Faculty

Jeannie Byrd (1995). Visiting Instructor of English. B.A., Union University; M.A., University of Mississippi; Additional study, Middle Tennessee State University.

Patricia L. Hamilton (2001). Assistant Professor of English. B.A., Biola University’ M.A., California State University, Fullerton; Ph.D., University of Georgia.


Barbara Childers McMillin (1992). Associate Professor of English and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. A.A., Northeast Mississippi Community College; B.A., Union University; M.A. and D.A., University of Mississippi. Additional study, Harvard University.

Gavin Richardson (1998). Assistant Professor of English. B.A., Vanderbilt University; M.A. and Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign.

Bobby Rogers (1989). Associate Professor of English. B.A., University of Tennessee at Knoxville; M.F.A., University of Virginia.

Roger S. Stanley (1990). Assistant Professor of English. B.A., Appalachian State University; M.A., East Tennessee State University; Additional study, University of Mississippi.


Student Related Goals

The Department of English promotes an understanding of literary traditions, teaches students to think analytically and to write effectively, and fosters human awareness through course offerings in composition and literature.

Department Goals

- To provide student-centered attention which facilitates effective communication.
- To offer courses in composition which require analytical reading, thinking, and writing.
- To offer courses that explore and analyze multicultural literature to broaden world views.
- To offer a range of English courses emphasizing genres, periods, major writers, history and structure of the language, composition, research, and critical analysis.

Assessment of Majors

Majors are required to take English 498, Seminar, a study of selected topics or writers of world literature, to help the student to integrate and evaluate material in areas not thoroughly covered by course work and to teach the student critical approaches and methods of research. The student will write a paper and defend the paper in a public forum open to questions.

I. English Major Requirements, Literature Concentration—30 hours above sophomore level

A. Required courses: ENG 318, 410, 421, 498.
B. Select one Advanced British: ENG 330, 331, 332, 333.
C. Select one Advanced American: ENG 334, 335.
D. Select two Major Writers: ENG 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435.
E. Select two Genre courses: ENG 305, 310, 320, 336, 337.

II. English Major Requirements, Writing Concentration—30 hours above sophomore level
A. Required courses: ENG 312, 318, 410, 421, 425, 426, 498.
B. Select two Genre Courses: ENG 305, 310, 320, 336, 337.
C. Select one ENG elective course.

III. Teacher Licensure for English (Grades 7-12)
A. Major requirements as shown above for either concentration.
B. Professional Education: EDU 150, 250, 326, 420, 433; PSY 213, 318; SE 225.
C. The student must earn a 3.0 major GPA.
D. Completion of applicable portions of the Praxis II.
E. For additional information, see the Director of Teacher Education.

IV. English Minor Requirements—15 English hours above the sophomore level.

Student Organization

Sigma Tau Delta, a national English Honor Society, recognizes students who have realized accomplishments in the English language and literature. The motto is “Sincerity, Truth, Design.” Union University’s chapter was organized in 1979. Officially declared English majors/minors who have completed at least 36 semester hours of college study, with 6 hours in literature, meet the minimum eligibility requirements. Furthermore, the student must have at least a 3.0 GPA in English Department courses for membership.

Student Awards

The Academic Excellence Medal is awarded to the graduating senior with the highest average in the major provided the average is not less than 3.5. Before Awards Day, the student must have completed at least 15 credit hours in the major at Union University, exclusive of pass/fail courses. If no major is eligible, the medal will be given to the minor meeting the minimum requirements.

The Helen Blythe Creative Writing Award is given to the graduating senior who is deemed by the English Department faculty to be the best creative writer.

The Mrs. Warner Earle Fusselle Scholarship is given to a graduating senior with a 3.5 average in English. The recipient of this award is selected by the English Department faculty.

General Regulations

Students are required to complete the core curriculum requirements in composition and literature before enrolling in an upper-level English course.

Course Offerings in English (ENG)
( )-Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

111. Written Composition I (3) F, S, Su
This course includes a study of the principles of grammar, usage, and rhetoric, emphasizing the writing of clear, effective exposition.

112. Written Composition II (3) F, W, S
Prerequisite: ENG 111.
This course includes library orientation and instruction in research methods. Students will write critical themes and a research paper.
201. World Literature I (3) F, W, S, Su
Prerequisites: ENG 111, 112.
A study of selected world writers beginning with the Greeks and continuing through the seventeenth century.

202. World Literature II (3) F, W, S, Su
Prerequisites: ENG 111, 112.
A study of selected world writers from the eighteenth century through the twentieth century.

Completion of ENG 111, 112, 201 and 202 is prerequisite to all the following courses.

305. Drama (3) Every Third Year*
Reciprocal credit: COM 305.
Representative dramas selected from literary, historic, or thematic types. Includes such writers as Ibsen, Chekhov, Shaw, Brecht, O’Neill, Ionesco, and Soyinka.

310. Poetry (3) Every Third Year*
A study of representative poetry selected from literary, historic, or thematic types. Includes the works of such writers as Sappho, Catullus, Petrarch, Goethe, Pushkin, Eliot, and Frost.

312. Creative Writing (3) F, S
Reciprocal credit: COM 312.
Emphasis is placed on the production of original writings, particularly in the genres of poetry, short story, drama, and essay.

318. Advanced Composition (3) S; W as needed
Reciprocal credit: COM 318.
Techniques of writing effective expository, argumentative, descriptive, and narrative nonfiction prose.

320. The Short Story (3) Every Third Year*; W and Su As Needed
A study of representative short stories selected from literary, historic, or thematic types. Includes such writers as Maupassant, Chekhov, Poe, Joyce, Lawrence, Hurston, O’Connor, Gordimer, Mahfouz, and Garcia Marquez.

330. Advanced British I (3) Every Third Year*
A study of literature from the Early, Medieval, and Elizabethan Periods.

331. Advanced British II (3) Every Third Year*
A study of literature from the Puritan Era and the Neoclassic Period.

332. Advanced British III (3) Every Third Year*
A study of literature from the Romantic and Victorian Periods.

333. Advanced British IV (3) Every Third Year*
A study of literature from the Modern and Post-Modern Periods.

334. Advanced American I (3) Every Third Year*
A study of literature from the Colonial, Early National, and Romantic Periods.

335. Advanced American II (3) Every Third Year*
A study of literature from the Realistic Period through PostModernism.

336. The Epic (3) Every Third Year*
Comparative study of oral/formuliac tales from around the world which have been recorded, and of the literate creations intended to imitate those tales in some traditions.
Includes such authors and works as Gilgamesh, Homeric epics, Virgil, Icelandic saga, Ariosto, Milton, the Ramayana, the Mwindo Epic, and Amos Tutuola.

337. The Novel (3) Every Third Year*
A study of representative novels selected from literary, historic, or thematic types. Includes such writers as Cervantes, Balzac, Dostoevsky, Hawthorne, Joyce, Faulkner, Soseki, and Achebe.

410. Representative Plays of Shakespeare (3) F
An in-depth study of approximately twelve selected comedies, tragedies, and histories of Shakespeare, with an emphasis on the Elizabethan Age.

421. History and Structure of the English Language (3) S
The course traces the development of the English language from its roots. In addition to the history and structure of English, it includes a study of etymology, usage, linguistics, and semantics.

425. Fiction Writing (3) F
Prerequisite: ENG 312.
A writing workshop in which advanced techniques of fiction writing are practiced, culminating in a manuscript of original work.

426. Poetry Writing (3) S
Prerequisite: ENG 312.
A writing workshop in which advanced techniques of poetry writing are practiced, culminating in a manuscript of original work.

430. Classical Antiquity (3) Every Third Year*
A close literary and historical analysis of one or more such authors as Homer, Plato, Thucydides, Sophocles, Virgil, and Horace.

431. The Middle Ages (3) Every Third Year*
A close literary and historical analysis of one or more such authors as Chaucer, Malory, Marie de France, Boccaccio, Petrarch, and Dante.

432. The Renaissance (3) Every Third Year*
A close literary and historical analysis of one or more such authors as Marlowe, Milton, Rabelais, Machiavelli, Calderon, and Cervantes.

433. Romanticism (3) Every Third Year*
A close literary and historical analysis of one or more such authors as Goethe, Rousseau, Hugo, Wordsworth, Pushkin, Hawthorne, and Melville.

434. Realism (3) Every Third Year*
A close literary and historical analysis of one or more such authors as Flaubert, Zola, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Ibsen, and Hardy.

435. Modernism/PostModernism (3) Every Third Year*
A close literary and historical analysis of one or more such authors as Joyce, Eliot, Woolf, Sartre, Ionesco, Pirandello, Unamuno, Garcia Marquez, and Borges.

498. Seminar (3) F
A study of selected topics or writers of world literature to help the student integrate and evaluate material in areas not thoroughly covered by course work and to teach the student critical approaches and methods of research. The student will write a paper and defend the paper in a public forum open to questions.
180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4) As Needed
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to travel.

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand
Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand
Upper-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

495-6-7. Independent Study (1-4) On Demand
Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).

*Consult the English Department for details.