WHY MAJOR IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE?

Are you interested in languages, communication, society, and culture? Are you also interested in literature, its history and its future? Are you ready to engage in discussions of issues that affect you, your country, your generation? The UBC English Major in Language and Literature may be the program for you!

The major in Language and Literature enables students to take courses from the full range of the Department’s language and literature offerings. It is an excellent option for students looking for a multimodal degree combining close linguistic analysis with cultural and historical interpretation. It will be particular useful for students interested in pursuing careers in education and media, but it will also be of interest to anyone seeking to blend language and literature in their degree.

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, giving you a solid foundation in critical analysis, historical knowledge, and contemporary discourse. An English Major will prepare students for any profession in which linguistic awareness, analytical thinking, and communication are important.

Taught by world-renowned, prize-winning scholars, in small classes, UBC English courses cover an amazing variety of topics, from Old English to Canadian English, from medieval ecology to contemporary indigenous fantasy, from Shakespeare on film to transsexuality in television, from the history of dictionaries to the influence of texting, every historical event from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Trump, and every medium from words to pages to film to Facebook!

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

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

Browse 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/major-in-english/advising/

Undergraduate Program Assistant
Nicole Roussos
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

Faculty Career Advisor
Professor Miguel Mota
Miguel.Mota@ubc.ca
WHAT COURSES DO I TAKE?

In first year, students in the English Language and Literature major must complete either Arts One or the Coordinated Arts Program or six credits of first-year English, or WRDS 150 plus three credits of first-year English.

In second-year, students take introductory courses in literary (ENGL 220) and language study (ENGL 229).

In third and fourth year, students in the combined emphasis take a range of courses from both the language and literature programs including History and Theory of Rhetoric (ENGL 310) and the Structure of Modern English (ENGL 330 and 331), one course each in English literature from before and after 1900, and a wide range of electives in language and literature.

In fourth-year, students take one seminar on a particular topic or field in either literature (ENGL 490) or language (ENGL 489) study. Talk to an advisor about how to build a suite of courses that fit your interests.

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 LANGUAGE AND 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. You may declare the Major 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