**Department of English**

**BA in English**

**2018-2019**

**Contact Information**

Dr. Alex E. Blazer, Interim Co-Chair and Literature Coordinator

Mr. John Sirmans, Interim Co-Chair and Creative Writing Coordinator

Arts & Sciences Building 3-03

Phone: 478.445.4581

Email: [englishdept@gcsu.edu](mailto:englishdept@gcsu.edu)

Web: <https://www.gcsu.edu/english>

**Introduction**

Students who wish to pursue the English major must select a concentration: creative writing or literature. While all students are welcome to pursue the major in either concentration, it’s important to understand the challenges of writing literary fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, or dramatic scripts (the creative writing concentration) and reading, analyzing, writing, and speaking about classical and contemporary works of literature and film with the awareness of literary and cultural criticism (the literature concentration).

**The Major**

As with other liberal arts majors, the study of literature requires significant time for substantial reading, thoughtful interpretation, and critical evaluation; and the practice of creative writing requires significant time for imaginative creation, reflective revision, and intellectual engagement with both published literary works and the works of one’s peers. English majors in the creative writing concentration develop not only the critical and analytical skills of the literature concentration student but also the creative, artistic skills of the literary author. It is important, therefore, that students understand the time commitment required of this major’s sequence of courses and prerequisites. The creative writing concentration requires four or more semesters in the program’s major requirements of introductory, intermediate, and advanced creative writing workshops as well lower-and upper-division literature courses. The literature concentration requires no fewer than three semesters for its sequence of courses that expose students to British and American literary periods, international literature, multicultural literature, and theories of literature and language; and it is recommended that students distribute the load of upper-division literature courses among four or five semesters.

**Extracurricular Opportunities**

Many of our students serve as editors on the undergraduate art and literary magazine *The Peacock’s Feet* or as mentors in the creative writing program’s Writing in the Schools project working with seventh grades in Georgia College’s innovative Early College program.

Each year, the Creative Writing Program hosts 10-12 distinguished visiting writers, who visit classes, meet with students, and present readings and other programs on campus. *The Flannery O’Connor Review* sponsors the Flannery O’Connor Memorial Lecture, and the Department of English sponsors the Women’s Studies Begemann-Gordon Lecture.

Student organizations led by English majors include Literary Guild, Georgia College’s book club, and Sigma Tau Delta, the local chapter of the International English Honor Society. Students can also participate in Shakespearean Circle, which features roundtable readings of Shakespeare plays, as well as the Romanticism Reading Group, which reads literature and screens film adaptations from the Romantic period.

Students may participate in the spring *24-Hour Plays* project, in the Red Earth student reading series, and in the *Black Market Radio Show*, a biweekly campus radio show turned podcast programmed by Creative Writing and Literature social media interns and featuring English majors. Creative Writing capstone students are eligible to submit their work to the fall AWP Intro Awards (Associated Writing Programs) and the spring Academy of American Poets University Prize competitions; and the Margaret Harvin Wilson Award recognizes the best undergraduate writing at Georgia College. English majors are mentored by faculty members to submit their critical work to *The Corinthian* (Georgia College’s undergraduate research journal), the Student Research Conference, and the Women’s and Gender Studies Symposium. Each year, one or two select students go on to present at the COPLAC Regional Conference (Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges), and the Department selects an Outstanding Senior from the Creative Writing concentration and the Literature concentration.

**Graduate School and Career Paths**

Many of our creative writing students choose to pursue graduate studies in Creative Writing (recent graduates have sought their Master of Fine Arts degrees at the University of Wisconsin, the University of Maryland, Temple University, the University of Nebraska, New Mexico State University, the University of South Carolina, and other programs). Many of our literature students choose to pursue graduate studies in Literature (recent graduates have sought their Master of English or Doctor of Philosophy degrees at Villanova University, Texas A&M, University of Alabama, University of Georgia, and Auburn University). Many English majors pursue their Master of Arts in Teaching, often at Georgia College. Some graduates of our program go to law school (recent graduates have entered Georgia State University and the University of Georgia).

Many of our students pursue different careers, including public school teaching, film and television work, business, library science, and teaching ESL (English as a Second Language). But the goal for all creative writing students is that they learn the discipline of writing and that they eventually strive to publish their work. And the goal of all literature students is that they become lifelong learners who can write and communicate well, who can analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information, who have organizational, time management, and teamwork skills, and who appreciate diverse viewpoints.

Each year, the department offers both a graduate school application workshop and a career development workshop.

**English Major, Creative Writing Concentration Highlights**

* **Talented faculty members.** All of our faculty members—Martin Lammon, Laura Newbern, Peter Selgin, John Sirmans, Kerry Neville, Hail Sofala-Jones, and Cecilia Woloch—have published writing in their respective genres. Each of these faculty members works closely with our students to help them reach their full potential as writers.
* ***The Peacock’s Feet*.** Creative Writing students can take our Journal Design course and work on *The Peacock’s Feet* literary journal which features undergraduate writing, visual art, and music.
* **Undergraduate publishing.** Works by our Creative Writing students have been published along with some of the nation’s best in Virginia Commonwealth University’s journal, *Plain China*.
* **Reading opportunities.** The *Red Earth Reading Series* for Creative Writing students is held each month at the Blackbird Coffee Shop and regularly draws full crowds. The *Black Market Podcast* offers the opportunity for undergraduates to read their original work and to discuss books.
* **Margaret Harvin Wilson Award**. Each year, the winners of this Georgia College Creative Writing contest receive recognition and monetary awards for their fiction, drama, and poetry.
* **The Writers’ Circle**. This newly-formed group meets monthly to discuss in-progress works by Creative Writing students.
* **Intern Program.** Two undergraduate students are selected each year to work with our faculty and staff in publicizing our English Department activities.
* **Senior Reading.** Each Spring Semester, graduating seniors in the Creative Writing Program read from their works to a gathering of family, friends, and faculty members.
* **Association of Writers and Writing Programs**. Last year, the Creative Writing Program sent six undergraduates to the national AWP Conference in Tampa, FL.
* **MFA Degree Programs**. Undergraduate Creative Writing students at Georgia College have been accepted into many renowned Master of Fine Arts degree programs including Florida State University, the University of Minnesota, Emerson College, Bowling Green University, Columbia University, the University of North Carolina Wilmington, New Mexico State University, and elsewhere.

**English Major, Literature Concentration Highlights**

* **Take a Special Topics Courses in the Core**. Take Georgia College’s signature special topics seminars, GC1Y and GC2Y, from literature faculty, including Black Women Artists, Global Horror Films, Immigrants in Literature, The Salem Witch Trials of 1682, Monsters and Machines, Myth, Magic, and the Modern World, Public and Collective Memory, SciFi and Philosophy, Underworlds and Afterlives, Utopia/Dystopia, and War Literature
* **Take a Special Topics Course in the Major***.* In addition to traditional literature courses studying genres, periods, and national literatures, literature students can take special topics courses in the major such as Alice Walker, American Film and the South, Captivity and Freedom, From the Roaring Twenties to Reunification: Berlin through the Ages, Haunting and the Literary Imagination, Miyazaki and 19th Century Literature, Louise Erdrich, Race & Gender in Latin American Literature, and Shakespeare on Film
* **Study Abroad with Faculty**. Literature faculty regularly teach courses abroad in the summer. Recent offerings include From the Roaring Twenties to Reunification: Berlin through the Ages in Berlin, Germany; Imagining Italy in Rome, Italy; Irish Folklore in Waterford, Ireland; Picturing Paris in Paris, France; Shakespeare and Cervantes in Madrid, Spain; Underworlds and Afterlives in Rome, Italy; Paris, France; and Madrid, Spain; World Literature in Berlin, Germany and Waterford, Ireland.
* **Participate in an Extracurricular Activity**. Students can join a book/film club like Literary Guild, Shakespearean Circle, or the Romanticism Reading Group.
* **Work with a Faculty Mentor**. Faculty enjoy helping students with their critical work both inside and outside of the classroom. They can help you develop your research project for submission to *The Corinthian*, the Student Research Conference, or the Women’s and Gender Studies Symposium.
* **Complete an Internship**. Students can complete an exciting internship for both capstone credit and work experience. Recent internships include: Babe and Sage Farms (Creation of Middle Roots, a publication about organic farming in Middle Georgia); Teaching English at Baldwin County High School; *The Corinthian*, Elevate Live Events Production Company in Norcross, Georgia; Georgia Literary Festival; GCSU Sports Information; International Justice Mission in Washington, D.C.; Law Office in McDonough, Georgia; John Milledge Academy; Putnam High School; Teaching homeless children in Peru; Teaching internship with Bleckley County High School in Cochran, Georgia; VSolvit, a technology services company in California.
* **Write a Thesis**. Students can write an interesting and original thesis for capstone credit. Recent topics include: Autism and Literary Intervention; *Beauty and the Beast* Film Adaptations and Sexual Orientation and Gender Performance; *Bojack Horseman* and Existential Comedy; Geoffrey Chaucer and Religion; Dystopian Film; *Doctor Who* and Gender and Sexuality; Dave Eggers, *Person of Interest*, and Michel Foucault’s Conceptions of Panopticism in Post-9/11 America; Female Psychopaths in Pop Culture; Jonathan Franzen and Consumer Relationships; *Friends*, *Rebecca*, and Relational Dialectics; *Game of Thrones* and Female Representation; Herman Melville and Civil Society; Yukio Mishima, Flannery O’Connor, and Children; Black Hawk, Toni Morrison, and Othering; Manic Pixie Dream Girls and Feminism; Flannery O’Connor and Children; J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter, William Shakespeare’s *Troilus and Cressida*, and Gendered Discourse; Superhero Film Genre after 9/11 Terrorist Attacks; William Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus*, Alfred Hitchcock’s *Psycho*, and Mothers; William Shakespeare, *Breaking Bad*, and Antiheroism; and Harriet Wilson and Double-Consciousness.
* **Graduate Admissions**. Our graduates go on to pursue graduate degrees (both MA and PhD) in literary studies and teaching (the MAT) as well as law degrees (the JD). Recent acceptances include Villanova University MA Program in English, Georgia College MA Program, Georgia College MAT Program, Georgia State University Law School, Georgia State University MA Program in English, Texas A&M MA Program in English, University of Alabama MA Program in English, University of Georgia PhD Program in English, University of Georgia School of Law, Auburn University MA Program in English.
* **Jobs and Careers**. The literature concentration prepares students with the critical intelligence and media literacy for a variety of careers in the fields of education, law and business, publishing and media, information and research, and politics and public service. In recent years, our graduates have secured positions as a County High School Teacher in Cochran, Georgia; a Global Relocation Consultant in Detroit, Michigan; a Marketing Strategist in Atlanta, Georgia; Military College Faculty in Milledgeville, Georgia; a Technology Services Consultant in Ventura, California; Public Charter School Faculty in Greensboro, Georgia; Technical College Faculty in Milledgeville, Georgia; Technical College Faculty in Savannah, Georgia; Technical College Faculty in Warner Robins, Georgia; and a video game writer in New York, New York.

**Creative Writing Concentration Degree Requirements at a Glance**

**Area F**

1. ENGL 2208 Intro to Creative Writing
2. ENGL 2150 Shakespeare
3. ENGL 2200 Writing About Literature
4. ENGL 2130 American Literature
5. ENGL 2120 Intro to British Literature  
   Or

ENGL 2160 Studies in International Literature

1. FREN 2002 Intermediate French Language & Culture II  
   GRMN 2002 Intermediate German Language & Culture II  
   ITAL 2002 Intermediate Italian Language & Culture II

Or  
SPAN 2002 Intermediate Spanish Language & Culture II

**Major Requirements**

7-8. Two 3000-level Intermediate Courses in different genres:  
ENGL 3011 Intermediate Scriptwriting

ENGL 3012 Intermediate Creative Nonfiction Writing

ENGL 3021 Intermediate Poetry Writing  
ENGL 3022 Intermediate Fiction Writing

9-10. Two 4000-level workshops:  
ENGL 4011 Script Writing

ENGL 4012 Creative Nonfiction Writing

ENGL 4021 Poetry Workshop

ENGL 4022 Fiction Workshop

Students take two workshops in the same two different genres as selected for Intermediate courses.

1. Creative Writing Seminar

ENGL 4031 Creative Writing Senior Seminar

12-14. At least one course must be in British literature written pre-  
-1800, one in American literature, while the third can be from any others among those listed below.  
ENGL 4220 Medieval English Literature

ENGL 4223 Chaucer

ENGL 4224 Renaissance Poetry and Prose

ENGL 4226 Topics in Shakespeare

ENGL 4227 Milton

ENGL 4228 Development of English Drama

ENGL 4229 English Renaissance Drama

ENGL 4330 Restoration & 18th Cent Lit

ENGL 4331 Eighteenth-Cent English Novel

ENGL 4335 English Romanticism

ENGL 4337 Victorian Literature

ENGL 4338 19th-Century English Novel

ENGL 4440 Modern Drama

ENGL 4441 20th-Century British Fiction

ENGL 4445 Literary Women

ENGL 4446 Modern Poetry

ENGL 4450 Women’s International Literature

ENGL 4530 Early American Literature

ENGL 4540 American Romanticism

ENGL 4555 American Realism

ENGL 4660 Modern American Literature

ENGL 4662 Southern Literature

ENGL 4664 Flannery O'Connor

ENGL 4667 African-American Literature

ENGL 4669 Multicultural Amer Literature

ENGL 4671 Studies in Native American Lit

ENGL 4675 Contemporary American Literature

ENGL 4910 Special Topics in American Literature

ENGL 4915 Special Topics in British Literature

ENGL 4920 Special Topics in Pre-1800 Literature

ENGL 4925 Special Topics in Post-1800 Literature

15. One course from the following theoretical approaches  
ENGL 4110 Literary Criticism

ENGL 4112 Theories of Comp and Literature

ENGL 4115 Hist of the English Language

ENGL 4116 Structure of Present-Day English

16. One Senior Capstone from the following options

ENGL 4025 Literary Journal Design & Editing

ENGL 4013 Poetry Translation

IDST 4999 Interdisciplinary Senior Capstone

ENGL 4024 Teaching Writing in Schools II  
(ENGL 4023 Prerequisite)

ENGL 4980 Study Abroad Project

or

ENGL 4940 Independent study

**Literature Concentration Degree Requirements at a Glance**

**Area F**

1. ENGL 2120 Intro to British Literature
2. ENGL 2130 American Literature
3. ENGL 2150 Shakespeare
4. ENGL 2160 Studies in International Literature
5. ENGL 2200 Writing About Literature
6. FREN 2002 Intermediate French Language & Culture II  
   GRMN 2002 Intermediate German Language & Culture II  
   ITAL 2002 Intermediate Italian Language & Culture II

Or  
SPAN 2002 Intermediate Spanish Language & Culture II

**Major Requirements**

1. Pre-1800 Topics

ENGL 4220 Medieval English Literature

ENGL 4223 Chaucer

ENGL 4224 Renaissance Poetry and Prose

ENGL 4226 Topics in Shakespeare

ENGL 4227 Milton

ENGL 4228 Development of English Drama

ENGL 4229 English Renaissance Drama

ENGL 4330 Restoration & 18th-Century Lit

ENGL 4331 18th-Century English Novel

ENGL 4530 Early American Literature

Or

ENGL 4920 Special Topics in Pre-1800 Lit

1. Post-1800 Topics

ENGL 4335 English Romanticism

ENGL 4337 Victorian Literature

ENGL 4338 19th-Century English Novel

ENGL 4440 Modern Drama

ENGL 4441 20th-Century British Fiction

ENGL 4445 Literary Women

ENGL 4446 Modern Poetry

ENGL 4450 Women’s International Literature

ENGL 4540 American Romanticism

ENGL 4555 American Realism

ENGL 4662 Southern Literature

ENGL 4664 Flannery O’Connor

ENGL 4660 Modern American Literature

ENGL 4667 African-American Literature

ENGL 4669 Multicultural American Literature

ENGL 4671 Native American Literature

ENGL 4675 Contemporary American Lit

ENGL 4680 Hip Hop Literature and Culture

ENGL 4740 Women & Popular Culture

ENGL 4770 Studies in Folklore

ENGL 4775 Folklore & Literature

ENGL 4810 Film Studies

ENGL 4820 Jane Austen on Film

Or

ENGL 4925 Special Topics in Post-1800 Lit

1. American Topics

ENGL 4530 Early American Literature

ENGL 4540 American Romanticism

ENGL 4555 American Realism

ENGL 4662 Southern Literature

ENGL 4664 Flannery O’Connor

ENGL 4660 Modern American Literature

ENGL 4667 African-American Literature

ENGL 4669 Multicultural American Literature

ENGL 4671 Native American Literature

ENGL 4675 Contemporary American Lit

ENGL 4680 Hip Hop Literature and Culture

Or

ENGL 4910 Special Topics in American Lit

1. British Topics

ENGL 4223 Chaucer

ENGL 4226 Topics in Shakespeare

ENGL 4227 Milton

ENGL 4220 Medieval English Literature

ENGL 4228 Development of English Drama

ENGL 4229 English Renaissance Drama

ENGL 4330 Restoration & 18th-Century Lit

ENGL 4331 18th-Century English Novel

ENGL 4335 English Romanticism

ENGL 4337 Victorian Literature

ENGL 4338 19th-Century English Novel

ENGL 4441 20th-Century British Fiction

ENGL 4820 Jane Austen on Film

Or

ENGL 4915 Special Topics in British Lit

1. International Topics

ENGL 4224 Renaissance Poetry and Prose

ENGL 4447 Comparative Literature

ENGL 4449 Great Books of the Western World

ENGL 4450 Women’s International Lit

ENGL 4451 African Literature

ENGL 4452 African Women Writers

ENGL 4455 Literature of the Islamic World

ENGL 4468 Japanese Literature & Culture

ENGL 4770 Studies in Folklore

ENGL 4775 Folklore & Literature

Or

ENGL 4955 Special Topics in Intl Literature

1. Multicultural Topics

ENGL 4667 African-American Literature

ENGL 4669 Multicultural American Literature

ENGL 4671 Native American Literature

ENGL 4740 Women & Popular Culture

ENGL 4680 Hip Hop Literature and Culture

Or

ENGL 4950 Special Topics

1. Language and Theory

ENGL 4110 Literary Criticism

ENGL 4112 Language and Composition Theory

ENGL 4115 History of the English Language

Or

ENGL 4116 Structure of Present-Day English

1. Junior Seminar

ENGL 3900 Critical Approaches to Literature

1. Senior Seminar

ENGL 4900 Seminar of Language & Literature

1. Senior Capstone  
   ENGL 4960 Internship

ENGL 4970 Thesis

ENGL 4999 Undergraduate Research (must be cross-listed

with an upper-level literature course taught by a faculty member in the GCSU literature program to count for Capstone credit)

ENGL 4024 Writing in the Schools

(ENGL 4023 prerequisite)

ENGL 4025 Journal Editing  
Or

Study Abroad can be used as a capstone experience either through completing an internship abroad in conjunction with ENGL 4960 or through completing a research project abroad with a GCSU faculty member in conjunction with ENGL 4999