English (ENG)

Course information contained within the Bulletin is accurate at the time of publication in June 2025 but is subject to change. For the most up-to-date course information, please refer to the Course Catalog.

ENG 5001. Introduction to Graduate Study in English. 3 Credit Hours.

This course offers practice in a variety of written genres vital to professional life in higher education: the abstract, the proposal, the conference paper, the review, and the writing sample. It also requires students to learn (and intervene in) at least one critical debate. The course is designed to help professionalize graduate students who wish to pursue an academic job by teaching the tools and methods of literary scholarship, including library/database skills, archival research, historical research, critical theory, and textual editing. However, as a history and study of the profession, it should also be helpful to those wishing to learn how institutions of higher education operate and better understand the stakes and stakeholders who are committed to continuing humanities education. In addition to the writing assignments already mentioned, students will be asked to complete several shorter assignments, including an archive report, an institution report, interviews, and an annotated bibliography.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ENG 5011. Early British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Topical readings that emphasize pre-Renaissance literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5012. Early American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Topical readings that emphasize American literature and criticism prior to 1800. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5014. 16th and 17th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Topical readings that emphasize Renaissance and/or Restoration literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5016. 18th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

This course surveys major literary figures and representative literary forms of the 18th Century. We will consider literature's relation to political, social, and cultural developments.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5018. 19th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Topical readings that emphasize Romantic and/or Victorian literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5021. 19th Century American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Topical readings that emphasize nineteenth-century American literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5022. 20th and 21st Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Topical readings that emphasize British literature and criticism since about 1900. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5024. 20th and 21st Century American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Topical readings that emphasize American literature and criticism since about 1900. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

ENG 5026. Anglophone Literatures. 3 Credit Hours.

Topical readings that emphasize writing in English from African, Australia, the Caribbean, India, and other places besides Britain and America. Readings may include material from any time period. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5028. Literatures in Translation. 3 Credit Hours.

Introductory readings that emphasize world literature and criticism from any time period. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5031. Translation Study. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to the theory and practice of translation.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5032. Book History. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to the theory and practice of book history.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5100. Topics - Literary Genres. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to the characteristics and problems of genre. Readings may emphasize poetry, non-fiction prose, the novel, drama, biography, autobiography, or other topics related to genre. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5200. Topics - Literature and Culture. 3 Credit Hours.

Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5292. Writing the M.A. Qualifying Paper and Writing for Publication. 3 Credit Hours.

This class is designed to help you revise a seminar paper into the Qualifying Paper required by our program to obtain the M.A. The Qualifying Paper normally develops out of work done in a graduate course and is written in the final semester under the guidance of a graduate faculty mentor, who must also approve the essay for submission. The Qualifying Paper demonstrates the student's ability to write coherently, clearly, and at length (6,000-8,000 words) on a literary subject, incorporating relevant secondary research and entering into a critical dialogue on the chosen subject. The course is also open to other students looking to improve their revision skills; you will pick a seminar paper you would like to revise into an article for an academic journal. Our goal, whether you are submitting a Qualifying Paper or not, is to revise with the model of the academic journal article in mind. If you are submitting your Qualifying Paper, by the time you begin this class you should have identified the paper in question and secured the approval of the faculty member sponsoring the paper. If you are looking to revise for another purpose, you should have identified the essay you wish to revise and have secured the support of a faculty member who will sponsor you.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for a total of 6 credit.

ENG 5300. Topics - Cinema and Media Arts. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to cinema and media history and theory. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5301. Methods in Cinema and Media Studies. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to ways of reading, writing on, and teaching film. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5401. Introduction to Digital Text Methods. 3 Credit Hours.

This course introduces students to the technical and theoretical aspects of working with digital texts. Classes will consider the conceptual differences between digital and print forms of textuality, the relationship between methods of quantitative computational analysis and the discipline's historic focus on qualitative analysis, the logic of specific analytical tools, the history of computer-assisted textual analysis, and other theoretical problems inherent in thinking about digital texts. Typical topics may also include current text encoding methods, such as TEI; current textual data formatting for digital editions using XML; textual transformations, using XSLT or other programming languages; and specific computational methods of textual analysis, such as topic modeling, network analysis, and stylometry.

ENG 5500. Topics - Critical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.

Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5501. History of Critical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to critical schools from classical antiquity to the present.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5502. Current Directions in Critical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to recent and/or contemporary critical theory.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5600. Special Topics in Creative Writing. 3 Credit Hours.

A required course for MFA creative writing students. Special Topics in Creative Writing has both critical and creative writing components. The topic varies from year to year.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5601. Poetry Workshop. 3 Credit Hours.

Open only to students in the Creative Writing MFA program. Intensive discussion of student poetry and the work of established poets whose concerns are related to those of the students. Frequent individual conferences.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5602. Fiction Workshop. 3 Credit Hours.

Open only to students in the Creative Writing MFA program. Intensive discussion of student fiction and he work of established fiction writers whose concerns are related to those of the students. Frequent individual conferences.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5603. Craft in Creative Writing. 3 Credit Hours.

Focuses on craft elements of fiction or poetry. Content varies according to instructor and genre. Required course for M.F.A. candidates.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5701. Composition Research Methods. 3 Credit Hours.

An overview of current work in rhetoric and composition, and concentrated study in such areas as history of rhetoric, analyzing student texts, and evaluation.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5702. Historical Studies in Language and Rhetoric. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to historical study in language and/or rhetoric from classical antiquity to the present.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5710. Topics - Literacy and Language. 3 Credit Hours.

Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 5720. Topics - Rhetoric and Composition. 3 Credit Hours.

Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

ENG 5811. Creative Nonfiction, 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to the study and practice of creative nonfiction in its various forms, including memoir, narrative journalism, arts and cultural criticism, and hybrid works. Students will read widely across the genre and respond critically to published texts, while also producing their own creative works and offering feedback on the work of their classmates. Students will discuss issues of craft - voice, style, structure, argument, etc. - but also the larger ethical and political questions raised by works in the genre. What should the relationship be, for instance, between creative nonfiction and various notions of truth? And how does the still-emerging genre of creative nonfiction define itself both within and against other established artistic forms? A final portfolio will be a mix of creative and critical work, developed and significantly revised over the semester.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ENG 5821. Literary Editing and Publishing. 3 Credit Hours.

Students in this course will gain practical, hands-on editorial experience by collaborating to produce a literary publication. The specific publication project will vary from semester to semester, depending on the instructor and the availability of partner presses/publications, but may include: editing a special issue of an existing literary journal; editing a literary anthology for an established small press; managing the design and production process for a single-author book or chapbook; reading submissions and making editorial decisions for a literary contest. In addition to this central project, the class will be engaged in a study of the contemporary landscape for literary publishing. Students will read and write about literary journals and small presses, learning about the various communities these publications serve and how they work to connect writers and readers.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ENG 8101. Advanced Study - Early English Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in pre-Renaissance literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8102. Advanced Study - Early American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in American literature and criticism prior to 1800. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8104. Advanced Study - 16th and 17th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in Renaissance and/or Restoration literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8106. Advanced Study - 18th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in Restoration and/or eighteenth-century British literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8108. Advanced Study - 19th Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in Romantic and/or Victorian literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8109. Advanced Study - 19th Century American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in nineteenth-century American literature and criticism. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8202. Advanced Study - 20th and 21st Century British Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in British literature and criticism since about 1900. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

ENG 8204. Advanced Study - 20th and 21st Century American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in American literature and criticism since about 1900. Readings may include material from other periods as well. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8205. Advanced Study - Anglophone Literature. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in writing in English from African, Australia, the Caribbean, India, and other places besides Britain and America. Readings may include material from any time period. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8301. Advanced Study in Translation. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in the theory and practice of translation.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8302. Advanced Study in Book History. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in the theory and practice of book history.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8304. Advanced Study in Genre. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in genre. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8402. Advanced Study in Cinema and Media. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in cinema and media history, criticism, and theory. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8501. Advanced Study in Critical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in critical theory. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8704. Advanced Study in Literacy and Language. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in literacy and language. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8706. Advanced Study in Rhetoric and Composition. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in rhetoric and composition. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8900. Advanced Study in Literature and Culture. 3 Credit Hours.

Advanced study of topics in literary and cultural studies. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 8901. Preliminary Exam Workshop. 3 Credit Hours.

In this workshop, doctoral students prepare for their preliminary exams by developing their reading lists and their rationales and by meeting with the instructor and fellow students to discuss the most productive ways to approach these tasks and to make their way through their lists.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ENG 8904. TU/Penn Exchange Poetics. 3 Credit Hours.

One student a year is permitted to register for one course in poetics at the University of Pennsylvania. Any student admitted to the graduate program in English can apply to participate in the exchange program.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ENG 8985. Teaching in Higher Education: Writing. 3 Credit Hours.

An introduction to the theory and practice of writing instruction.

ENG 9082. Independent Study. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

Independent study. By arrangement.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9083. Master's Manuscript Tutorial. 3 Credit Hours.

For Creative Writing majors. A tutorial in which the creative manuscript required for graduation is developed. Related readings. Weekly conferences. Two semesters are required.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9089. Rome Seminar in Art and Culture. 6 Credit Hours.

For advanced undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students in fields such as literature, film studies, philosophy, art, and social theory. Graduate credit available. Summer session I.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9100. Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies. 3 Credit Hours.

Intensive reading and study of literary and cultural studies in a small class setting. Content varies. May be repeated for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9200. Seminar in Cinema and Media Studies. 3 Credit Hours.

A seminar devoted to an exploration of a topic in media studies, such as a film or television genre, a national cinema, the work of a particular director or a critical and theoretical issue of current debate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9300. Seminar in Critical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.

Intensive reading and study of critical theory in a small class setting. Content varies. Can be taken for more than one credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9400. Seminar in Rhetoric and Composition. 3 Credit Hours.

Intensive reading and study of rhetorical and/or composition in a small class setting. Content varies. Can be taken more than once for credit.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9994. Preliminary Examination Preparation. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

Advanced seminar for doctoral candidates.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9995. Master's Project. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

Creative thesis for M.F.A. candidates. Required for graduation.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9996. Master's Essay. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

For doctoral candidates who select the M.A. option.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9998. Pre-Dissertation Research. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

Registration required each semester after Preliminary Examinations while researching the dissertation proposal.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

ENG 9999. Dissertation Research. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

Dissertation research seminar for doctoral candidates.