WHY MAJOR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE?

Are you keenly interested in communications, media, literature, and culture? Do you excel at reading or writing? Are you ready to engage in active discussions of issues that affect you, your country, your generation? The UBC English Literature Major may be the program for you!

English courses enhance writing and presentation skills, reading and analytical competencies, and critical and creative thought. A major in English will enable you to practice and hone these skills over several years giving you a solid foundation in critical analysis, historical knowledge, and media awareness. An English Major prepares students for any profession in which cultural awareness, analytical thinking, and communication are important.

Taught by world-renowned, prize-winning scholars in small classes, UBC English courses cover topics from medieval ecology to monsters and demons in indigenous literature, from Shakespeare in film to the rhetoric of health, from the ecology of Victorian fiction to transsexuality in television: every historical event from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Trump and every medium from words to pages to film to Facebook.

NEW! PILOT PROGRAM - COMBINED MAJOR IN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

We are now offering a pilot program that combines our language & literatures streams! It provides students with the opportunity to take courses from the full range of Department offerings. The program is an excellent option for students looking for a multi-modal degree combining close linguistic analysis with cultural and historical interpretation. It will be particular useful for students pursuing in careers in education and media, but it will be of interest to anyone wanting to blend language and literary studies.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

english.ubc.ca/undergraduate/major-in-english or the department website: english.ubc.ca

You can also browse all our courses at english.ubc.ca/courses!

WHOM CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Consult with an English Advisor:
see the schedule at english.ubc.ca/undergraduate/minor-in-english/advising/

Undergraduate Program Assistant
Ms. Donna Shanley
english.undergraduate@ubc.ca

Chair of Majors Committee
Professor Alexander Dick
alex.dick@ubc.ca

Associate Head, Undergraduate
Professor Elizabeth Hodgson
e.hodgson@ubc.ca
The English Major Program

LITERATURE

WHAT COURSES DO I TAKE?

Entry Requirements (12 credits)
In order to declare the English Literature major students must have completed, preferably in first-year, either Arts One, the Coordinated Arts Program, six credits of first-year English, or WRDS 150 plus three credits of first-year English. In second-year, students take an introductory overview of English literature up to the eighteenth century (ENGL 220) and one course in either modern British, American, Canadian, World, Indigenous, or Media Literature.

Program Requirements (30 credits)
In third and fourth year, English literature majors take one course each in four main areas: Medieval and Early Modern Literature; Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Literature; Modern Literature; Genre and Theory. They also take one course in Canadian Literature and one research seminar, a class of up to 16 students working on specific topic or field. The rest is up to you! You may even take up to 6 credits in the Language program or, with the permission of an advisor, up to 6 credits of literature courses outside English. Talk to an advisor about how to build a suite of courses in a particular area or stream that fits your interests and ambitions.

CAN A MAJOR IN ENGLISH HELP TO START MY CAREER?

English degrees are a hot commodity on the job market. Knowing how and why media and communication work can give you a huge advantage in today’s rapidly-changing work-world. Employers know that only applicants with skills in critical thinking and writing and who understand the power of language and media are ready for its challenges. English grads are teachers, lawyers, journalists, publishers, actors, entrepreneurs, consultants, even Prime Ministers.

CAN I COMBINE MY PROGRAM WITH AN ENGLISH LITERATURE MAJOR?

An English Major can complement any major or honours program in Arts or Science. Current English majors are also studying economics, political science, psychology, biology, environmental studies, history, geography, anthropology, and visual art. Talk to an advisor about how you might develop a double major that will meet your goals and interests.

HOW DO I DECLARE A MAJOR IN ENGLISH?

There is no minimum average for admission and no formal application is necessary. Students may declare the English Major once they have met second-year English course requirements and achieve third-year standing. You may declare the Major simply by sending an email, stating your intent, to the English department Undergraduate Program Assistant at English.undergraduate@ubc.ca with the subject line: DECLARING ENGLISH MAJOR. Include your full name and student number.

"Heads up, business majors: Employers are newly hot on the trail of hires with liberal arts and humanities degrees."
Wall Street Journal

"The Best Argument for Studying English? The Employment Numbers... Only people who don't understand statistics would question the value of an English degree."
The Atlantic

"English Majors are the Hot New Hires"
Open Forum