

# Literatures and Criticism Checklist

**Major Requirements for students declaring the major after  
February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
42 credits (including ENGL 220)**

Hunter College Department  
1212 West  
[hunter.cuny.edu/english](http://hunter.cuny.edu/english)  
212.772.5070

The Literatures and Criticism concentration provides students with a strong foundation in literary history, theory, and interpretation. Students in this concentration are well prepared for the challenges of graduate or professional school. The critical thinking and writing skills acquired in this concentration are also excellent preparation for careers in the arts, communications, social advocacy, law, business, urban planning, and a range of other professions.

## REQUIRED COURSES

*These courses introduce students to a broad range of literatures and questions fundamental to further study. As such, they should be taken in the early semesters of students' pursuit of the major.*

Please check (✓) the courses you have completed at this time.

### A. Introductory Courses (6 credits)

#### 1. ENGL 220 Introduction to Writing About Literature

Must be passed before taking any other English courses.

#### 2. ENGL 252 Introduction to Literary Studies

Must be taken within one semester of declaring major.

### B. Survey Courses in Literature and Theory (9 credits)

#### 1. ENGL 304 Survey of British and Irish Literature: Early Texts to 1800

#### 2. ENGL 306 Introduction to Literary Theory

#### 3. ENGL 307 Survey of American Literature: From Origins to the Civil War

### C. Literature Requirements (12 credits)

#### 1. Two courses from

- ENGL 31700 Topics in Non- European Literary Traditions (W)
- ENGL 31800 Topics in Literature of Non-European Americans (W)
- ENGL 32000 Multi-Ethnic American Literature (W)
- ENGL 32100 Topics in African American Literature
- ENGL 32300 Topics in Asian American Literature
- ENGL 32400 Topics in Native American Literature
- ENGL 32500 Post-colonial Literature in English (W)
- ENGL 32600 Topics in US Latina/o Literature
- ENGL 32700 Topics in Caribbean Literature (W)
- ENGL 32900 Topics in Cross-Cultural Literature

#### 2. One course in literature, linguistics, or rhetoric pre-1800, other than ENGL 304 or 307. The list of eligible pre-1800 courses found in the Hunter Catalog in Programs of Study -> English > Literature and Criticism concentration.

#### 3. One course in literature, linguistics, or rhetoric pre-1900. Courses include all those that fulfill the pre-1800 requirement (with the exception of courses in Shakespeare: ENGL 35200, ENGL 35300, ENGL 35400, ENGL 35500); and include the following:

- ENGL 33900 – Survey of British and Irish Literature II: 1800 to the present
- ENGL 36900 – The 19<sup>th</sup> Century English Novel
- ENGL 37300 – Victorian Literature (W)
- ENGL 38500 – Topics in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Literature
- ENGL 39600 – American Prose from Reconstruction to World War I
- ENGL 39700 – Pre-20<sup>th</sup> Century American Poetry

**D.****ELECTIVES (15 CREDITS)**

Students in this major are required to take fifteen credits of elective courses. One elective course must be a 400-level advanced seminar, which can only be taken after achieving 24 credits in the major (see below). The remaining courses must be at the 300-level or above (with the exception of ENGL 28000 and ENGL 28500), or possibly a class from another department - see next paragraph below.

All English majors also have the option to take **one** of their elective courses in another department. In order to do this, students must meet all of that department's prerequisites for the course. This elective course must be on the "list of approved courses in another department" on the English Department website.\* Students with double majors may apply the course to one of those majors, but not both. For example, someone majoring in English and History who takes HIST 34251 Britain Since 1689 may count that course toward either the English or History major, not both.

\*Note: To take a course that is not on the list, or in another department, students must have **prior** written permission from an English advisor and, in some cases, from the Department that offers the course. Students must meet all of that department's prerequisites for the course.

**400-level Advanced Seminar**

All English majors must take a 400-level Advanced Seminar as one of their electives. In order to be eligible for the course, students must first complete at least 24 credits in the major and meet the prerequisites for the specific Seminar (listed below).

ENGL 49000 Advanced Seminar in Literature and Criticism (Prerequisites: ENGL 22000; ENGL 25200; ENGL 30400; ENGL 30600; ENGL 30700; one of ENGL 31700, 31800, 32000, 32100, 32300, 32400, 32500, 32600, 32700, or 32900)

ENGL 49200 Advanced Seminar in Linguistics and/or Rhetoric (Prerequisites: ENGL 22000; ENGL 25200; ENGL 28000; ENGL 30100; and at least at least one of ENGL 34000, ENGL 34100, ENGL 34200, or ENGL 34300; and at least one of ENGL 33000, ENGL 33200, ENGL 33300, ENGL 34600, ENGL 34700, ENGL 34800)

ENGL 48400 Advanced Seminar in Creative Writing (Prerequisites: ENGL 22000; ENGL 25200; ENGL 28500; ENGL 30400; ENGL 30700; and both a level 1 and 2 workshop in the student's chosen genre)

Students may take any Advanced Seminar for which they meet the prerequisites. Students who maintain a 3.5 GPA in the major through at least 24 credits and a 2.8 overall GPA are eligible to take the Honors Seminar (ENGL 49400) in place of **or** in addition to one of the Advanced Seminars. In rare cases, students may take ENGL 48500 Individual Tutorial Project instead of an Advanced Seminar, but only by permission of an advisor and the professor supervising the project.

**FAQs****When and how should I see an English Department Advisor?**

You should see an Advisor (at least) once a semester just to check in and see that you're moving in the right direction to earn your degree. Check the English Department webpage, or the list outside the English Department Office for names and office hours of Advisors

**Can I change my concentration after I declare the major?**

Yes. Talk to any advisor about this, so you can learn the details.

**If I'm concentrating in Literature and Criticism, can I take a creative writing workshop class?**

Yes. You are welcome to take one or more creative writing classes as electives. Just note that ENGL 285: Introduction to Creative Writing is the prerequisite for all other Creative Writing workshops. Students must earn a grade of B or better in ENGL 285 to take more advanced creative writing workshops.