

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

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Website: Department of English (<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/english/>)

The Department of English offers students the opportunity to study language, literature, composition, and cultures.

Mission

The Department of English strives to provide students with opportunities to grow as learners and as individuals. Students in the English Program may, through study of literature, gain an awareness and knowledge of themselves and their contemporary world. English students may also combine their cultural interests with specific vocational objectives, such as professional writing, teaching, or pre-professional training for law, business, or medicine.

English forms the cornerstone of the humanities. In a variety of courses in literature, writing, and the English language, students find a source of personal enrichment, and they develop verbal, analytic, and cultural skills readily adaptable to a variety of careers.

English students learn to write with precision, to read and analyze texts with accuracy, to conduct research and organize a welter of materials, to speak and listen well – in short, to sharpen critical thinking and inquiry skills. These skills are highly valued by prospective employers. Most professions, while expecting new employees to be familiar with their specific fields, stress above all else the ability of their employees to read, write, think, and speak proficiently. Similarly, professional schools are interested in the student who reads, writes, thinks, and speaks well. Brochures from medical and law schools, for example, reflect an increasing awareness of the importance of an English background for future physicians and attorneys.

Academic Programs

Students in English may choose the Bachelor of Arts in English with an approved minor or may choose composite teacher certification in English, Language Arts, and Reading. Students may also opt to minor in English (with or without Secondary Education Certification), in Creative Writing, in Technical/Professional Writing, or in American Studies.

Highlights

- The English Department focuses on excellent teaching, featuring numerous Sam Houston State University Teaching Excellence Award winners.
- Faculty actively publish in national and international journals, win national literary awards, and serve as editors of scholarly journals.
- Nationally recognized writers are brought to campus each year to read their works to students and discuss the writing and publishing process. Such writers have included Richard Bausch, Alan Cheuse, George Garrett, Allison Joseph, X.J. Kennedy, Maurice Kilwein, Galway Kinnell, Alex Lemon, Larry McMurtry, Marilyn Nelson and Tim O'Brien.
- Students may publish and present their writing and enter writing contests. Numerous students have published works in regional and national journals.
- Academy of American Poets Prize - Students may compete for a poetry-writing prize judged by a nationally recognized poet.
- Students may gain professional experience as they participate in course projects to create documentation for non-profit and other community groups.
- Students enrolled in English classes may use Iris, a digital humanities creative suite offering state of the art facilities for multi-modal production.

Suggested Minors

SHSU offers a wide range of courses and areas students may use to structure a minor, and students should choose a minor to fit their individual interests and career goals. English majors may minor in Creative Writing, Professional Writing, or American Studies. Other common minors for English majors include Communication Studies, History, Mass Communication, Political Science, and Education.

Career Opportunities

When graduates leave SHSU with a degree in English, they are prepared for career opportunities or advanced study in teaching, technical and professional communication, journalism, government service, editing, scholarly and trade publishing, law, and business.

- Bachelor of Arts - Major in English (catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/english/ba-english/)
- Minor in English (catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/english/minor-english-without-secondary-certification/)
- Minor in Creative Writing (catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/english/minor-creative-writing/)

- Minor in Technical and Professional Writing (catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/english/minor-technical-professional-writing/)
- Minor in American Studies (catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/english/minor-american-studies/)
- Minor in Applied Ethics and Critical Thinking (catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/minor-applied-ethics-and-critical-thinking-minor/)
- Undergraduate Certificate in Technical Communication (catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/humanities-social-sciences/english/technical-communication-certificate/)

Student Organizations and Activities

Students in English may participate in many activities that will enrich their undergraduate experience and support the courses that they take:

- **English Club** offers a platform for SHSU students to build intellectual community and engage in meaningful acts of service to campus and local communities. English Club sponsors regular academic programs, community outreach events, and social events, all of which are open to SHSU undergraduates, regardless of major. Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Paul Child
- **Sigma Tau Delta**, the English honor society, invites junior and senior English majors and minors to become members of this prestigious national organization, with membership in the society recorded on each student's transcript. Sigma Tau Delta is an active student organization, sponsoring an annual food drive and readings throughout the school year. Applications for Sigma Tau Delta are available in the English office. Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Diane Dowdey
- **The Texas Review** is a nationally recognized literary magazine that, twice a year, publishes fiction, poetry, nonfiction prose, and reviews by writers from around the world. Texas Review Press sponsors the publication of eighteen to twenty-four books a year. Students may serve as interns while working as members of the *Review* and Press staff. Journal Editor: Nick Lantz
- **The Writer's Forum** provides opportunities for all SHSU students to publish their writing.

Internships and Study Abroad

- **Texas Review Press** - Students may serve as interns at Texas Review Press. Interns are involved in a variety of tasks, ranging from charting the development of a manuscript to evaluating submissions to the literary journal.
- **Internships** in business and industry may be available for qualified students who are working on a minor in Technical and Professional Writing.
- **National Book Foundation** internship in New York City.
- A **student exchange program** with the English Department at the University of Turku, Finland, provides students with an opportunity to study abroad for either a semester or a full year and transfer coursework toward their SHSU degree.

Scholarships

Several English scholarships are available for outstanding undergraduate students. Information on University scholarships may be obtained at Scholarship4kats (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/financial-aid/scholarships/>) or telephone 936-294-1672. You may also call the English Department Office (936-294-1403) for more information.

ENGL 0111. Tutorial for Basic Writing. 1 Hour.

This course is a one-hour writing tutorial, which focuses on basic conventions of college writing, providing instruction in the fundamentals of English grammar, mechanics, word choice, vocabulary, and spelling. The primary concerns are the word, the sentence, the paragraph, and the short theme. The goals of the course are to raise the students' level of understanding of SAE (Standard American English), support them in the ENGL 1301 in which they are simultaneously enrolled, and prepare them for ENGL 1302. Prerequisite: Score of 360-362 in writing in the Texas Success Initiative Assessment Test or Departmental Approval. Credit in this course will not be allowed to count toward graduation or computation of grade point average or classification of students by hours completed. (Course does not fulfill University degree requirements.)

Prerequisite: Score slightly below passing on the writing portion of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment Test or departmental approval.

ENGL 1301. Composition I. 3 Hours.

Students study English diction, sentence structure, and rhetoric while also focusing on developing college level writing. Students scoring 363 or higher on the Texas Success Initiative Assessment may enroll in this course without the companion course ENGL 0111.

ENGL 1302. Composition II. 3 Hours.

Students continue to build upon the topics learned in ENGL 1301 by incorporating more complex methods into their writing processes. Students prepare to write academic essays and research papers, as well as orally present material.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301.

ENGL 2332. Wrlld Lit I: Before 17 Century. 3 Hours.

Students analyze the philosophical insights and aesthetic values of classical, medieval, and renaissance masterpieces. Students write papers based on themes and concepts included in the works studied. All students may enroll. English majors must take this course.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302.

ENGL 2333. World Lit II: 17th C & After. 3 Hours.

Students read selected works of representative writers of various cultures beginning from the seventeenth century through the present. Students write papers based on themes and concepts included in the works studied. All students may enroll.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3330. Intro to Technical Writing. 3 Hours.

Students study special problems of technical literature and technical report writing. Students also design content for written communications in business, industry, and government.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3334. Literature and Film. 3 Hours.

Students evaluate the structure, imagery, characterization, and themes of novels, short stories, essays, and poems associated with those of selected motion picture films.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3336. Studies in Women's Literature. 3 Hours.

Students investigate works by women writers that span a variety of genres, nationalities, and literary periods.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3337. African-American Literature. 3 Hours.

Students explore the historical, political, and literary problems particular to African-American writers. Students also study the development of African-American identity through cultural expression in a variety of media and genres.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3338. Studies in Multicultural Lit. 3 Hours.

Students examine the themes, techniques, and literary movements from different cultures. Students may focus on more than one ethnic or national culture.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3360. Survey of American Lit To 1865. 3 Hours.

Students survey the themes, genres, and authors in American literary history from the period of exploration and settlement through the American Renaissance and the Civil War. All English majors must take this course.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, and either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333.

ENGL 3361. Survey Amer Lit From 1865-Pres. 3 Hours.

Students examine the authors, genres, and movements in American literature from 1865 to the present. Students specifically study the representative works of Realism, Naturalism, Modernism, and Post-Modernism. All English majors must take this course.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302 and either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333.

ENGL 3363. Mythology. 3 Hours.

Students investigate myths and their application to literary studies. Students in the Secondary Education certification program may take this course to fulfill the Language Arts composite.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3364. Folklore. 3 Hours.

Students study the folk motifs of various cultures throughout the world. Students in Secondary Education certification program may take this course to fulfill the Language Arts composite.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3370. Modern Drama. 3 Hours.

Students investigate the major figures in modern British, American, and Continental drama.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3371. Sociolinguistics. 3 Hours.

Students study language in its social and cultural contexts by examining linguistic diversity in relation to societal variables such as region, age, class, ethnicity, and gender. Students also study the variation in an individual speaker's language dependent on changes in setting, goals, and participants.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 and 1302.

ENGL 3372. Introduction to Linguistics. 3 Hours.

Students learn the basic foundations of English linguistics. Topics may include the sound system of English, the structure and meaning of words and sentences, language use in context, language and the brain, dialect and register variation, and the place and history of English among the languages of the world.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3373. English Grammar. 3 Hours.

Students build on their pre-existing linguistic knowledge of the English language to further analyze the infinite number of grammatical patterns that stem from a mere handful of rules. Students identify different grammatical forms and their functions, different sentence types, and transformations.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3374. Teaching Writing and Lit. 3 Hours.

Students examine the theories and practices of teaching writing and literature in secondary education. Students focus on classroom practices, definition of standards, invention, assignment design, evaluation of student writing, and approaches to teaching young adult literature.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, ENGL 3373 and ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333.

ENGL 3377. Argument and Persuasion. 3 Hours.

Students learn the art of successful argumentative and persuasive writing by surveying the history of argument, the structuring of a sound argument, and stylistics.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3378. Designing Written Documents. 3 Hours.

Students analyze major rhetorical and visual design theories in order to create professional texts that integrate effective visual and written strategies and that create complete and compelling messages across a variety of workplace genres.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302 and ENGL 3330.

ENGL 3380. Advanced Composition. 3 Hours.

Students examine the rhetorical forms and approaches to the problems of composition.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3381. Intro Creative Writing:Fiction. 3 Hours.

Students develop the techniques of writing fictional pieces such as short stories, plays, and novels.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3382. Intro Creative Writing: Poetry. 3 Hours.

Students develop the techniques of writing poems.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302 .

ENGL 3383. Practicum in Publishing. 3 Hours.

Students evaluate topics and issues related to editing and publishing. Students also work with internal or external organizations for semester-long internships.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, and either ENGL 3381 or ENGL 3382.

ENGL 3384. Early English Masterworks. 3 Hours.

Students analyze the works of major figures in British literature from the beginning to 1798. All English majors must take this course.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, and either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333.

ENGL 3385. Later English Masterworks. 3 Hours.

Students analyze the works of major figures in British literature from 1798 to the present. All English majors must take this course.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, and either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333.

ENGL 3388. Texas Crossroads. 3 Hours.

Students examine the intersections among literature, history, science, culture, and politics of the ?Crossroads? area of Texas.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3390. The Bible As Literature. 3 Hours.

Students evaluate the narrative, structures, and themes of selected books of the Old and New Testament. Students also examine Hebrew and Christian scriptures in translation, analyze various genres in the Bible, and consider the cultural and mythological context of selected passages and the literary influences made by these passages.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3391. Shakespeare: Tragedies & Hist. 3 Hours.

Students read and analyze a various number of Shakespeare?s tragedies and histories, ranging from the earliest experiments of his career, to the great history plays of the 1590s, and through the major tragedies of the early 1600s.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 3392. Shakespeare:Comedies & Romance. 3 Hours.

Students read and analyze a various number of Shakespeare?s comedies and romances, spanning from his early years, through the great festive comedies of the late 1590s, through the ?Dark Comedies? of the 1600s, to the romances of the last years of his career.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 4330. Writing in the Professions. 3 Hours.

Students further build on their foundation in technical writing by applying the methods previously learned to prepare and edit specialized documents in various professional writing situations.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, and ENGL 3330.

ENGL 4331. Comp Thry & the Tching Of Wrtg. 3 Hours.

Students study major theories of composition to learn pedagogical techniques for composition appropriate for elementary and secondary students.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4335. Studies in Rhetoric. 3 Hours.

Students investigate the methods of rhetoric. Topics may include rhetorical theory, style and stylistics, rhetorical criticism, ethical issues in rhetoric, and rhetoric literature.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302.

ENGL 4339. Teaching Lit of Diversity. 3 Hours.

Students read and evaluate literary works by women and by persons of color that are appropriate to teach in the secondary English classroom.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302, ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hrs of ENGL 3000 level.

ENGL 4340. Professional Style and Editing. 3 Hours.

Students engage in an advanced study of style and editing in the specialized conventions of technical and professional communication. Students also learn to analyze, generate, and refine technical prose.

Prerequisite: ENGL 3330.

ENGL 4360. The English Romantic Movement. 3 Hours.

Students survey the major works of the Romantic Movement in England, focusing on those of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Keats, and Shelley.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4363. Studies English Renaissance. 3 Hours.

Students read and evaluate non-dramatic literature of England written between 1500 and 1660.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4364. Mth Tch Eng in Sec Sch. 3 Hours.

Students learn and apply the techniques of selecting, organizing, and presenting English subject matter and skills to students in secondary school. All English majors and minors working toward a secondary teaching certificate must take this course.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, ENGL 3374 and ENGL 2332 or 2333.

ENGL 4365. Victorian Literature. 3 Hours.

Students examine the works of major writers of the Victorian period and examine the political, social, and economic background of the age.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4367. History of English Language. 3 Hours.

Students survey the English language and its relationship to other Indo-European languages. Students also study the changes in English sounds, morphology, syntax, and lexicon from Anglo-Saxon times to the present.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either (ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333), and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4369. Studies Sel Genres in Am Lit. 3 Hours.

Students examine major writers, themes, and/or historical movements within a selected genre in American literature. Topics may vary from semester to semester, and at any one point may include subjects such as modern poetry, the short story, the Naturalists, folklore, regional literature, nonfiction prose, or other subjects.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4370. American Regional Literature. 3 Hours.

Students read and evaluate the works of selected Southern/Southwestern writers. Students focus on artistic merit and may also examine additional material such as folklore, local color, and historical documents.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4372. American Lit: 1820'S - 1860'S. 3 Hours.

Students investigate the emergence of a distinctive American literary art and focus on writers such as Poe, Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, and Whitman.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4374. Studies In The English Novel. 3 Hours.

Students examine a variety of topics and figures prominent in the British novel.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4375. Special Problems In English. 3 Hours.

Advanced students study individual topics or problems in English. Students may only take the course by permission of the Department Chair. They also may take it for Academic Distinction credit. See, Academic Distinction Program in this catalog.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4376. Tudor And Stuart Drama. 3 Hours.

Students examine the development of the drama in England and the predecessors and contemporaries of Shakespeare.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4377. Lit-Rstoratn &18 Cen:1660-1800. 3 Hours.

Students study the drama, poetry, and prose of the long eighteenth century. Students read the works of writers such as Dryden, Swift, Pope, and Johnson within their cultural contexts.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4378. Studies In World Fiction. 3 Hours.

Students evaluate a variety of topics and figures in world fiction.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4380. Adv Creative Wrtnng: Nonfiction. 3 Hours.

Students focus on the theory and craft of creative nonfiction and emphasize learning the process of peer review of student writing in the areas of memoir, the personal essay, personal cultural criticism, and literary journalism.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and ENGL 3380.

ENGL 4381. Adv Creative Writing: Fiction. 3 Hours.

Students focus on the theory of modern and contemporary fiction and emphasize learning the process of peer review of student writing in the areas of the novel and short fiction.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and ENGL 3381.

ENGL 4382. Adv Creative Writing: Poetry. 3 Hours.

Students focus on the techniques of writing poetry and read related outside sources on poetic theory and form.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and ENGL 3382.

ENGL 4383. Development Of Drama In Amer. 3 Hours.

Students survey major movements and significant figures in American dramatic literature, reading works of writers ranging from Royall Tyler to the present.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4384. Studies In The American Novel. 3 Hours.

Students examine a variety of topics and figures in the American novel.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4385. Studies In Chaucer. 3 Hours.

Students study in depth the works of Chaucer, placing emphasis on "The Canterbury Tales" as they reflect the man and his times.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4386. Literature Of The Middle Ages. 3 Hours.

Students examine selected works of Old and Middle English literature with some continental works. Topics may include, at various times, works as early as Beowulf (ca. 8th-9th c.) to ones as late as Malory's "Morte D'Arthur" (late 15th c.).

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4387. 20th Cnt Lit-Eng,Irel,Commwth. 3 Hours.

Students study a variety of 20th-century literature by writers associated with England, Ireland, or English-speaking groups (not American) formerly colonized by the British. Students read literary works by major figures, learn of the cultural and historical forces influencing these works and writers, and develop an understanding of the main concepts and movements that distinguish this body of literature. Topics may vary from term to term.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4390. Literary Criticism And Theory. 3 Hours.

Students survey the major modes of literary criticism. Students also review the basic concepts underlying specific theories of literary criticism and their application and impact within a literary field selected by the instructor.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 hours of 3000 level ENGL.

ENGL 4394. Stdy 17th Century British Lit. 3 Hours.

Students engage a range of British literature in the seventeenth century, focusing mostly on the major authors of this period.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2342 or ENGL 2311, and ENGL 3384.

ENGL 4399. Stdy In Sel Lit Apprchs & Topc. 3 Hours.

Students focus on the works originating from a particular author, region, period, theme, genre, or critical approach. Topics vary from semester to semester.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, either ENGL 2332 or ENGL 2333, and 3 completed hours ENGL 3000-level.

Director/Chair: **Jacob Damon Blevins**

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