

ENGLISH COURSE BULLETIN

Spring 2023

Tentative Schedules
Course Descriptions
(subject to change)

Program
Descriptions and
Requirements



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**.

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:

**ENGL 110; ENGL 111; ENGL 112; ENGL 250; ENGL 252;
and ENGL 281.**

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Spring 2023 Tentative Course Schedule

January 9th-April 30th

***NEOMFA Students Only

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
252-002	Shakespeare and His World	TTh	1:15PM	2:30PM	Rhoades
275-501	Specialized Writing: Business	Online	Online	Online	Amodio
279-001	Intro to Scriptwriting	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Svehla
281-001	Fiction Appreciation	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Thelin
281-002	Fiction Appreciation	TTh	9:15AM	10:30AM	Chura
281-501	Fiction Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
281-601	Fiction Appreciation	TTh	8:50AM	10:05AM	Hill
283-001	Film Appreciation	MWF	8:35AM	9:25AM	Heldenfels
283-003	Film Appreciation	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Hebert
283-004	Film Appreciation	TTh	9:15AM	10:30AM	Dukes
283-501	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
283-502	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Drew
283-503	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Drew
283-801	Film Appreciation	T	5:15pm	7:45pm	Fortunato
300-001	Critical Reading & Writing	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Bolton
301-002	English Literature I	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Ambrisco
315-001	Shakespeare: Early Plays	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Rhoades
341-001	American Literature I	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Chura
350-001	Black American Literature	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Bolton
362-001	World Literatures	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Dukes
362-501	World Literatures	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
367-501	Sem: Rhetoric of God	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
371-501	Intro to Linguistics	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
378-001	Advanced Fiction Writing	TTh	12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Drew
389-001	Detective Fiction	MWF	2:00PM	2:50PM	Thelin
457/557-001	Writers on Writing	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Miller

473/573-501	Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
478/578-501	Grammatical Structures of Modern English	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
489/589-003	American Literature Since the Civil War	W	5:20PM	7:50PM	Chura
489/589-004	Independent Film	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Heldenfels
489/589-803	Acting Like a Hower: Early Akron Community Theatre	W	5:20PM	7:50PM	Nunn
492-002	Senior Seminar	Th	5:20PM	7:50PM	Miller
615-501	Shakespearean Drama	Online	Online	Online	Nunn
689-502	Connecting Composition and Literature	Online	Online	Online	Thelin
689-802	**NEOMFA Craft & Theory of Poetry	T	5:20PM	7:50PM	Biddinger

Spring 2023 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.

279 Intro to Script Writing

3 credit hours

A course in developing the visual imagination. Craft scenes, create characters, write dialogue, construct plot arcs, and learn screenplay formatting. Class will be a small, informal group responding to each other's scripts. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

281 Fiction Appreciation

3 credit hours

The purpose of this course is just as the title suggests: to read and appreciate fiction. Through immersion in short stories and novels that range from classics to recent works, we will enhance our skills of critical and cultural analysis, aesthetic appreciation, and identifying aspects of literary craft. This is a general education class that will operate like a book club, with the emphasis on group discussion. *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.*

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.*

367 The Rhetoric of God 3 credit hours
How does one capture the Divine in language? How does one put the Infinite into a vessel? This course examines the rhetorical attempts of poets, mystics, philosophers, saints, and sinners to represent the un-representable in language. We will scrutinize passages from American Transcendentalism, the Bible, Buddhism, the Gnostic gospels, Greek rhetoric, the Koran, Metaphysical poetry, the Upanishads, Taoism, and the Torah to ponder whether the Divine can be captured in language. We will also consider works that question language's ability to point to, carry, or reference the transcendent. Central to our examination will be a consideration of the nature of language and the purpose of rhetoric. No background in rhetorical theory is required or needed. *Satisfies Global Diversity general education requirement, Global Studies Major Mindset requirement, and English Major requirement for one course in world or multicultural literature outside the canon of British and American writers.*

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 ENGL 466 Linguistics and Language Arts.*

378 Advanced Fiction Writing**3 credit hours**

This course offers advanced study and practice in the craft of narrative prose fiction through a workshop format for draft pages, short craft exercises, selected readings, and a short essay reflecting on students' individual writing processes. Students will submit a final portfolio of approximately 7,500 words of original fiction that has been workshopped in class, revised, formatted, and copyedited. Deadlines for new pages will be set individually and assigned as workshops; students will participate in workshops both as peer readers, offering substantive development notes to others, and as authors, submitting their work for peer review and discussion.

389 Detective Fiction**3 credit hours**

The course looks at the evolution of the detective fiction genre from the late 19th century through the 21st century and covers both American and British writers. The novels and short stories are supplemented with film and television productions to give students as much exposure as possible to the different detectives who have made a lasting impact on the genre and on our culture, as well. *This course satisfies the distribution requirement for the English major and counts as an elective for the Popular Literature and Film Minor.*

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.*

489/589 American Literature Since the Civil War**3 credit hours**

This course will trace the development of post-Civil War U.S. literature by examining key pairings of aesthetically related or co-responsive authors. Examples of writers who will be viewed in comparative perspective may include the following: Henry James and Edith Wharton. Frances E. W. Harper and C. W. Chesnutt. Sarah Orne Jewett and Willa Cather. Susan Glaspell and Eugene O'Neill. Richard Wright and Zora Neale Hurston (with Ann Petry). Mike Gold and John Steinbeck. James Baldwin and Lorraine Hansberry. Gloria Naylor and Toni Morrison.

489/589 Independent Film**3 credit hours**

Starting with the question "What is an independent film?", the course will look at some consensus examples of the form, how the films work, and what separates them from Hollywood movies. Films watched and discussed will be in various genres and invite consideration of gender, race, politics, and other issues. Filmmakers showcased may include Quentin Tarantino, Spike Lee, Kathryn Bigelow, Gus Van Sant, John Cassavetes, and Julie Dash.

489/589 Acting Like a Hower: Early Akron Community Theatre 3 credit hours

In this hands-on course, we'll explore the role that Grace Hower played in Akron's theatrical community in the early twentieth century. A member of the family that lived in UA's Hower House, Grace Hower Crawford used her training in drama to help establish Akron's Weathervane Playhouse. We'll investigate Crawford's involvement through sources at The University of Akron Archives and Special Collections and the Hower House Museum. We'll then use tools like blogs, websites, digital archives, and Instagram feeds to bring the story to new audiences. In the process, we'll learn not just about the Weathervane's early days, but about the wide array of people involved in its success. No special experience with digital tools required. *Elective for the MA, NEOMFA, and Literature Certificate.*

492 Senior Seminar

3 credit hours

We'll read creative literature in the context of periodical publication. We'll read older literature and older magazines through websites like Hathi Trust. And we'll read contemporary literature and present-day magazines with the Pushcart anthology and the internet. We'll look at the history of American literature magazines, large and small, and how they express regional cultures and social movements. We'll look at the way that the editorial tastes and policies of literary magazines can shape the style and career of different writers. Students will write capstone papers that interpret creative literature in the context of its original periodical publication. *Limited to senior English majors. Please contact the English Department Advisor, Lisa Rhoades, at rhoades@uakron.edu to get permission to register for the course.*

615 Shakespearean Drama

3 credit hours

This seminar will deal with Shakespeare as a professional dramatist in the Early Modern English theatre. Although various approaches may be used, the primary focus will be on text, performance, and theatrical conditions, both contemporary and modern. *Satisfies M.A. in Literature requirement for British Literature up to 1660 and the Shakespeare requirement if needed.*

689 Connecting Composition and Literature

3 credit hours

This course studies how literature can be used effectively in the writing classroom while also showing how theory and best practices in Composition Studies can positively impact the teaching of literature. Students can expect to read teacher-research into the subject while collaborating with other students by debating ideas and constructing assignments and class lessons.

689 Craft & Theory of Poetry: Prose Poem Studio

3 credit hours

This course will look at the history of the prose poem and evolving present moment of the form, but it will primarily be a prose poem studio where we write and share and talk about our craft. We will read a select range of prose poems—from Baudelaire to current practitioners—while maintaining a focus on classmate writing. The course will include some real-time work with formatting of prose poems, and consideration of the many possibilities of the unbroken line. Prose poem studio welcomes writers from all genres, and will provide solidarity for those working in hybrid forms. Our philosophy will be one of experiment and play; no prior knowledge of poetry (or prose) required. *Enrollment limited to students admitted to the NEOMFA program.*

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:
 - 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. Credits: 3) 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.

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 ENGL 110, ENGL 111, ENGL 112, ENGL 250, ENGL 252, and ENGL 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)

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



**Note: Each course listed
here is 3 credit hours.**

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

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

ENGL 390 Professional Writing I*
ENGL 391 Professional Writing II*
COMM 309 Public Relations Publications
COMM 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.

* ENGL 390 and ENGL 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 ENGL 111 English Composition I and ENGL 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)

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



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

Electives** (Min. Credits: 3)

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.

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 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.

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:

- 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)

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.



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.

NEOMFA advisor David Giffels will be on sabbatical in Spring 2023. Email Dr. Hillary Nunn with questions at nunn@uakron.edu. More information is available at <https://neomfa.org/>.

Graduate Certificate in Literature (330010GC)

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

The Graduate Literature Certificate provides students with a strong practical and theoretical grounding in the study of literature in English. Students will learn advanced methods for deeper study of literatures written in English, and 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 critical writing, learning to interpret texts in contexts ranging from academic debate to the contemporary classroom to a variety of professional settings.

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

ENGL 506 Chaucer*

ENGL 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.

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](#).

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

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 director)

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



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

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

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.

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. Students who wish to pursue the TESL certificate should meet with the program director to discuss the program and course availability. 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 (Min. Credits: 12)

- 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



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

Electives** (Min. Credits: 3)

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

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

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

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) 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 of all tracks (Composition, Fine Arts, and Literature) 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 of all three tracks.

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

Department Contacts



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NEOMFA ADVISING

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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 Communication
330002GC	Graduate Certificate in Composition
330003GC	Graduate Certificate in TESL
330010GC	Graduate Certificate in Literature

Additional Information



English Department Website

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



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Social Media Pages

[UA Department of English Facebook](#)

[Upstart Crows Facebook](#)

[Department of English Instagram](#)



LinkedIn

[English Dept U of A](#)