

ENGLISH COURSE BULLETIN

Summer & Fall 2022

Tentative Schedules
Course Descriptions
(subject to change)

**Program Descriptions
and Requirements**



JOHN R. BUCHTEL
1820 — 1892
FOUNDER
BUCHTEL COLLEGE
1870

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 the freshman composition sequence 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 **Professor Lisa Rhoades** (rhoades@uakron.edu) for assistance, including the name of the course, the requirement that it should be fulfilling, and your student 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.

Summer 2022

One Course in World/Multicultural Lit:

3300: 362 World Literatures

Fall 2022

One Course in World/Multicultural Lit:

3300: 350 Black American Literature

3300: 450 Modern American Fiction

3300: 362 World Literatures

3300: 489 Toni Morrison

For the earlier English major plan:

One Course in British Lit. After 1800:

3300: 489 British Women Writers

3300: 489 Sem: Disease in Literature

One Course in American Lit. After 1865:

3300: 350 Black American Literature

3300: 389 Stephen King

3300: 450 Modern American Fiction

3300: 489 Sem: Disease in Literature

3300: 489 Toni Morrison

One Literature Course in Fiction:

3300: 389 Stephen King

3300: 450 Modern American Fiction

3300: 489 British Women Writers

3300: 489 Toni Morrison

One Course in Poetry:

3300: 489 British Women Writers

Summer 2022 Tentative Course Schedule

INTERSESSION: May 16th-June 5th

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
283-501	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Drew
362-501	World Literatures	Online	Online	Ambrisco

SUMMER I: June 6th-July 10th

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
111-401	English Composition I	MTWThF	12:00-1:30PM	Wallace
111-501	English Composition I	Online	Online	Stoyhoff
222-501	Technical Report Writing	Online	Online	Rhoades
610-501	New Directions in the Teaching of Writing	Online	Online	Svehla

8W2: June 6th-July 31st

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
566-501	Linguistics & Language Arts	Online	Online	Zhang

SUMMER II: July 11th-August 14th

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
112-501	English Composition II	Online	Online	Bolton
489/589-501	Seminar: Shakespeare in Performance	Online	Online	Nunn
690-501	Critical Approaches to Literature	Online	Online	Braun

Summer 2022 Course Descriptions

222 Technical Report Writing

3 credit hours

Prepares students to write the types of reports most often required in a variety of careers, including technicians, engineers, and scientists. Includes types of reports, memoranda, and letters; techniques of research, documentation, and oral presentations. *Prerequisites: 2020:121, 3300:111, or equivalent.*

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.*

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.*

489/589 Shakespeare in Performance

3 credit hours

The purpose of this course is not only to study and interpret Shakespearean plays, but to understand their adaptation, performance, and reception in our own times. Much of the class will involve study of filmed versions of Shakespeare plays and adaptations, as well as optional attendance of local performances. Students will consider how staging choices influence understanding of these early modern texts, and how performances today reshape Shakespearean works for current audiences. *Can be used to satisfy the Shakespeare requirement for the English major. Email Prof. Rhoades at rhoades@uakron.edu for assistance.*

466/566 Linguistics & Language Arts

3 credit hours

A foundation course in linguistics with a focus on pedagogical implications for second language (L2) learners. Fundamental concepts in the core of linguistics, including morphology, syntax, semantics, phonetics, phonology, and pragmatics as well as in other fields of linguistics, such as sociolinguistics are covered in lectures and structured linguistic exercises with both English and other languages for contrastive analyses. *Satisfies the requirement for graduate and undergraduate students pursuing the Certificate in TESL and the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies.*

610 New Directions in the Teaching of Writing 3 credit hours

A fully online course designed to introduce recent approaches to the teaching of writing. This course will also prepare teachers to create relevant classes likely to be offered as dual credit options on their high school campuses. *Required for the Dual Credit Credentialing Module. Elective for the M.A. in English and Graduate Certificate in Composition Studies. Also satisfies the NEOMFA Elective requirement.*

690 Critical Approaches to Literature 3 credit hours

Critical Approaches to Literature is an online graduate course focusing on critical analysis, literary theory, and research methods. We will analyze poetry, fiction, and drama using a variety of critical lenses to demonstrate the diversity, depth, and complexity of literary analysis. *Required for the Dual Credit Credentialing Module. Elective for the M.A. in English. Also satisfies the NEOMFA Elective requirement.*

Fall 2022 Tentative Course Schedule

August 22nd-December 4th

***NEOMFA Students Only

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
111-560	English Composition I	Online	Online	Online	Braun
112-560	English Composition II	Online	Online	Online	Drew
252-501	Shakespeare & His World	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
252-677	Shakespeare & His World	TBA	TBA	TBA	Decker
275-501	Specialized Writing: Business	Online	Online	Online	Amodio
276-001	Intro to Creative Nonfiction Writing	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Giffels
277-001	Intro to Poetry Writing	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Biddinger
278-001	Intro to Fiction Writing	TTH	12:15PM	1:30PM	Drew
279-001	Intro to Script Writing	TTH	10:45AM	12:00PM	Svehla
281-001	Fiction Appreciation	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Chura
281-002	Fiction Appreciation	MWF	2:00PM	2:50PM	Giffels
281-003	Fiction Appreciation	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Thelin
281-004	Fiction Appreciation	TTH	2:00PM	3:15PM	Bolton
281-005	Fiction Appreciation (DL)	TTH	1:15PM	2:30PM	Rhoades
283-002	Film Appreciation	MWF	8:35AM	9:25AM	Heldenfels
283-003	Film Appreciation	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Heldenfels
283-004	Film Appreciation	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Dukes
283-005	Film Appreciation	TTH	10:45AM	12:00PM	Hebert
283-501	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Drew
283-502	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Svehla

300-501	Critical Reading & Writing	Online	Online	Online	Braun
301-501	English Literature I	TTH	12:15PM	1:30PM	Ambrisco
316-001	Shakespeare: The Mature Plays	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Nunn
341-001	American Literature I	TTH	10:45AM	12:00PM	Miller
350-001	Black American Literature	TTH	12:15PM	1:30PM	Bolton
362-002	World Literatures	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Dukes
362-501	World Literatures	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
371-001	Introduction to Linguistics	TTH	2:00PM	3:15PM	Zhang
389-001	Stephen King	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Thelin
390-501	Professional Writing	Online	Online	Online	Thelin
450/550-001	Modern American Fiction	MWF	2:00PM	2:50PM	Chura
466/566-501	Linguistics and Language Arts	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
477/577-501	Sociolinguistics	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
489/589-001	British Women Writers	TTH	10:45AM	12:00PM	Braun
489/589-002	Toni Morrison	T	5:20PM	7:50PM	Bolton
489/589-003	Disease in Literature	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Nunn
492-001	Senior Seminar	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Chura
673-501	Theories of Composition	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
689-801	Craft & Theory: Creative Nonfiction***	Th	5:20PM	7:50PM	Giffels
689-802	Sem: Scholarly Editing and Publishing	W	5:20PM	7:50PM	Miller

Fall 2022 Course Descriptions

(Subject to change)

252 Shakespeare & His World

3 credit hours

An introduction to the works of Shakespeare. Each section studies a representative selection of Shakespeare's plays and/or poems. *Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Humanities" Requirement.* CANNOT be used to fulfill the English department requirements.

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.

276 Intro to Creative Nonfiction Writing

3 credit hours

This course introduces students to techniques of creative nonfiction through a series of writing exercises intended to give experience with the form. The main focus is on student writing, with extensive discussion in a workshop setting. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

277 Intro to Poetry Writing

3 credit hours

Practice in writing poetry, and study of the craft of poetry in a friendly environment, using contemporary models. Students will learn a variety of literary terms and techniques, and will receive helpful feedback from peers and professor during workshop. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

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.*

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.*

389 Stephen King 3 credit hours
After publishing for more than five decades and continuing to see many of his novels and short stories turned into movies, Stephen King has firmly established himself as an icon of American pop culture. No single course could do justice to his impact on the entertainment industry, so we will concentrate here on studying selected works of horror and suspense while analyzing film adaptations of varied genres. *Satisfies the English major American Literature After 1865 and Fiction requirements, and the Minor in Popular Literature and Film.*

390 Professional Writing 3 credit hours
This section of English 390 is designed to help prepare students for careers as professional writers, with particular attention paid to business communication. We will cover theories and practices of written, oral, visual, and digital communication. The course will include projects in functional writing/communicating as well as special communication needs based on case studies. Adapting style, organization, and media to a specific audience will also be stressed.

450/550 Modern American Fiction

3 credit hours

A contextualized study of major works of American Modernism, viewed from a culture studies perspective that includes a strong focus on women writers. Authors studied include Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway, Willa Cather, Nella Larsen, Katherine Anne Porter, Eugene O'Neill, Shirley Graham, Ernest Poole, Richard Wright, Sherwood Anderson. We will also view and discuss films by Sergei Eisenstein and Charlie Chaplin. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Lit., American Lit. After 1865, and Fiction requirements.*

466/566 Linguistics & Language Arts

3 credit hours

A foundation course in linguistics with a focus on pedagogical implications for second language (L2) learners. Fundamental concepts in the core of linguistics, including morphology, syntax, semantics, phonetics, phonology, and pragmatics as well as in other fields of linguistics, such as sociolinguistics are covered in lectures and structured linguistic exercises with both English and other languages for contrastive analyses. *Satisfies the requirement for graduate and undergraduate students pursuing the Certificate in TESL and the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies.*

477/577 Sociolinguistics

3 credit hours

Major sociolinguistic concepts and methodology examined, as well as relationships between language, socio-cultural factors, and education. Issues of Standard English, power, and gender also examined. It is a core course in the Department of English's TESL Certificate Program as well as an elective in the undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies and the M.A. Program in the Department of English. *Required for the Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language.*

489/589 British Women Writers

3 credit hours

This course explores literary texts by British women writers who have challenged patriarchal modes over the past two centuries. Through our study of influential novelists and poets—including Jane Austen, Mary Shelley, The Brontës, Virginia Woolf, Zadie Smith, Bernadine Evaristo, and others—we will consider topics such as: madness and monstrosity; cultural constructions of beauty; the Angel in the House; spinsterhood and motherhood; and the place of the woman writer. *Satisfies the English major British Lit. After 1800, Fiction, and Poetry requirements.*

489/589 Toni Morrison**3 credit hours**

This seminar invites students to “read” Toni Morrison as an American writer and literary, cultural critic. Morrison distinguished herself as the first African American woman to receive a Nobel Prize in literature, and she has been heralded as a forerunner for many black women writers who would go on to publish after her. In this course, we will study what gave rise to a literary titan like Morrison, and we will look at her influence both nationally and globally. How have people “read” Morrison? How should we “read” her? We will seek responses to these question by turning to select works by Morrison with attention to their significance within Black American culture and within the larger American literary landscape. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Lit, American Lit After 1865, and Fiction requirements.*

489/589 Disease in Literature**3 credit hours**

This course will interrogate literary representations of illness and its effects on individuals and communities, as well as society's perceptions of those who are sick. We will be reading works from different time periods to understand historical perceptions of disease, its mental and physical effects, and its perceived moral and bodily causes. With attention to medical history and cultural studies, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, we will examine the ways that the mechanics of illness lend meaning to literary works, and vice versa. *Satisfies the English major British Lit. After 1800 and American Lit After 1865 requirements.*

492 Senior Seminar**3 credit hours**

A contextualized study of classic and contemporary literature concerned with issues of capital punishment. We'll read Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*, Martin Duberman's *Haymarket*, Helen Prejean's *Dead Man Walking*, E.L. Doctorow's *The Book of Daniel*, and Melville's *Billy Budd*. The syllabus also includes drama by Reginald Rose, poems by Mike Gold and Edna St. Vincent Millay, nonfiction by Katherine Anne Porter, and the prison letters of Bartolomeo Vanzetti. We'll discuss the latest reports from the Death Penalty Information Center and study infamous historical events, including the 1887 Haymarket hangings, the 1921-27 Sacco-Vanzetti case, and the 1953 executions of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Since this is a senior seminar, we will share ideas about the advantages of a liberal arts education and the merits of the English degree. *Limited to senior English majors. Please contact the English Department Advisor, Professor Lisa Rhoades, at rhoades@uakron.edu to get permission to register for the course.*

Requirements for the BA in English (330000BA)



Our course of study of literature, language, rhetoric, and creative writing fosters the development of critical thinking, skilled communication, appreciation of cultural contexts, informed citizenship, and knowledge of the various literary texts representing human thought and inquiry through the centuries. Students majoring in English studies go on to become successful professionals in their chosen fields. Graduates have taken the department's reputation into the world outside the campus gates and hold careers ranging from positions in successful law practices, to jobs as published authors, technical writers, and journalists.

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.

Please visit The University of Akron's [Undergraduate Bulletin page for the English BA](#) for the current degree requirements.

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 Prof. Lisa Rhoades 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, 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), a letter of application, 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

- 3300:699 Master's Thesis/Capstone (3 credit hours)

In consultation with a faculty member, students complete either a Capstone Project or a Thesis. In the **Capstone Option**, students complete a customized final project along with a Portfolio based on the revision and presentation of 3-6 course artifacts, at least one of which is an academic paper. In the **Thesis Option**, students complete a sustained, publishable 60-100 page scholarly treatment of a subject in Literature or Composition studies.



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, but a separate application must also be submitted to the Department. 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
- 5500:556 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

Prof. Lisa Rhoades
rhoades@uakron.edu
(330) 972-8556



NEOMFA ADVISING

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

English Department Program Codes

330000BA	English Major
330000M	Minor in English
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. Mary Biddinger
Department Chair
(330) 972-6960
marybid@uakron.edu

Ms. Katie Stoyhoff
Director University Composition Program
(330) 972-7480
cf@uakron.edu

Dr. Hillary Nunn
Graduate Coordinator
(330) 972-7601
nunn@uakron.edu

Ms. Kate Tasseff
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

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