 36.

ENGL 455 Graduate Thesis (F-1,2, S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Involves a semester-long research and writing project culminating in a paper of approximately 30 pages of publishable quality under the supervision of a faculty member with expertise in the subject area. Requires permission from the program director and a proposal approved by the program director and by the thesis advisor during the semester before the course is taken. Staff.

ENGL 504 Problems in Romantic Literature: The Romantic Rebel (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Begins with Milton's *Paradise Lost*, the subtext for all Romantic rebellion, and moves to Blake, its great theorist and visual artist, then to the poetry of Wordsworth and works by women Romantic poets. Concludes with the female perspective on Romantic rebellion in the novels of the Brontë sisters and in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Bromberg.

ENGL 505 Advanced Creative Writing: Non-Fiction (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Concentrates on the writing of personal narratives and essays. Encourages structural and stylistic experimentation, imitation of models, and testing of one's limits as a writer. Requires short critical exercises to sharpen consciousness of form and technique in non-fiction. Pei.

[ENGL 506 Victorian Literature and Culture

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2006–2008.]

Surveys British poets, prose writers, and novelists from the 1840s to the turn of the century. Studies writers who may include Tennyson, Robert and Elizabeth Browning, Matthew Arnold, Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria, Darwin, Ruskin, Mill, Newman, and Carlyle. Hager.

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[ENGL 507 Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2006–2008.]

Studies the two major English women novelists of the 19th and 20th centuries in relation to their major works and current critical debates. Bromberg.

ENGL 508 The Postcolonial Novel (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies the novels of such writers as Joseph Conrad, Jean Rhys, V.S. Naipul, Nadine Gordimer, Tayeb Salih, Chinua Achebe, Buchi Emecheta, Jamaica Kincaid, and Anita Desai in the context of contemporary post-colonial theory. Bromberg.

ENGL 510 Advanced Poetry Workshop (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Serves as an advanced-level workshop for poets seeking a space in which to concentrate on their craft and participate in sophisticated discussions of poetry. Requires completion of a manuscript of 20 poems worthy of being submitted for publication as a chapbook, and an essay on poetics. Weaver, Wollman.

ENGL/CHL 511 Victorian Children's Literature (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines the wide variety of Victorian literature written for children, from fairy tales and nonsense verse to didactic fiction and classic examples of the Victorian bildungsroman. Authors studied may include Lewis Carroll, Charles Kingsley, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Dinah Mulock Craik, Christina Rossetti, Robert Louis Stevenson, Charlotte Mary Yonge, and Rudyard Kipling. Hager.

ENGL 512 Classic American Writers (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies in depth, with critical readings, the major 19th-century writers Hawthorne, Dickinson, and Melville, with attention to their contributions to the development of a distinctively American literature. Perry.

ENGL 513 Survey of Literature for Children and Young Adults (F-1-2, S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Provides a broad overview of the field of children's and young adult literature, including historical and

contemporary considerations, criticism, and representative works from major genres. Staff.

ENGL 514 The Invented Self in Modern American Fiction (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Looks at Americans as authors of themselves and creators of their own personae in the modern American novel. Examines both the literary and societal implications of such self-fabrications in works by F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Philip Roth, Jamea Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, and Toni Morrison. Perry.

[ENGL 515 Topics in Early Literature: Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and Its Milieu

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2006–2008.]

Focuses on Chaucer's masterpiece, *The Canterbury Tales*, in the context of other early literature and drama that preceded it: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *The Mystery Plays*, and *Everyman*. Wollman.

[ENGL 518 The Dramatic Imagination in America

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2006–2008.]

Focuses on 20th-century American plays by writers like Susan Glaspell, Eugene O'Neill, Clifford Odets, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Lorraine Hansberry, Edward Albee, and August Wilson. Reads plays as literature and enacts them in class—as far as possible—as theater. Weaver.

ENGL 520 American Women's Poetry (F-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Focuses on Emily Dickinson and Adrienne Rich alongside their influences and inheritors, from Anne Bradstreet to Joy Harjo. Uses frameworks of textual, intertextual, and cultural analysis within a seminar format. Bergland.

ENGL 521 Studies in Shakespeare (U-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Closely analyzes a few major plays and varied critical approaches to them. Wollman.

[ENGL 522 The Postmodern Novel

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2006–2008.]

Explores an array of postmodern fiction and film, primarily from England and the Continent.

Authors include Barnes, Kundera, Fowles, Calvino, Byatt, Atwood, and Swift. Designed for graduate students and advanced English majors. Bromberg.

ENGL 523 Special Topics in Literature (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Topic for S-1: Toni Morrison and American Literature.

This course will read most of the novels and short works of Toni Morrison, viewing them both as involved in thematic conversations with other writers of the American literary canon and as presenting critical evaluations of the racial history that Morrison believes continually haunts this canon. George.

ENGL 524 James Joyce (F-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines *Dubliners*, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, *Ulysses*, and selections from *Finnegan's Wake*. Considers Joyce's transformation from fin-de-siecle ironist to high modernist comedian, as well as a broad selection of Joyce criticism, including the French feminists who have adopted him as one of their own. Gullette.

ENGL 525 Modern Irish Literature (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Considers major works in verse, fiction, and drama by William Butler Yeats, James Joyce, John Millington Synge, Sean O'Casey, and some of the newer voices in Irish writing, such as Seamus Heaney and others, whose work has been influenced by the recent sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. Gullette.

ENGL 526 Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Literature (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies topics including Milton, magic and fantasy in the Renaissance, and literary depictions of love in the 16th century. Wollman.

ENGL 527 Race and Gender in Psychoanalytic Discourse (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Investigates psychoanalysis as a theoretical discourse that has been forced continually to rewrite itself as it rethinks and makes room for the concepts of race and gender. Focuses upon Freud, Lacan, and more recent scholars and theorists who have used race and gender to redefine psychoanalysis. George.

ENGL 530 Postcolonial Cinema (U-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Surveys post-colonial cinema with emphasis on films from Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. Focuses especially on how these films address the cultural and political issues relevant to an understanding of post-colonial identity. Weekly screenings of films and reading in post-colonial theory and film criticism. Staff.

ENGL 542 Studies in 18th Century Literature (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines the ways the poets, playwrights, journalists, and fiction writers of the period imitated, reworked, and finally rejected classical and Renaissance genres to forge new kinds of literary expression. Reading may include works by Aphra Behn, Dryden, Swift, Pope, Anne Finch, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Johnson, and Burney. Bromberg.

ENGL 598 Feminist Film Studies [F-2]

4 sem. hrs.

Looks at various cinematic traditions from the '40s to the present and examines how films implicitly and explicitly locate gender and sexuality along a continuum of the acceptable and the perverse. Includes intensive consideration of feminist film criticism and theory. Staff.

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