

# Department of English

**Tom Strawman, Chair**  
**Peck Hall 302**

The Department of English offers the Master of Arts, the Doctor of Philosophy, and a minor at the graduate level.

Materials required for application include official transcripts certifying coursework from each college or university attended, three letters of recommendation, GRE scores (English subject test optional), and a 500-word statement of purpose outlining academic interests and professional goals. Admissions decisions will be made after reviewing all materials and determining the applicant's capacity, suitability, and preparation for graduate study. Students are selected from a pool of qualified applicants. Admission to graduate study is not automatic by meeting minimum admission requirements.

## Admissions Process

Application for Summer/Fall admission must be complete by March 1. Application for Spring admission must be complete by October 1. Those seeking teaching assistantships must apply by February 1 for the following Fall semester. All application materials should be sent directly to the Graduate College, other than the assistantship application, which should be sent directly to the director of graduate studies in the English Department.

## Requirements for the Master of Arts (5000 and 6000 level)

### Thesis Option

Candidate must

1. have earned at least 30 semester hours of undergraduate English.
2. fulfill a foreign language requirement in one of the following ways:
  - a. complete 18 undergraduate semester hours of a foreign language or complete 6 semester hours of 3000-level work in a foreign language,
  - b. earn a final grade of A or B in a foreign language course numbered 5990,
  - c. pass a reading examination administered by the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department;
  - d. earn a final grade of B or better in **both** ENGL 6010 (Old English Language and Literature) and 6020 (*Beowulf*), which must be taken sequentially.

3. either
  - a. complete 30 semester hours in English, including ENGL 6640 and 6660, with no more than 30 percent of the total degree hours dually listed as undergraduate/graduate courses, or
  - b. elect a minor, in which the student takes a minimum of 12 semester hours, plus a minimum of 18 hours in English including ENGL 6640 and 6660.
4. file a degree plan with the Graduate Office prior to the completion of 21 credit hours.
5. successfully complete and defend a thesis.

### Nonthesis Option

Candidate must

1. have earned at least 30 semester hours of undergraduate English.
2. fulfill a foreign language requirement in one of the following ways:
  - a. complete 18 undergraduate semester hours of a foreign language or complete 6 semester hours of 3000-level work in a foreign language,
  - b. earn a final grade of A or B in a foreign language course numbered 5990,
  - c. pass a reading examination administered by the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department;
  - d. earn a final grade of B or better in **both** ENGL 6010 (Old English Language and Literature) and 6020 (*Beowulf*), which must be taken sequentially.
3. either
  - a. complete 36 semester hours in English, including ENGL 6660, with no more than 30 percent of the total degree hours dually listed as undergraduate/graduate courses; or
  - b. elect a minor, in which the student takes a minimum of 12 semester hours, plus a minimum of 24 hours in English, including ENGL 6660.
4. file a degree plan with the Graduate Office prior to the completion of 21 credit hours.
5. successfully complete a written comprehensive examination (examination may be taken no more than twice).

## Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy (6000 and 7000 level)

Candidates will be expected to have completed at least 30 semester hours of English at the undergraduate level. Applicants with an M.A. will be expected to have completed at least 20 hours of graduate coursework in English.

All Ph.D. candidates must have completed the following course of study:

1. **ENGL 6660/7660 Introduction to Graduate Study: Bibliography and Research** at either the M.A. or Ph.D. level.
2. Any ONE of the following: **ENGL 7350 Critics and Criticism; 7380 Modern Critical Theory; 7470 Studies in Narratology; or 7520 Essentials of Linguistics.**
3. Two courses from each of these groups (in each group one must be at the 7000 level).
  - a. **British Literature through the Renaissance.** ENGL 7010 Old English Language and Literature; 7020 *Beowulf*; 7030 Chaucer Seminar; 7040 Medieval English Literature; 7050 Studies in Early English Drama, Excluding Shakespeare: 900-1642; 7110 Spenser Seminar; 7120 Studies in Sixteenth-Century Prose and Poetry; 7130 Studies in Seventeenth-Century Prose and Poetry;

- 7140 Studies in Milton; 7150 Studies in Shakespeare. Other courses (7230 Major British Writers, 7500 Selected Topics in Literature and Language, 7620 Directed Reading and Research) when appropriate.
- b. **British Literature since the Renaissance.** ENGL 7200 Studies in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature; 7210 Studies in English Romanticism: Wordsworth and Coleridge; 7220 Studies in English Romanticism: Shelley, Byron, and Keats; 7270 Studies in Victorian Literature; 7290 Modern British Literature. Other courses (ENGL 7230 Major British Writers, 7490 Studies in the Novel, 7500 Selected Topics in Literature and Language, 7620 Directed Reading and Research) when appropriate.
  - c. **American Literature:** ENGL 7340 African American Literature; 7360 Studies in Southern Literature; 7400 American Literature to 1800; 7410 Studies in American Literature: 1800-1860; 7420 Studies in American Literature: 1860-1910; 7430 Studies in American Literature: 1910-1950; 7480 Studies in Contemporary Literature. Other courses (ENGL 7330 Major American Writers; 7490 Studies in the Novel; 7500 Selected Topics in Literature and Language; 7620 Directed Reading and Research) when appropriate.
4. **A sufficient number of electives** chosen from the above courses or any other English graduate courses to complete the required number of hours.
  5. **Language requirement:** Reading knowledge of one foreign language. (Committees may require more than one language.) The language requirement must be fulfilled in one of the following ways:
    - a. completing 18 undergraduate semester hours of a foreign language or 6 semester hours of 3000-level work in a foreign language;
    - b. earning a final grade of A or B in a foreign language course numbered 5990;
    - c. passing a reading examination administered by the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department;
    - d. meeting this requirement at the M.A. level.
    - e. earn a final grade of B or better in **both** ENGL 6010 (Old English Language and Literature) and 6020 (*Beowulf*), which must be taken sequentially.
  6. Before the completion of two semesters of coursework above the M.A. level (12 hours of 7000-level work), a student in the Ph.D. program will take a qualifying exam, comprehensive in scope. Ph.D. students must pass this exam in order to proceed in their program (the examination may be taken no more than twice).
  7. **An approved degree plan must be filed with the Graduate Office prior to the completion of 30 credit hours.**
  8. Upon the completion of coursework, students must successfully complete two written Ph.D. exams in chosen concentrations from among the following areas: Old and Middle English; Renaissance: 1500–1660, including Milton; Restoration and Eighteenth-Century British Literature; Nineteenth-Century British Literature (a. Romantic, b. Victorian); Twentieth-Century British Literature; American Literature to 1830; American Literature: 1830–1910; American Literature: 1910–present; Criticism and Critical Theory; Composition, Language, and Rhetoric; Children’s and Young Adult Literature; Popular Culture, Film, and Folklore (a. Popular Culture, b. Film, c. Folklore); Linguistics; and Anglophone Literature. An oral exam will be given upon the successful completion of each written exam.
  9. An approved Advancement to Candidacy form listing the members of the candidate’s doctoral committee must be filed with the Graduate Office upon successful completion of the written and oral preliminary examination.
  10. **Completion of dissertation** (12 hours minimum) and oral dissertation defense.

## Courses in English [ENGL]

**5510 Modern English Grammar and Usage.** Three credits. Historical development of the theory and practice of modern English grammar and usage.

**5530 History of the English Language.** Three credits. Traces the development of the English language from cuneiform writing systems and Semitic and Phoenician syllabaries through Greek and Latin contributions, Old and Middle English, and Modern English.

**5540 Approaches to Teaching ESL Grammar and Writing.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 4510/5510. A survey of the background and basic methods needed to teach English grammar and composition to students for whom English is a second language. Emphasizes understanding the problems nonnative speakers face and developing techniques for helping nonnative speakers express themselves in written English.

**6000/ 7000 Poetry Workshop.** Three credits. A rigorous writing course to develop the advanced writer’s use of point-of-view, tone, rhythm, meter, line, and stanza. Practice in both the spontaneity of composition and the deliberate, disciplined work of revision. Examination, through poems and essays by relevant authors, of the movements, forms, and possibilities of contemporary poetry.

**6010/ 7010 Old English Language and Literature.** Three credits. Prerequisite for ENGL 6020/7020, *Beowulf*. Introduction to Old English language (grammar, phonology, syntax, and vocabulary) and literature (poetry and prose) and to the historical and cultural background of the Anglo-Saxon period.

**6020/ 7020 Beowulf.** Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 6010/7010. Intensive line-by-line study of *Beowulf* in Old English, with special emphasis on its sources and analogues, twentieth-century criticism, and current dating studies of the poem.

**6030/ 7030 Chaucer Seminar.** Three credits.

**6040/ 7040 Medieval English Literature.** Three credits. A study of Middle English literary types (in poetry, prose, and drama) and of the major authors and texts of the Middle English period. Includes study of Middle English dialects.

**6050/ 7050 Studies in Early English Drama, Excluding Shakespeare: 900-1642.** Three credits. The origin and development of English drama, emphasizing Elizabethan and Jacobean drama and the contributions of Shakespeare’s contemporaries and successors.

**6110/ 7110 Spenser Seminar.** Three credits.

**6120/ 7120 Studies in Sixteenth-Century English Prose and Poetry.** Three credits.

**6130/ 7130 Studies in Seventeenth-Century English Prose and Poetry.** Three credits. Selected nondramatic literature of the century, with primary emphasis on the seventeenth century before the Restoration. Included are Donne, Herbert, and the metaphysical poets and Jonson and the Cavalier poets.

- 6140/ 7140 Studies in Milton.** Three credits. The major poetry of John Milton, including *Lycidas*, *Paradise Lost*, *Samson Agonistes*, and *Paradise Regained*.
- 6150/ 7150 Studies in Shakespeare.** Three credits. Shakespeare's poems and plays, emphasizing poetic and dramatic techniques in Shakespeare's works and critical reaction to those works.
- 6200/ 7200 Studies in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature.** Three credits. Designed to give students a definite critical knowledge of the major literary works of Restoration and eighteenth-century England, 1660-1800. Course may focus on either drama, poetry, or prose or a combination.
- 6210/ 7210 Studies in English Romanticism: Wordsworth and Coleridge.** Three credits.
- 6220/ 7220 Studies in English Romanticism: Shelley, Byron, and Keats.** Three credits.
- 6230/ 7230 Major British Writers.** Three credits. An in-depth study of one, two, or three British writers. Course varies according to interests of instructor and students.
- 6270/ 7270 Studies in Victorian Literature.** Three credits. Intellectual backgrounds of the Victorian period; major prose writers: Macaulay, Carlyle, Newman, Mill, Ruskin, Arnold, Pater; major poets: Tennyson, Browning, Arnold.
- 6290/ 7290 Modern British Literature.** Three credits. Intellectual backgrounds of modern British literature; major novelists: Forster, Woolf, Joyce, Lawrence; major poets: Yeats, Eliot, Auden, Thomas; selected minor writers.
- 6300/ 7300 History of Children's Literature.** Three credits. History of British and American literature for children and analysis of issues in the field.
- 6305/ 7305 Special Topics in Children's/Adolescent Literature.** Three credits. Selected genre, period, ethnicity, tradition, or literary focus on children's and/or young adult literature. Subject will vary with instructor.
- 6310/ 7310 Popular Culture Studies.** Three credits. Major trends and significant debates in the development of popular culture theory and criticism.
- 6320/ 7320 Postcolonial Literature and Theory.** Three credits. Introduces postcolonial studies through an exploration of seminal literary and critical writings in the field. Primary focus on the critical thought and discursive practices that define postcolonial discourse and their application to literature that engages issues of colonialism, its aftermath, and other forms of imperialism.
- 6330/ 7330 Major American Writers.** Three credits. An in-depth study of two or three American writers. Course varies according to interests of instructor and students.
- 6340/ 7340 African American Literature.** Three credits. An in-depth study of the African American literary tradition with emphasis on significant authors, genres, texts, and contexts.
- 6350/ 7350 Critics and Criticism.** Three credits. Examines significant critical movements in Western literature from classical times into the twentieth century. Focusing on major critics such as Aristotle, Johnson, Coleridge, and Eliot, the course also treats less influential figures and considers practical applications of theory to specific texts.
- 6360/ 7360 Studies in Southern Literature.** Three credits. Themes, theories, movements, and types of literature produced in the American South with particular emphasis on selected authors and texts.
- 6370/ 7370 Satire.** Three credits. Satire as a distinct genre, emphasizing its continuity in Western literature from its roots among the Greeks to its resurgence in the twentieth century; representative works from four periods: ancient, medieval and Renaissance, eighteenth century, and modern; prose, poetry, and drama.
- 6380/ 7380 Modern Critical Theory.** Three credits. Covers major critical trends in literary theory since 1965, including feminist, Marxist, structuralist, and deconstructive approaches to literature. Students explore background and implications of these theories and analyze selected works of literature in light of these approaches.
- 6390/ 7390 Reading Postmodernism.** Three credits. Theoretical discourse which works to define the cultural mindset known as "postmodernism." Theories examined will be applied to examples of postmodern literature, film, and/or television. Topics emphasized include the instability of social and cultural categories, the dissolving boundaries between "high" and "low" culture and art, and the subversion of realist narrative strategies.
- 6400/ 7400 American Literature to 1800.** Three credits.
- 6410/ 7410 Studies in American Literature: 1800–1860.** Three credits.
- 6420/ 7420 Studies in American Literature: 1860–1910.** Three credits.
- 6430/ 7430 Studies in American Literature: 1910–1950.** Three credits.
- 6440/ 7440 Popular Literature of the Twentieth Century.** Three credits. The forms of literature reflecting the mass culture of America from 1900 to the present, including such genres as the mystery, the western, science fiction and fantasy, popular humor, comic strips, popular poetry, song lyrics, and the aesthetics of nonprint media.
- 6450/ 7450 Contemporary Women's Literature.** Three credits. Study of recent women writers with emphasis on the relationship between



literature and the social and political status of women. Addresses diverse writers and issues of difference among women, including race, class, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, and other determinants of individual and group identity.

- 6460/ 7460 Studies in Contemporary Drama.** Three credits. The development of world drama from 1950 to the present with attention to related criticism and theory.
- 6470/ 7470 Studies in Narratology.** Three credits. Examines modern and contemporary theories of narrative (modernist, rhetorical structuralist, dialogical) with particular application to selected authors and texts.
- 6480/ 7480 Studies in Contemporary Literature.** Three credits. Intellectual backgrounds of contemporary literature; significant developments in fiction, nonfictional prose, poetry, and drama.
- 6490/ 7490 Studies in the Novel.** Three credits. The novel as a literary genre may be approached from a variety of perspectives, including generic, historical, theoretical, or single-author approaches. Course varies according to interests of instructor and students.
- 6500/ 7500 Selected Topics in Literature and Language.** Three credits. A specialized field of literary or linguistic inquiry, its bibliography, critical problems, and probable solutions. Topics vary with the professor assigned to the course.
- 6505/ 7505 History of Rhetoric: Classical to Renaissance.** Three credits. An examination of the major theorists and themes, including literary and pedagogical implications, from the ancient period to the Renaissance.
- 6510/ 7510 Modern Rhetoric and Prose Style.** Three credits. An examination of major theorists and themes, including literary and pedagogical implications, from early modern period to the present.
- 6520/ 7520 Essentials of Linguistics.** Three credits. Major linguistic approaches to the study of language-dominant trends and current issues in linguistics; the phonological, morphological, and syntactic structure of the English language.
- 6530/ 7530 Studies in Composition and Rhetoric.** Three credits. An introduction to the intellectual foundations of composition studies focusing on influential theories as well as the field's intellectual and disciplinary history.
- 6535/ 7535 Special Topics in Composition and Rhetoric.** Three credits. Intensive examination of themes, periods, figures, and texts in composition and/or rhetoric. Subject will vary with instructor.
- 6540/ 7540 Middle Tennessee Writing Project (MTWP) Summer Institute.** Three credits. Reserved for invited participants in the Middle Tennessee Writing Project. Acquaints students with composition and pedagogical theories, practices for the teaching of writing, methods of research and presentation, development of writing resources including grant writing, various genres of writing and writing response, and publishing.
- 6550/ 7550 Writing Center Theory.** Three credits. Examines the theoretical and practical components of writing center work, including collaborative, composition, learning, writing center, and postmodern theories. Open to all graduate students; required for all University Writing Center assistants.
- 6560/ 7560 Seminar in Teaching Composition.** Three credits. Open only to first-year teaching assistants or with consent of instructor.
- 6570/ 7570 Practicum in Composition Methodology.** Three credits. In-depth study of how composition theory and research inform methodology. Topics covered vary according to interests of instructor and students.
- 6580/ 7580 Computers and Writing.** Three credits. Practical and theoretical implications of computer technology and of the Internet and World Wide Web for the teaching of writing.
- 6590/ 7590 Seminar in Teaching of Literature.** Three credits. Recommended for second-year teaching assistants and others interested in teaching literature.
- 6620/ 7620 Directed Reading and Research.** Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of the director of graduate studies. Individually supervised reading and research either in a historical period of English or American literature or in a major literary genre.
- 6630 Directed Creative Writing.** Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of the director of graduate studies in English. Individually supervised writing project in fiction, poetry writing, playwriting, or creative nonfiction.
- 6640 Thesis Research.** One to six credits. Selection of a research problem, review of pertinent literature, collection and analysis of data, and composition of thesis. Once enrolled, student should register for at least one credit hour of master's research each semester until completion. S/U grading.
- 6650/ 7650 Special Topics in Popular Culture Studies.** Three credits. A theme, genre, period, text, or artist in one or more popular cultural media. Subject will vary each time the course is taught.
- 6660/ 7660 Introduction to Graduate Study: Bibliography and Research.** Three credits. Literary scholarship: its nature and scope; traditional and modern methods; the definition and solution of research problems; the production of literary scholarship. Required of all master's students enrolling in English.
- 6700/ 7700 Studies in Folklore.** Three credits. Study of folklore with focus on the history of the discipline.
- 6710/ 7710 Special Topics in Folklore.** Three credits. Selected area of folklore: folk narrative, folklore and literature, folk song, folk religion, proverb, or folklore of a particular group.
- 6750/ 7750 Film Studies.** Three credits. Covers such topics as the film text, adaptation, narratology, genres, ideology, authorship, theory, history, schools, movements, national cinemas, and film audiences.
- 6760/ 7760 Special Topics in Film Studies.** Three credits. Examines a theme, genre, director, period, school or movement, national cinema, etc. Subject will vary each time course is taught.
- 6999 Comprehensive Examination and Preparation.** One credit. Open only to students who are not enrolled in any other graduate course and who will take the master's comprehensive examination during the term. The student must contact the graduate advisor during the first two weeks of the term for specifics regarding the details of this comprehensive examination preparatory course. Credit may not be applied to degree requirements.
- 7600/ 7610 Internship.** Three credits each.
- 7640 Dissertation Research.** One to six credits. Selection of a research problem, review of pertinent literature, collection and analysis of data, and composition of dissertation. Once enrolled, student should register for at least one credit hour of doctoral research each semester until completion. S/U grading.