

ENGLISH COURSE BULLETIN

Spring 2022

Tentative Schedules
Course Descriptions
(subject to change)

**Program Descriptions
and Requirements**

OLIN HALL



Statement of Purpose

This issue of The University of Akron English Department **Course Bulletin** reflects the efforts on the part of the Department faculty to enrich the Department curriculum.

In addition to courses in **Shakespeare, English Literature, American literature,** and **international literature,** a wide range of writing and linguistics courses are offered for undergraduate and graduate students.

Prospective students will find upcoming courses described by the professors who will teach them. These descriptions provide the student with a clearer outline of **course content** and **requirements** than can be found in either The University of Akron's General Bulletin or the class schedule bulletin which is issued by the University.

Courses are arranged in this **Course Bulletin** in numerical order. Courses which satisfy the Shakespeare, linguistics, and world/multicultural literature requirements, as well as the minor requirements, are identified in the course descriptions.

The English faculty hopes this bulletin will be helpful to counselors and students in planning the best possible selection of **major courses** and **electives**.

The Department of English requires
that students complete freshman composition
before enrolling in other English courses.
The following courses **DO NOT** count toward the
English major or minor degree requirements:

3300:111; 3300:112; 3300:250; 3300:252; and 3300:281.

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Courses that satisfy degree requirements for the B.A.



Note: If a course does not automatically drop in to satisfy a requirement in the DPR system, email English department undergraduate advisor **Dr. Mary Biddinger** at marybid@uakron.edu for assistance, including the name of the course, the requirement that it should be fulfilling, and your student ID number. Some courses need to be manually applied in the DPR in order to fulfill requirements.

One course may satisfy multiple distribution areas if applicable, but this does not mean that the student earns more than three credits for that course.

» **English majors** (and second majors) should consult the DPR and speak with an advisor regarding degree requirements, including literature course distribution, as there are currently two active degree plans.

Spring 2022

One Course in World/Multicultural Lit:

3300: 350 Black American Literature
3300: 362 World Literatures
3300: 489 Sem: Women in American Fiction

One Course in British Lit. After 1800:

3300: 399 The Gothic Imagination
3300: 489 Sem: British and American Romantic Poetry

One Course in American Lit. After 1865:

3300: 350 Black American Literature
3300: 389 Sem: Development of the Graphic Novel
3300: 485 Science Fiction
3300: 489 Sem: British and American Romantic Poetry
3300: 489 Sem: Women in American Fiction

One Literature Course in Fiction:

3300: 389 Sem: Development of the Graphic Novel
3300: 399 The Gothic Imagination
3300: 485 Science Fiction
3300: 489 Sem: Women in American Fiction

One Course in Poetry:

3300: 399 The Gothic Imagination
3300: 489 Sem: British and American Romantic Poetry

Spring 2022 Tentative Course Schedule

January 10th-May 8th
 **NEOMFA Students Only

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
112-XXX	English Composition II	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Bolton
112-XXX	English Composition II	Online	Online	Online	Thelin
275-501	Specialized Writing: Business	Online	Online	Online	Amodio
278-001	Intro to Fiction Writing	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Drew
281-001	Fiction Appreciation	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Chura
281-002	Fiction Appreciation	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Stoyhoff
281-003	Fiction Appreciation	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Thelin
281-501	Fiction Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
283-001	Film Appreciation	MWF	8:35AM	9:35AM	Heldenfels
283-002	Film Appreciation	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Heldenfels
283-003	Film Appreciation	TTh	9:15AM	10:30AM	Dukes
283-004	Film Appreciation	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Hebert
283-501	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Drew
283-502	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
300-001	Critical Reading & Writing	Online	Online	Online	Braun
301-002	English Literature I	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Ambrisco
315-001	Shakespeare: The Early Plays	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Nunn
341-001	American Literature I	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Chura
350-001	Black American Literature	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Bolton
362-001	World Literatures	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Dukes

362-501	World Literatures	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
371-001	Introduction to Linguistics	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Sarvis
377-001	Advanced Poetry Writing	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Biddinger
379-001	Advanced Scriptwriting	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Svehla
381-001	Adv. Creative Nonfiction Writing	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Bechtel
389-001	Sem: Development of the Graphic Novel	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Svehla
399-001	The Gothic Imagination	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Braun
457/557-001	Writers on Writing	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Miller
473/573-001	Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
473/573-002	Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
478/578-501	Grammatical Structures	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
485/585-001	Science Fiction	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Drew
489/589-001	Sem. British & American Romantic Poetry	MWF	2:00PM	2:50PM	Miller
489/589-002	Digital Humanities in the Archives	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Nunn
489/589-003	Sem: Women in American Fiction	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Bolton
489/589-004	Design Your Life	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Braun
492	Senior Seminar	T	5:20PM	7:50PM	Nunn
629-501	Twentieth Century Literature	Online	Online	Online	Chura
674-501	Research Methodology in Composition	Online	Online	Online	Thelin
689-801	Theory & Practice of Modern Poetry	M	5:20PM	7:50PM	Biddinger
689-802	**Grad Writing: Creative Nonfiction	Th	5:20PM	7:50PM	Giffels
689-803	**NEOMFA: Internship	Sat.	10:45AM	1:15PM	Giffels

Spring 2022 Course Descriptions

(Subject to change)

275 Specialized Writing: Business

3 credit hours

Business Writing provides instruction and extensive practice in writing effective memos, letters, and short reports for typical business situations. A special feature is the preparation of a résumé and practice in job application letters. Successful approaches for conducting job interviews are also included. Recommended for students planning to work in business and industry.

278 Intro to Fiction Writing

3 credit hours

This course is an introductory workshop in fiction writing and gives almost exclusive attention to the writing of students. Our class sessions will be almost entirely discussion-based with minor lecturing on aspects of the craft students should become familiar with, such as opening narrative space, controlling content and balancing the delicate relationship between an author, their characters and a story's narrator. We will be using our own original stories and selected published pieces from established writers to hone in on refining our own craft. Writing exercises will help students develop characters, dialogue, plot, scenes, the ability to reflect on action in a story, tackle the revision process, and many other fiction writing essentials. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

281 Fiction Appreciation

3 credit hours

Close reading of modern masters of short story and novel. *Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Humanities" Requirement. CANNOT be used to fulfill the English department requirements.*

283 Film Appreciation

3 credit hours

Initiates students into the thoughtful study of film as a form of visual narrative. Our emphases will be on: 1) the crucial elements of filmmaking, 2) the process of close viewing, and 3) the power of critical analysis. Attention will be paid to a diversity of films, filmmakers, and genres. *Satisfies the Minor in Popular Literature & Film requirement. Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Arts" Requirement.*

300 Critical Reading & Writing

3 credit hours

An introduction to English studies, focusing on critical methods for reading and writing about literature, with attention to research skills and uses of computer technology. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*

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- 301 English Literature I 3 credit hours**
Studies in English Literature from Old English to 1800, with emphasis upon specific representative works and upon the cultural and intellectual backgrounds which produced them. Literature to be read will include both major and minor poetry, drama and prose. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*
- 315 Shakespeare: The Early Plays 3 credit hours**
Introduction to early drama of Shakespeare with close reading of tragedies, history and comedies. Includes explanatory lectures of both the plays and their backgrounds. *Satisfies the English Major requirement.*
- 341 American Literature I 3 credit hours**
Historical survey of major and minor American writers to 1865. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*
- 350 Black American Literature 3 credit hours**
Survey of African-American literature beginning with the vernacular tradition—spirituals, folktales— and continuing with a chronological assessment of 18th, 19th, and 20th century prose, poetry, and drama written by Americans of African ancestry. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Literature requirement, American Literature after 1865 requirement, the requirement for Education majors.*
- 362 World Literatures 3 credit hours**
This course explores literatures of the non-western world through representative works. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Literature requirement and the World Literature requirement for Education majors. Also fulfills the Tier 3 Global Diversity requirement for the General Education Program.*
- 371 Introduction to Linguistics 3 credit hours**
Scientific introduction to the study of written and spoken linguistic behavior in English. History of English, varieties of English, and acquisition of English are also introduced. *Satisfies the English major requirement and is required for the Undergraduate Certificate in TESL and the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies parallel to 3300:466 Linguistics and Language Arts.*

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- 377** **Advanced Poetry Writing** **3 credit hours**
This is a friendly workshop that offers practice in writing poetry, with a focus on revision and experimentation with new techniques. The course includes consideration of contemporary poems in addition to student works, and discussions on related topics such as publishing and literary citizenship. Students will create a chapbook of their poetry at the end of the semester. Open to writers who have taken Introduction to Poetry Writing, and to others with permission of instructor (email poetry@uakron.edu to query). *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*
- 379** **Advanced Scriptwriting** **3 credit hours**
This workshop focuses on writing for and in a visual medium. We will study the art of story concept, character development, structure, pacing, conflict arc, visual dramatics, and dialogue. We will also study how to write query letters and submit screenplays to agents, production companies, and reputable contests. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement. Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*
- 381** **Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing** **3 credit hours**
This course workshops original creative nonfiction produced by students, and explores the genre through close-reading, analysis, and evaluation of published essays in both academic and popular media. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*
- 389** **Sem: Development of the Graphic Novel** **3 credit hours**
In this course we will study the evolution, art, and impact of the graphic novel. From the early graphical novels of William Eisner (*A Contract with God*) to the superhero graphic novels of Alan Moore (*Batman: The Killing Joke*) to the alternative graphic novels of Art Spiegelman (*Maus*) to the surrealist graphic novels of Neil Gaiman (*The Sandman*) to the autobiographical/historical graphic novels of Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*), we will consider how the graphic novel both reflects and shapes culture. *Satisfies the English major requirement for a course in fiction and in American Literature after 1865.*
- 399** **The Gothic Imagination** **3 credit hours**
This loosely chronological study of major British, American, and European authors in the Gothic tradition focuses on the literary conventions, themes, and motifs of Gothic fiction and poetry from the nineteenth-century Gothic novel to “popular” literature today. Prerequisites: 3300:112 or equivalent, or any 200-, 300- or 400-level English course. *Satisfies the English major British Lit After 1800 requirement and English major distribution requirements for Fiction and Poetry,*

457/557 Writers on Writing**3 credit hours**

We'll study what established writers have to say about writing. Texts will include Rilke, Hugo, Lamott, King, and online interviews such as those from the Paris Review. The course will also study the current state of literary publishing. We'll go over the basics of copyright and publishing agreements that are relevant for creative writers and literary editors. Students will do some creative writing, in any genre. Graduate students will work with the professor to edit and publish a print collection of selected writings for the course as an issue of a literary magazine. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

473/573 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL 3 credit hours

This course surveys the theories in second language acquisition and teaching methodologies in second language teaching. Principles of the teaching of English as a second language based on research in linguistics, psycholinguistics, and second language pedagogy are explored in lectures, structured readings, discussions, and projects. This course is required for the Undergraduate and Graduate Certificate in TESL and meets the requirements of the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies.

478/578 Grammatical Structures**3 credit hours**

This course surveys sentence types in English and the component elements of the English sentence. The sentence will be viewed on its own but also as part of larger rhetorical units. In particular, it explores the grammatical structure and properties of modern English in the context of academic language development and beyond. Students are expected to apply the linguistic knowledge and analytic tools learned in this class to analyze content texts and to create teaching strategies for academic language instruction at various levels. This course is required for the Undergraduate and Graduate Certificate in TESL and meets the requirements of the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies.

485/585 Science Fiction**3 credit hours**

This course explores twentieth-century British and American science fiction in its primary forms: the short story, novella, novel, and feature film. The class is structured as a seminar: student-led discussions of required readings and a substantial writing requirement composed of short response papers, a mid-term essay exam, and a research paper. Graduate students' assignment requirements will differ from undergraduates' in terms of reading, writing, and research expectations. *Satisfies the English requirement for a course in fiction and in American Lit after 1865.*

489/589 Sem. British & American Romantic Poetry 3 credit hours

In this course we'll read, study, and write about British and American poems from about 1770 to 1870. Featured authors will include Mary Robinson, Phillis Wheatley, William Wordsworth, John Keats, Edgar Allan Poe, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. *Satisfies the English major requirement for British Lit After 1800, American Lit After 1865, and one course in Poetry.*

489/589 Digital Humanities in the Archives 3 credit hours

In this hands-on course, we'll explore the central role that food, cooking, and entertaining played at the Hower House in the early twentieth century. We'll use tools like blogs, websites, digital archives, and Instagram feeds to bring archival research to new audiences, and we'll prepare a cookbook for print publication to showcase the Hower family's recipes. In the process, we'll learn not just about the era's food and parties but about the wide array of people involved in their production. No special experience with digital tools required. *Satisfies the English major requirement for 400-level Elective, the M.A. in English Elective requirement, and the NEOMFA Elective requirement.*

489/589 Sem: Women in American Fiction 3 credit hours

This seminar course takes for study fiction from U.S. women writers who are considered seminal or formative. Writers such as Jane Austen and Toni Morrison, along with certain of their works, will be examined with attention to how they influenced writers that followed, such as Virginia Woolfe, Gloria Naylor, and Jesmyn Ward, to name a few. The course will use select criticism to determine how women writers such as Austen and Morrison became distinguished as American fiction writers, both within and outside of U.S. cultural contexts, and will employ a biographical approach to aid in comparative analyses of works by the formative writers and the works of those who follow. By privileging for study Toni Morrison and Jane Austen as formative women writers of American Fiction, this course hopes to generate rich discussions related to questions around American identity, issues of class and race, and gender across time period, especially as one traces the way these writers have influenced storytelling.

489/589 Design Your Life 3 credit hours

This hands-on course helps students tackle problems they can expect to face in college and throughout life. Using the framework of design thinking, you will develop skills including empathy, curiosity, and creative confidence -- the courage to keep moving forward despite uncertainty. As co-designers of this course, you will learn to integrate your lifeview and collegeview, listen actively and brainstorm collaboratively, interact with local students, community partners, and professionals, and design multiple pathways for college success. *Satisfies the English major requirement for 400-level Elective, the M.A. in English Elective requirement, and the NEOMFA Elective requirement.*

492 Senior Seminar

3 credit hours

This Senior Seminar focuses on literary depictions of revenge and forgiveness, as well as the cultural meaning and effects of these acts. Through our study of dramas, novels, short stories, and poems, we'll consider presentations of revenge—its perpetrators, victims, and witnesses—in different cultural settings; in addition, we will consider what factors inspire individuals and cultures to set aside vengeful impulses in favor of other forms of justice or even reconciliation. Since this is a senior seminar, we will round out the semester by sharing ideas about liberal arts education and the merits of the English degree. *Limited to senior English majors. Please contact the English Department Advisor, Dr. Mary Biddinger, at marybid@uakron.edu to get permission to register for the course.*

629 Twentieth Century Literature

3 credit hours

This fully online course emphasizes recent approaches to Twentieth Century American Literature, and it asks teachers to undertake scholarly research appropriate for the graduate level. Course objectives are, first, to help teachers expand their knowledge of pedagogically useful literary works and interpretive methods, and second, to consider in detail how such knowledge might impact the secondary school classroom. While pedagogical issues will be a consistent focus of our discussions, the course will also be valuable to non-teachers seeking growth through close study of benchmark texts in the multicultural canon. *Satisfies the M.A. in Literature requirement for American Literature after 1865, and the NEOMFA Literature requirement.*

674 Research Methodology in Composition

3 credit hours

This course explores how knowledge is made in the field of Composition Studies by looking at research designs, both quantitative and qualitative, and studying some of the assumptions under which scholars conduct their research. The course also explores important methodological issues concerning race and gender. *Required for the graduate certificate in Composition.*

689 Theory & Practice of Modern Poetry

3 credit hours

What can poems from the past teach us about risks poets are taking today? In this literature seminar we will cross between decades, examining poetry collections from yesteryear alongside new books. The class will include both critical and creative assignments responding to the books, and conversations about what we can learn from them as writers.

689 Grad Writing Seminar: Creative Nonfiction 3 credit hours

In this MFA creative nonfiction writing workshop, students will propose a semester-long writing project tuned toward their own literary style, goals and writing background. Once the proposals are discussed and approved, each student will submit two to three pieces of original work to be read and discussed by the workshop participants. Individual readings will also be assigned, tailored to each writer's aesthetic and goals. *Open only to students in the NEOMFA program in creative writing.*

689 NEOMFA Internship 3 credit hours

In the internship seminar, writers will develop practical skills and knowledge to prepare for professional life beyond the MFA experience. Students will complete 120 hours of work in a variety of pursuits, including teaching, publishing, copywriting, journalism, arts nonprofit work, and others. These hours can be completed prior to or concurrent with the seminar, but must be completed by the end of the semester. The seminars will meet once a month, with instruction and exercises focused on building career skills and a portfolio of materials. *Open only to students in the NEOMFA program in creative writing.*

Requirements for the B.A. degree major in English (330000BA)

The Department of English urges all English majors to meet with the English Department Advisor at least once a year to discuss their progress toward the degree.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Complete General Education requirements.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES BACCALAUREATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1. You must complete at least three credits of mathematics or statistics (excluding 3450:100 Intermediate Algebra) earned in the Department of Theoretical & Applied Mathematics or the Department of Statistics.
2. You must complete a minimum of 120 credits.
3. You must complete a minimum of 40 semester credits of 300-400 level courses, exclusive of General Education courses and workshops.
4. You must complete the second year of a foreign language.
5. You must complete the requirements for the English major. These are (a) You must earn a minimum 2.20 GPA in all University of Akron coursework (b) 36 credits in English, including (c) each of the following courses, in which you must earn a C- or higher.

3300:300 Critical Reading and Writing

3300:301 English Literature 1

3300:315 Shakespeare: Early Plays OR 3300:316 Shakespeare: Mature Plays

3300:341 American Literature 1

3300:371 Introduction to Linguistics OR 3300:400 Anglo-Saxon OR

3300:470 History of the English Language

3300:492 Senior Seminar (not any Senior Seminar; only 3300:492, our capstone course)

(d) And you must complete at least three additional courses at the 400-level. (Workshops cannot be used for this requirement.)

(e) And you must complete enough additional electives to have at least 36 credits in English.

NOTE: Courses 3300:111, 3300:112, 3300:250, 3300:252, and 3300:281 **DO NOT** count toward the English major or minor degree requirements.

(f) And you must satisfy any literature distribution areas required by your English major plan (see your DPR for details).

One course in World or Multicultural literature outside the canon of British and American writers, one course in British literature after 1800, one course in American literature after 1865, one literature course in Poetry, one literature course in Fiction. Note that one course can fulfill multiple distribution requirements.

(g) Finally, you must earn a minimum 2.20 GPA in all coursework in English at The University of Akron, including transfer work.

Minors in English

Minor in English (330000M)

1. 18 hours of courses in the English Department with at least 6 of those hours at the 300/400 level.

Minor in Creative Writing (330007M)

1. **Two** introductory creative writing courses (Min. Credits: 6) from:
 - 3300:276 Introduction to Creative Nonfiction Writing
 - 3300:277 Introduction to Poetry Writing
 - 3300:278 Introduction to Fiction Writing
 - 3300:279 Introduction to Script Writing
2. **At least one** advanced creative writing course (Min. Credits: 3) from:
 - 3300:377 Advanced Poetry Writing
 - 3300:378 Advanced Fiction Writing
 - 3300:379 Advanced Script Writing
 - 3300:381 Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing
3. 3300:457 **Writers on Writing**
4. **Two additional courses** in any form of creative writing or literature from Department offerings, 300 or 400 level.

Minor in Popular Literature and Film (330009M)

1. 12 hours of courses in popular literature or film at the 300/400 level in the English Department.
2. 6 hours of courses in any literature or film topics at any level in the English Department.



NOTE: The following courses taken to fulfill specific requirements in the English major **CANNOT** also be used to fulfill the 18 hours requirement in this minor: 3300:300 Critical Reading & Writing; 3300:301 English Literature 1; 3300:315 Shakespeare: Early Plays; 3300:316 Shakespeare: Mature Plays; 3300:341 American Literature 1; one course in World or Multicultural literature.

Minor in African-American Literature and Language (330011M)

1. Any 18 hours of African-American literature and language courses.

Procedures for Minors



See the department advisor for information and guidance. Take the required courses. Then, when applying for graduation, fill out an application for minor(s) form and turn it in with your graduation application. Your college record will document the minor(s) you have earned. Forms are available in the department.

Other Notes

- Students must achieve an overall GPA of at least 2.0 to earn the minor.
- If a student desires a minor from the same department/school as their major, there is a college requirement for a minimum of nine (9) non-overlapping credits between the minor and the major, as well as between the minor and other minor programs in the department/school.
- Courses 3300:111, 3300:112, 3300:250, 3300:252, and 3300:281 **DO NOT** count toward any minor degree requirements.

Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies (330008C)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - wz23@uakron.edu

Completion of five linguistically oriented courses is required as follows: the foundation course, two core courses and at least two elective courses. Three or more of the courses must be at the 300/400 level. (Subject to approval by the program director, other theoretically oriented linguistics courses may substitute for core courses.)

To obtain the certificate, the student must have at least two semesters of a second language. A student entering the program should discuss plans with the director.

Foundation (Required)

- 3300:371 Introduction to Linguistics **OR**
- 3300:466 Linguistics and Language Arts

Core (Minimum of two of the following)

- 3300:470 History of the English Language
- 3300:477 Sociolinguistics
- 3300:478 Grammatical Structures of English
- 3600:481 Philosophy of Language
- 7700:230 Language Science and Acquisition **OR**
- 7700:430 Aspects of Normal Language Development



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

Electives (Minimum of two of the following)

- 3300:400 Anglo Saxon
- 3300:473 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL
- 3230:150 Human Cultures
- 3230:251 Human Diversity
- 3460:430 Theory of Programming Languages
- 3460:440 Compiler Design
- 3460:460 Artificial Intelligence and Heuristics Programming
- 3580:403 Advanced Grammar
- 3600:170 Introduction to Logic
- 3600:374 Symbolic Logic
- 3600:418 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
- 3600:471 Metaphysics
- 3700:402 Politics and the Media
- 3700:403 Media, Crime and Public Opinion
- 7600:325 Intercultural Communication
- 7700:101 American Sign Language
- 7700:210 Introduction to Clinical Phonetics

Undergraduate Certificate in Professional Communication (770008C)

This program will help meet our technological society's growing need for educated people who can develop sophisticated strategies for effective communication of business and technical information. People in the business community increasingly depend on communication to solve complex management, sales, and information processing problems.

The communication demands of business and industry are significant, and in many ways, different from those dealt with in traditional courses and majors. This certificate will recognize their preparation for handling the communication needs of business and industry and must be earned concurrently with an undergraduate (associate or bachelor's) degree. A student who already possesses an undergraduate degree may directly pursue this certificate.

Program Credits

3300:390 Professional Writing I*
3300:391 Professional Writing II*
7600:309 Public Relations Publications
7600:345 Business and Professional Speaking



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

Because all four courses have prerequisites, students should consult course descriptions.

*3300:390 and 3300:391 do not have to be taken in sequence

Undergraduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (330003C)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - wz23@uakron.edu

This program is intended for both native and non-native speakers of English who seek training in the teaching of English as a second language (ESL) and wish to obtain an initial qualification to teach ESL/EFL (English as a Foreign Language) in educational settings other than public schools in Ohio and other states or in countries outside the United States. The program is designed to introduce the student to central issues in the theory and practice of teaching English to non-native speakers through courses in modern and applied linguistics, in second language pedagogy, and in related disciplines.

Students who do not have English as a native language must demonstrate adequate proficiency in English with a valid TOEFL score of 550 (paper based)/213 (computer based)/79 (Internet based/iBT) or higher, or a valid IELTS score of 6.0 or higher. The awarding of this certificate is not contingent upon completion of a degree program. Undergraduate certificate programs require a 2.00 grade point average.

PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Students admitted with an undergraduate status are required to take 3300:111 English Composition I and 3300:112 English Composition II prior to applying for the certificate.
2. All students who wish to pursue the TESL certificate should meet with the program director to discuss the program and availability of courses.
3. To apply for the certificate, fill out the “ADD Certificate” form with the certificate advisor. After all requirements are completed, fill out the “Undergraduate Certificate Program Application” with the certificate advisor.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

This certificate requires the completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours of course work, including four core courses and one elective course.

Core Courses (Min. Credits: 12)

- 3300:371 Introduction to Linguistics
- OR**
- 3300:466 Linguistics and Language Arts
 - 3300:473 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL*
 - 3300:478 Grammatical Structures of English
 - 3300:477 Sociolinguistics
- OR**
- 3300:470 History of the English Language



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

Electives** (Min. Credits: 3)

3300:470 History of the English Language

3300:477 Sociolinguistics

3300:487 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners

3580:403 Advanced Grammar

5500:456 Scaffolding Language and Content to Second Language Learners

5500:485 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners

5500:487 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language

7600:325 Intercultural Communication

7700:230 Language Science & Acquisition

7700:430 Aspects of Normal Language Development

*Students should have successfully completed 3300:371 or 3300:466 prior to taking this course.

**Choice to be decided in consultation with the program director.

Graduate Programs in English



Admission Requirements

M.A. Program

To be accepted into the M.A. program, the English Department requires that applicants have a B.A. in English, a minor in English, or other suitable course preparation.

To qualify for full admission, a student must meet the Graduate School requirement of a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 for four years or 3.0 over the last two years.

Complete [the online application through the Graduate School](#). Applicants must request that official transcripts of undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate work, be sent to the Graduate School. A nonrefundable application fee is also required. Applications should be received at least six weeks prior to registration, which may occur in the fall, spring, or summer terms.

To qualify for provisional admission, the Graduate School requires a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 over four years or 2.75 over the last two years. A student whose GPA falls below 2.75 or who lacks the B.A. in English may be granted deferred admission and given post-baccalaureate status, which is a probationary category.

NEOMFA Program

Applicants to the NEOMFA in Creative Writing must be accepted by the Graduate School at The University of Akron or one of the other three participating universities. They must also submit three letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a writing portfolio. The portfolio will be reviewed by an admissions committee of members from all four universities. Applicants using The University of Akron as a “gateway” school for the MFA must additionally satisfy the requirements for the M.A. program listed above.

For those students admitted to the NEOMFA program, up to nine credits from previously uncompleted graduate degrees may be accepted for transfer credit. Of the nine elective credits, up to six may be from Advisor-approved courses not solely restricted to graduates.



Financial Aid

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate assistantships in the Department of English are awarded on a competitive basis to M.F.A. students. Applications for fall appointments will be accepted until February 1.

Students may renew twice, for a total of three years of support.

Along with the application form and letter of application, applicants for assistantships must submit a clean copy of a writing sample in the form of a typed essay completed in a college course (5-10 pages), and two letters of recommendation. Scores from the Graduate Record Examination are not required. Please email all materials directly to the Graduate Coordinator, Hillary Nunn, at nunn@uakron.edu.

The letter of application should address:

1. why you are interested in the position
2. what prepares you for the position both as far as your work history and academic preparation, and
3. how your experiences and interests would contribute to the program's academic atmosphere.

Requirements for the M.A. in English (330000MAT)

The MA in English provides students with a strong practical and theoretical grounding as they prepare to move forward into careers or into graduate and professional schools.

Students will learn

1. advanced methods for deeper study of literatures written in English,
2. the fundamentals of Composition as a discipline, and
3. practical writing skills through courses in professional and rhetorical writing.

Courses will place texts within wider cultural and multicultural debates. Through assigned writings, students will articulate informed viewpoints on real-world issues and practice various forms of professional and critical writing, learning to interpret texts in contexts ranging from academic debate to the contemporary classroom to a variety of professional settings.

A minimum of 30 credits is required.

Core classes for all MA Students consist of the following 18 credits at the 600 level:

- 3300:611 Argumentation and Research Writing
- 3300:673 Theories of Composition
- 3300:665 Literary Criticism

OR

3300:690 Critical Approaches to Literature

- One additional 600-level literature course
- 3300:689 Grant Writing

OR

3300:689: Professional Writing Theory and Practice

- Capstone (3 credit hours):
3300:699 Thesis

OR

3300:698 Individual Reading in English/Portfolio

In this option, students complete a Portfolio based on the revision and presentation of 3-6 course artifacts, at least one of which is an academic paper.



Students must take 12 additional credit hours in English, selecting from classes listed in the Course Bulletin that are offered at either the 500 or 600-level.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the graduate application and official transcripts, applicants must submit a statement of purpose by email to the Graduate Coordinator, Hillary Nunn, at nunn@uakron.edu.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications to the master's degree program in English are accepted on a rolling basis.



ASSISTANTSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

All assistantships (and any fellowships) are awarded through the academic department. Students interested in obtaining an assistantship must apply. New students may indicate on their online application for admission that they would like to be considered for an assistantship. Students admitted as non-degree seeking or to a certificate program may not hold an assistantship.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Paying for college is a vital part of the education process! It is important to be informed of the many sources of aid available. Student loans are available to degree-seeking graduate students. Information on student loans can be found through the Office of Student Financial Aid. The Office of Student Financial Aid is located in Simmons Hall.

Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (NEOMFA) (330007MFA)

The University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, and Youngstown State University offer jointly the MFA in Creative Writing. This degree provides students with opportunities to develop their skills in writing fiction, poetry, drama, and creative nonfiction. The MFA is the terminal degree. Through extensive practice in workshops and craft and theory courses, students will develop their creative writing abilities while also studying literature and completing a relevant internship.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must be accepted by the Graduate School at The University of Akron or one of the other three participating universities. Applicants must also submit three letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a writing portfolio. The portfolio will be reviewed by an admissions committee of members from all four universities. Applications must be submitted by January 15.

The deadline for all assistantships in the Department of English is February 1.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete the following courses among the participating universities:

Writing Workshops	15 credits
Craft and Theory Courses	9 credits
Literature Courses	6 credits
Internship	3 credits
Thesis	6 credits
Electives	9 credits



A total of 48 credit hours is required for the MFA in Creative Writing.

Up to nine credits from previously uncompleted graduate degrees may be accepted for transfer credit in the NEOMFA program.

Questions should be directed to: Professor David Giffels, Olin 349, dg36@uakron.edu.
More information is available at www.uakron.edu/neomfa.

Graduate Certificate in Literature (330010GC)

Dr. Hillary Nunn, Coordinator - nunn@uakron.edu

REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the graduate certificate in literature, a person must be admitted to the University as a graduate student (with either full or provisional status). An eligible person interested in the program should contact the Certificate Coordinator.

Of the five required courses (15 credits), two must be core courses, Chaucer and Shakespearean Drama; four of the five courses must be at the 600-level; and one must be in American literature.

Core Courses

3300:506 Chaucer*

3300:615 Shakespearean Drama



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

*unless the student has passed a comparable course with a grade of B or better.

All students who wish to pursue a certificate program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School regardless of whether they are current graduate students.

More information can be found at [the Graduate School Website](#).

Graduate Certificate in Composition (330002GC)

Dr. Lance Svehla, Coordinator - ims3@uakron.edu

REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the certificate in composition, a person must be admitted to the University as a graduate student (with either full or provisional status). An eligible person interested in the program should contact the certificate coordinator.

Required Courses

3300:673 Theories of Composition

3300:674 Research Methodologies in Composition

OR

3300:676 Theory and Teaching of Basic Composition

Electives* (9 credits from the following list chosen with the certificate director)

3300:600 Teaching Coll Comp Practicum

3300:625 Autobiographical Writing

3300:650 New Rhetorics

3300:651 The Pragmatists

3300:660 Cultural Studies

3300:670 Modern Linguistics

3300:679 Scholarly Writing

3300:574 African American English

3300:577 Sociolinguistics

3300:578 Grammatical Structures of English



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

*Other courses may be considered in consultation with the director.

All students who wish to pursue a certificate program must apply for admission to the certificate program through Graduate School regardless of whether they are current graduate students.

Once the coursework for the certificate has been completed, students should apply for graduation in MyAkron.

Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (330003GC)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - wz23@uakron.edu

This program is intended for both native and non-native speakers of English who seek training in the teaching of English as a second language (ESL) and wish to obtain an initial qualification to teach ESL/EFL (English as a foreign language) in educational settings other than public schools in Ohio and other states or in countries outside the United States. For Ohio qualification in teaching ESL in the Ohio public school system, see the TESOL Endorsement requirements in the School of Education. The program is designed to introduce students to the central issues in the theory and practice of teaching English to non-native speakers through courses in modern and applied linguistics, in second language pedagogy and in related disciplines.

Students who do not have English as a native language must demonstrate adequate proficiency in English with a valid TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), or 79 (internet-based) or a valid IELTS score of 6.5 or higher.

The awarding of this certificate is not contingent upon completion of a degree program. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 is required. Graduate students must apply for the certificate program through the Graduate School. All students who wish to pursue the TESL certificate should meet with the program director to discuss the program and availability of courses. The certificate requires the completion of a minimum of **15 credit hours** of course work, including **four core courses** and **one elective course**.

Core Requirements (Min. Credits: 12)

- 3300:566 Linguistics and Language Arts
- 3300:573 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL*
- 3300:578 Grammatical Structures of English
- 3300:577 Sociolinguistics **OR**
- 3300:570 History of the English Language



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

Electives** (Min. Credits: 3)

- 3300:570 History of English Language
- 3300:577 Sociolinguistics
- 3300:587 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners
- 5500:543 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language
- 5500:541 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners
- 5500:566 Scaffolding Language and Content for English Learners
- 7700:530 Aspects of Normal Language Development

*Students should have successfully completed 3300:371 or 3300:566 prior to taking this course.

**Choice to be decided in consultation with the program coordinator.

Student Groups



The Literary Guild & The Upstart Crows

The Literary Guild is a group of graduate and undergraduate students from many majors who are interested in literature and share a common love for the written word. The Literary Guild sponsors a reading group and a writing group, dubbed The Upstart Crows, which hosts “open mic” poetry nights, travels to see plays performed in Akron and Cleveland, and engages in a variety of other intellectual and social activities throughout the year. New members from all majors are always welcome.

Contact Dr. Hillary Nunn (nunn@uakron.edu) for more information.

Stay up to date on Lit Guild events! Go to our Facebook page: [Upstart Crows UA](#)



Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars (SAGES)

SAGES is a student organization open to all English graduate students that focuses on helping English graduate students of all tracks (Composition, Fine Arts, and Literature) develop professionally during their time at The University of Akron by providing members with tools to help them publish, present, and prepare for the future. SAGES also strives to promote unity among English graduate students by creating events, providing resources, and visiting places that benefit scholars of all three tracks.

Contact Dr. Hillary Nunn (nunn@uakron.edu) for more information.

Department Contacts



UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Dr. Mary Biddinger
marybid@uakron.edu
(330) 972-6960



NEOMFA ADVISING

Mr. David Giffels
dg36@uakron.edu
(330) 972-6256

English Department Program Codes

330000BA	English Major
330000M	Minor in English
330006M	Minor in Professional Writing
330007M	Minor in Creative Writing
330009M	Minor in Popular Literature & Film
330011M	Minor in African American Lit & Lang
330000MAT	MA in English
330007MFA	Creative Writing - NEOMFA
330003C	Undergraduate Certificate in TESL
330008C	Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies
770008C	Undergraduate Certificate in Professional Writing
330002GC	Graduate Certificate in Composition
330003GC	Graduate Certificate in TESL
330010GC	Graduate Certificate in Literature

Additional Contacts

Dr. Matt Wyszynski
Department Chair
(330) 972-6067
wyszyns@uakron.edu

Ms. Katie Stoyhoff
Director University Composition Program
(330) 972-7480
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Dr. Hillary Nunn
Graduate Coordinator
(330) 972-7601
nunn@uakron.edu

Ms. Kate Tasseff
Department Administrative Assistant
(330) 972-5944
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Additional Information



English Department Website

<https://www.uakron.edu/english/>



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Facebook Pages

[UA Department of English](#)
[Lit Guild and Upstart Crows UA](#)