

# English Course Bulletin

SUMMER/FALL 2025

**Tentative  
Schedules,  
Course  
Descriptions,  
and more!**

SCHEDULES AND  
DESCRIPTIONS ARE  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

THE DEPARTMENT OF  
ENGLISH

[www.uakron.edu/english](http://www.uakron.edu/english)



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# 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 **world 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**.



# Summer 2025 Tentative Course Schedule

## INTERSESSION: MAY 19TH-JUNE 8TH

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 610-501	New Directions in the Teaching of Writing	Online	Online	Thelin

## SUMMER I: JUNE 9TH-JULY 13TH

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 690-501	Critical Approaches to Literature	Online	Online	Poder

## SUMMER II: JULY 14TH-AUGUST 17TH

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 283-501	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Svehla

## **283: FILM APPRECIATION**

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.*

## **610: NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE TEACHING OF WRITING**

This course will examine recent developments in the field of Composition and Rhetoric for the pedagogical, political, and social tensions they reveal. We will discuss the applicability of some of the theories and their relevance to education in general. Ultimately, students can expect to emerge with broader understandings of the discipline that impact the writing classroom. *Required for the Dual Credit Credentialing Module. Elective for the M.A. in English and Graduate Certificate in Composition Studies. May be used to satisfy the elective requirement for the NEOMFA with advisor approval.*

## **690: CRITICAL APPROACHES TO LITERATURE**

Critical Approaches to Literature is an asynchronous online graduate-level course that centers on critical analysis, literary theory, and research to uncover meaning in canonical and non-canonical literary texts. This course is also part of The University of Akron's Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation for high school teachers. We will read and analyze poetry, fiction, and film using several critical lenses to illustrate depth, complexity, and meaning in diverse texts. By the end of the semester, you will gain an extensive knowledge of specific texts and theoretical approaches while learning to articulate and pursue your own interpretative strategies. *Elective for the M.A. in English. May be used to satisfy the elective requirement for the NEOMFA with advisor approval.*

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.  
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

# Fall 2025 Tentative Course Schedule

\*NEOMFA STUDENTS ONLY

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 276-001	Intro to Creative Nonfiction Writing	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Giffels
ENGL 277-001	Intro to Poetry Writing	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Ambrisco
ENGL 278-001	Intro to Fiction Writing	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Biddinger
ENGL 300-001	Critical Reading and Writing	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Nunn
ENGL 301-501	English Literature I	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
ENGL 315-001	Shakespeare: The Early Plays	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Rhoades
ENGL 350-001	Black American Literature	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Chura
ENGL 362-501	World Literatures	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
ENGL 379-501	Advanced Script Writing	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
ENGL 389-501	Sports through Film and Literature	Online	Online	Online	Thelein
ENGL 450/550-001	Modern American Fiction	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Chura

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DAYS</b>	<b>START</b>	<b>END</b>	<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>
<b>ENGL 466/566-501</b>	<b>Linguistics and Language Arts</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Zhang</b>
<b>ENGL 470/570-501</b>	<b>History of the English Language</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Zhang</b>
<b>ENGL 489/589-001</b>	<b>Women's Writing/Women's Lives</b>	<b>TTH</b>	<b>3:30PM</b>	<b>4:45PM</b>	<b>Nunn</b>
<b>ENGL 492-001</b>	<b>Senior Seminar</b>	<b>MW</b>	<b>2:00PM</b>	<b>3:15PM</b>	<b>Chura</b>
<b>ENGL 673-501</b>	<b>Theories of Composition</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Svehla</b>
<b>ENGL 689-801</b>	<b>Grad Writing Seminar: Poetry*</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>5:20PM</b>	<b>7:50PM</b>	<b>Biddinger</b>
<b>ENGL 689-802</b>	<b>Grad Writing Seminar: Creative Nonfiction*</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>5:20PM</b>	<b>7:50PM</b>	<b>Giffels</b>

## **276: INTRO TO CREATIVE NONFICTION WRITING**

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. *Prerequisite for Advanced Creative Nonfiction. Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

## **277: INTRO TO POETRY WRITING**

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**

Students in this course will study and practice the craft of fiction writing in a supportive workshop environment. Class members will learn a variety of literary terms and storytelling techniques through readings and craft exercises, and will receive helpful feedback during discussion of original works of fiction. Writers with all levels of prior creative writing experience are welcome, including beginners. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

## **300: CRITICAL READING & WRITING**

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.*

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.  
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**



## **301: ENGLISH LITERATURE I**

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. This course is 100% online asynchronous. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*

## **315: SHAKESPEARE: THE EARLY PLAYS**

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.*

## **350: BLACK AMERICAN LITERATURE**

A contextualized study of key works in African American literature from the eighteenth century to the present. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Literature requirement, and the Domestic Diversity Gen Ed requirement.*

## **362: WORLD LITERATURES**

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.*

## **379: ADVANCED SCRIPT WRITING**

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. Course is 100% online asynchronous. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

## **389: SPORTS THROUGH FILM AND LITERATURE**

This online course studies the manner in which popular sports such as baseball, boxing, and football have been depicted by major film directors and writers in the 20th and 21st centuries. The course will be structured around the dominant themes in the genre, and we will critique both fiction and nonfiction regarding major issues that include but are not limited to sentimentality, racism, and masculinity. *Satisfies the Minor in Popular Literature and Film.*

## **450/550: MODERN AMERICAN FICTION**

A contextualized study of American Modernist literature, viewed from a culture studies perspective that includes a focus on women writers and on mutual influences between film and fiction. Authors studied include Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, Willa Cather, Susan Glaspell, Katherine Anne Porter, Richard Wright, Sherwood Anderson, Nella Larsen. Films by Sergei Eisenstein and Charlie Chaplin.

## **466/566: LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE ARTS**

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.*

## **470/570: HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

This course will study the development of our language beginning with its Indo-European origins and moving through Old and Middle English to modern varieties of English. We will focus on exploring the mechanisms which produce language change and variety, the social contexts which are associated with historical change in English, and the most salient characteristics of English at different stages in its historical development. *Elective for the TESL Certificate, Certificate in Linguistic Studies, and M.A. in English as well as students in related majors in Education and other Departments.*

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.  
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

## **489/589: WOMEN’S WRITING/WOMEN’S LIVES**

Through a focus on a diverse cross-section of women’s memoirs and self-writing, this course will examine how gender, race, sexuality, audience, and location shape works in these genres. How do women use writing to track their experiences? How do their methods compare to those used by those writing from other subject positions? We will explore strategies women have used to turn their experiences into text, and what purposes they aim to fulfill in doing so.

## **492: SENIOR SEMINAR**

Novelist and Oscar-winning screenwriter Albert Maltz (1908-1985) fought tenaciously for social progress. Frank Sinatra called Maltz, “the best goddam writer around,” but he was also famous as one of the Hollywood Ten, a group of film industry figures who were imprisoned for alleged communist subversion during the Cold War. For refusing to answer questions about his political beliefs, Maltz spent ten months behind bars and twenty years on the blacklist. Maltz’s courageous wife, Margaret Larkin (1899-1967) was a writer-activist as well, and her cultural influence has yet to be appreciated. Using films, novels, and FBI files, we will study these two gifted artists and their relationship to twentieth-century history. *Limited to senior English majors. Please contact the English Department Advisor, Professor Lisa Rhoades, at [rhoades@uakron.edu](mailto:rhoades@uakron.edu) to get permission to register for the course.*

## **673: THEORIES OF COMPOSITION**

A fully online course designed to: 1) survey composition theory, 2) review its historical development, and 3) evaluate its competing schools of thought as they relate to both philosophy and classroom practice. Appropriate for teachers of post-secondary language arts, including CCP, those interested in pursuing a graduate degree in Composition Studies, and those seeking the theoretical foundation needed to teach first-year English Composition courses on high school and college campuses. *Required for the M.A. in English, Graduate Certificate in Composition Studies, and Dual Credit Credentialing Module. May be used to satisfy the elective requirement for the NEOMFA with advisor approval.*

## **689: GRADUATE WRITING SEMINAR: POETRY**

*Poetry Workshop: Poems and Their Cousins.* In this workshop we will talk about poems and their cousins (little prose heaps, lyrical nonfiction bursts, and beyond) in a friendly environment. This class welcomes writers from all genres and with all levels of experience and comfort with poetry, from the tortured poets to the poetry-curious and poetry-skeptical. Student work will be the primary text, as our main focus will be the consideration of poems (and their cousins) shared for workshop discussion. *Open only to students in the NEOMFA program in creative writing.*

## **689: GRADUATE WRITING SEMINAR: CREATIVE NONFICTION**

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.*



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



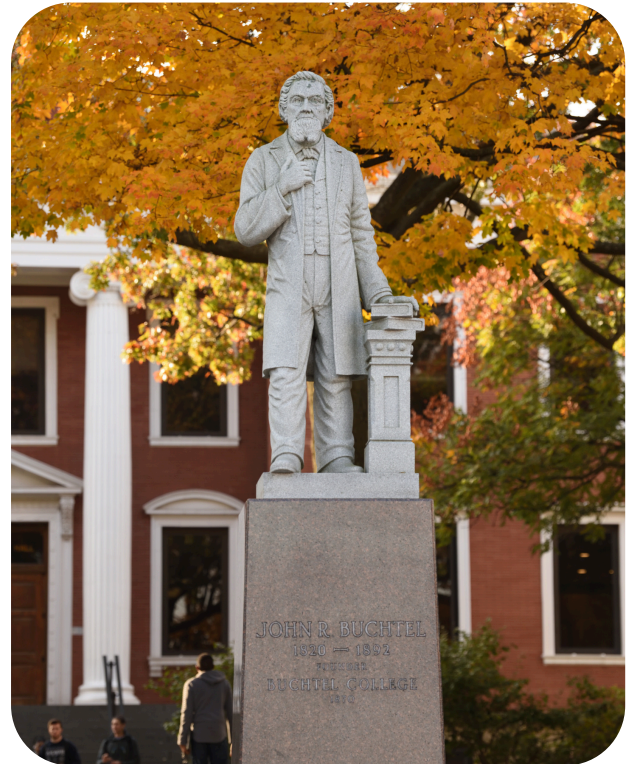
## Minor in Popular Literature and Film (330009M)

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: ENGL 300 Critical Reading & Writing; ENGL 301 English Literature 1; ENGL 315 Shakespeare: Early Plays; ENGL 316 Shakespeare: Mature Plays; ENGL 341 American Literature 1; one course in World or Multicultural literature.

# Procedure for Minors

- See the department advisor Prof. Lisa Rhoades for information and guidance. Take the required courses.
- 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 ENGL 110, ENGL 111, and ENGL 112 **DO NOT** count toward any minor degree requirements.



**Coming soon to  
the English  
Department...**

## **The 3 + 3 Juris Doctor Degree.**

Earn your bachelor's and law degrees in six years instead of the usual seven! Stay tuned to the English department website for more information.

# Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies (330008C)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - [wz23@uakron.edu](mailto: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.

## CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

### FOUNDATION (REQUIRED)

ENGL 371 Introduction to Linguistics **OR**  
ENGL 466 Linguistics and Language Arts

### CORE (MINIMUM OF TWO OF THE FOLLOWING)

ENGL 470 History of the English Language  
ENGL 477 Sociolinguistics  
ENGL 478 Grammatical Structures of English  
PHIL 481 Philosophy of Language  
SLPA 230 Language Science and Acquisition **OR**  
SLPA 430 Aspects of Normal Language Development

### ELECTIVES (MINIMUM OF TWO OF THE FOLLOWING)

ENGL 400 Anglo Saxon  
ENGL 473 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL  
ANTH 101 Human Cultures  
ANTH 251 Human Diversity  
CPSC 430 Theory of Programming Languages  
CPSC 440 Compiler Design  
CPSC 460 Artificial Intelligence and Heuristics Programming  
SPAN 403 Advanced Grammar  
PHIL 170 Introduction to Logic  
PHIL 374 Symbolic Logic  
PHIL 418 20th Century Analytic Philosophy  
PHIL 471 Metaphysics  
POLIT 402 Politics and the Media  
POLIT 403 Media, Crime and Public Opinion  
COMM 325 Intercultural Communication  
SLPA 101 American Sign Language I  
SLPA 210 Introduction to Clinical Phonetics

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.**



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

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - [wz23@uakron.edu](mailto: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.

## CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

### CORE (MINIMUM OF FOUR OF THE FOLLOWING)

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

### ELECTIVES\*\* (MINIMUM OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING)

ENGL 470 History of the English Language  
ENGL 477 Sociolinguistics  
ENGL 487 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners  
SPAN 403 Advanced Grammar  
EDCI 456 Scaffolding Language and Content to Second Language Learners  
EDCI 485 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners  
EDCI 487 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language  
COMM 325 Intercultural Communication  
SLPA 230 Language Science & Acquisition  
SLPA 430 Aspects of Normal Language Development

\*Students should have successfully completed ENGL 371 or ENGL 466 prior to taking this course.

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

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.**

# Department of English BA/MA Accelerated Degree Pathway (ADP)

You can earn your bachelor's and master's in less time and at a significant savings.

The Accelerated Degree Pathway (ADP) program is a 5-year bridge program between our undergraduate B.A. degree in English and our graduate M.A. in English degrees. Selected students can complete up to 9 credits of graduate coursework during their fourth undergraduate year at the University of Akron. Students will then transition into our M.A. graduate program, pending satisfactory fulfillment of their undergraduate degree and graduate program admission requirements. Selected students have the potential to earn both an undergraduate and graduate degree from the University of Akron in 5 years.

## The advantages to the accelerated program include:

- **Flexibility during graduate school.**  
Students can complete graduate classes while fulfilling undergraduate degree requirements.
- **Reduced time.**  
Students start fulfilling graduate school requirements sooner. The ADP Program engages students in graduate level courses before their peers and provides the opportunity to make connections with graduate instructors and other students in the program.
- **Cost saving.**  
Students can save tuition costs by completing up to 9 graduate credit hours at the undergraduate price. These same graduate credits will be applied to their graduate degree at The University of Akron.

## Curriculum

The 5-Year Accelerated Degree Pathway (ADP) Program curriculum includes the same coursework offered in the English undergraduate and graduate programs. Check out our [handbook here](#).

Interested students should contact our Assistant Chair, Prof. Lisa Rhoades at [rhoades@uakron.edu](mailto:rhoades@uakron.edu).





# 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 admission, a student must meet the Graduate School requirement of a minimum overall GPA of 2.5-2.74 or better.

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. The Graduate School also requires that you submit a Statement of Purpose via their online portal. Applications should be received at least six weeks prior to registration, which may occur in the fall, spring, or summer terms.

### 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 two 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 three 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 Teaching Assistantships*

Graduate Teaching Assistantships in the Department of English are awarded on a competitive basis to MFA 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, Dr. Hillary Nunn, at [nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu).

The letter of application should address:

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



# The MA 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 other 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 credit hours** is required.

**Core classes** for MA students consist of the following 18 credits at the 600-level:

ENGL 611 Argumentation and Research Writing  
ENGL 673 Theories of Composition  
ENGL 665 Literary Criticism **OR**  
ENGL 690 Critical Approaches to Literature  
One additional 600-level literature course  
ENGL 689 Grant Writing **OR**  
ENGL 689 Professional Writing Theory and Practice  
ENGL 699 Master's Thesis/Capstone (3 credit hours)

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.

# Master's Thesis/Capstone

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.

## Application Deadline

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

## 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.



# The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (NEOMFA) (330007MFA)

The University of Akron, Cleveland State University, and Kent 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 two 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 three universities.

Deadline for full-time applicants seeking funding:  
January 15 (fall matriculation)

Deadlines for part-time applicants and other students not seeking funding:  
November 15 (spring matriculation)  
April 15 (fall matriculation)

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. Email David Giffels with questions at [dg36@uakron.edu](mailto:dg36@uakron.edu). More information is available at <https://neomfa.org/>.

# Graduate Certificate in Literature (330010GC)

Dr. Hillary Nunn, Coordinator - [nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)

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.

## CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Of the four required courses (12 credits), two must be core courses, ENGL 690: Critical Approaches to Literature and ENGL 615: Shakespearean Drama\*; three of the four courses must be at the 600-level; and one must be in American literature.

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

Graduate students who are not enrolled in a University of Akron graduate degree program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School. Students who are currently in a graduate program should contact the Certificate Coordinator to add certificate programs.

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



EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.



# Graduate Certificate in Composition (330002GC)

Dr. Lance Svehla, Coordinator - [lms3@uakron.edu](mailto:lms3@uakron.edu)

To be eligible for the certificate in Composition, a person must be admitted to the University as a graduate student. Graduate students who are not enrolled in a University of Akron graduate degree program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School. Students who are currently in a graduate program should contact the certificate coordinator to add certificate programs.

## CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

### REQUIRED COURSES

ENGL 673 Theories of Composition  
ENGL 674 Research Methodologies in Composition  
OR  
ENGL 676 Theory and Teaching of Basic Composition

### ELECTIVES\*

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

ENGL 600 Teaching Coll Comp Practicum  
ENGL 625 Autobiographical Writing  
ENGL 650 New Rhetorics  
ENGL 651 The Pragmatists  
ENGL 660 Cultural Studies  
ENGL 670 Modern Linguistics  
ENGL 679 Scholarly Writing  
ENGL 574 African American English  
ENGL 577 Sociolinguistics  
ENGL 578 Grammatical Structures of English

\*Other courses may be considered in consultation with the coordinator.

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.**

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

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - [wz23@uakron.edu](mailto: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 students 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 6.5 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. The certificate requires the completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours of course work, including 4 core courses and 1 elective course.

Graduate students who are not enrolled in a University of Akron graduate degree program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School. Students who are currently in a graduate program should contact the Certificate Coordinator to add certificate programs.

## CORE REQUIREMENTS

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

## ELECTIVES\*\*

- ENGL 570 History of the English Language
- ENGL 577 Sociolinguistics
- ENGL 587 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners
- EDCI 556 Scaffolding Language and Content to Second Language Learners
- EDCI 541 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners
- EDCI 543 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language
- SLPA 530 Aspects of Normal Language Development

\*Students should have successfully completed ENGL 371 or ENGL 466 prior to taking this course.

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

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.**



# Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation (530113GC)

Dr. Hillary Nunn, Coordinator - [nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)

The University of Akron's Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation offers a cohesive set of coursework for high school English teachers who wish to meet the credentialing standard for dual-credit instructors in the state of Ohio. Our online Certificate forms a foundation for the teaching of general education courses in both Composition and Literature, providing 18 hours of coursework in the discipline for those teachers who already have or are working toward master's degrees. Classes are offered through web-based instruction by experienced professors. No travel to campus is required.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Participants must have a master's degree in education or other subject area, or they must be actively enrolled in an Education Master's program, in UA's MA in English program, or the NEOMFA.

## REQUIRED COURSES

ENGL 611 Argument and Research Writing  
ENGL 629 Twentieth Century Literature  
ENGL 610 New Directions in the Teaching of Writing  
ENGL 690 Critical Approaches to Literature  
ENGL 673 Theories of Composition  
ENGL 615 Shakespearean Drama

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.**



# Student Groups

## THE UPSTART CROWS

Upstart Crows 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 Upstart Crows 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](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)) for more information.

Stay up to date on 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 develop professionally 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.

Contact Dr. Hillary Nunn ([nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)) for more information.

# Department Contacts

## UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

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[rhoades@uakron.edu](mailto:rhoades@uakron.edu)  
(330) 972-8556

## NEOMFA ADVISING

Prof. David Giffels  
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## MA & GRAD CERTIFICATE ADVISING

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## ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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**Dr. Wei Zhang**  
*TESL Advising*  
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*Administrative Assistant*  
(330) 972-5944  
[kit4@uakron.edu](mailto:kit4@uakron.edu)

## English Department Program Codes

330000BA	English Major
330000M	Minor in English
330007M	Minor in Creative Writing
330009M	Minor in Popular Literature & Film
330000MAT	MA in English
330007MFA	Creative Writing - NEOMFA
330003C	Undergraduate Certificate in TESL
330008C	Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies
530113GC	Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation
330002GC	Graduate Certificate in Composition
330003GC	Graduate Certificate in TESL
330010GC	Graduate Certificate in Literature



# Contact Us

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

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

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

