

English

John S. McBratney	Chair, 19th & 20th-Century English Literature
George B. Bilgere	Creative Writing; Modern Poetry
Jeanne M. Colleran	Drama; 20th-Century Literature
Mike Croley	Creative Writing
Thomas L. Hayes	18th-Century English Literature
Peter Kvidera	Associate Dean; 19th & 20th-Century American Literature
David M. La Guardia	American Literature
Brian K. Macaskill	Literary Theory; 20th-Century Literature
Philip J. Metres III	20th-Century American Literature; Creative Writing
Maryclaire Moroney	Renaissance Literature
Thomas Pace	Rhetorical Theory; Composition Studies; Renaissance Literature
Chris Roark	Shakespeare; 16th & 17th-Century English Literature
Debra J. Rosenthal	19th-Century American Literature; Director, Graduate Studies
Francis X. Ryan, S.J.	Tudor Literature; Medieval Drama

Our graduate students arrive with passion and ambition, and leave with the ability to put their knowledge to use in rewarding careers.

The Master of Arts program in English invites applicants from any accredited college or university who wish to pursue graduate studies in English, American, and Anglophone literatures. The M.A. in English is designed to provide a broad background in English literatures and to introduce students to methods of critical analysis and scholarly technique. John Carroll's Master of Arts students benefit from a comprehensive selection of course offerings, providing in-depth study of literature. The program allows ample opportunity to improve students' research and writing skills so that our graduates can make exemplary contributions to their chosen fields, whether that means doctoral programs, university or secondary-school teaching, or a host of other careers in which critical thinking and skillful communication are prized.

Our program also offers paid Graduate Assistant positions. Supported by close faculty mentoring, Graduate Assistants develop their professional capacities by teaching in the classroom and tutoring in the John Carroll Writing Center.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the master's program in English depends on a favorable evaluation of the applicant's undergraduate record, GRE scores (general only) for those applying for a Graduate Assistantship (applicants not applying for a Graduate Assistantship do not need to send GRE scores), two recommendations from undergraduate professors, the applicant's statement of purpose, and a sample of scholarly writing. Applicants should normally have a GPA in their major of at least 3.0. Undergraduate studies usually must have included six upper-division courses (18 hours) in English and American literature. Although applications for admission are accepted until one month before the start of the semester in which an applicant wishes to enroll, early application is recommended. Inquiries regarding graduate assistantships should be made directly to the department.

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Applications for assistantships, along with all supporting documents and test scores, must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies by March 1.

The department offers two plans of study leading to the M.A. degree:

1. Plan A, which requires at least eight courses together with a comprehensive exam and a thesis; or
2. Plan B, which requires at least ten courses together with a comprehensive exam and an essay.

Students taking Plan B have the option of including one of two writing tracks in their degree program: Creative Writing or Composition and Rhetorical Studies.

1. Course Requirements

Students are required to take at least three courses that examine pre-Romantic materials, and to take at least three courses that examine materials from the Romantics onwards. Students who have selected one of the writing tracks will substitute writing workshops or related classes for four courses in literary periods.

2. Comprehensive Exam

Students choose four areas for the comprehensive exam from seven historical time periods. Those completing the creative writing track or Composition and Rhetoric Track substitute an exam in one of these areas for one of the four historical time periods. See the [MA Reading List](#) for the exam list in each area.

3. Essay or Thesis

Those completing eight courses (plan A) write a thesis of sixty to one hundred pages; those completing ten courses (plan B) write an essay of twenty-five to thirty-five pages.

More details can be obtained in the Master of Arts in English Handbook available in the Department of English.

Graduate Assistant Scholarships

Overview:

Financial aid is available in the form of Graduate Assistantships, including Teaching Assistantships and Research Assistantships.

Graduate Assistants provide crucial professional services in the Department of English, and their position carries a high level of responsibility and independence. Graduate Assistants are full time students, but their workload typically includes assisting a faculty member in a composition course during the first semester of study and then teaching one composition course during the second semester of the first year.

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Second year GAs typically teach one or two composition courses during fall term and one course during the final, or spring, term. GAs also tutor in our writing center.

Application

A Department of English faculty committee selects Graduate Assistants from among a pool of applicants. The process is competitive.

Students interested in applying for the position should request application materials from the Office of Graduate Studies.

The selection committee pays special attention to these materials submitted by applicants:

1. academic writing sample
2. personal statement of the candidate's aims for graduate study
3. evidence that shows preparation for or promise of effective classroom teaching
4. at least two letters of recommendation by former professors

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

400. ADVANCED NON-FICTION WRITING WORKSHOP 3 cr. Advanced work in non-fiction prose.

401. ADVANCED POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP 3 cr. Intense, advanced work in crafting poems.

402. ADVANCED FICTION WRITING WORKSHOP 3 cr. Intense, advanced work in crafting short stories.

403. SPECIAL TOPICS WRITING WORKSHOP 3 cr. Topic of special writing projects announced in advance.

410. OLD ENGLISH LANGUAGE 3 cr. Study of Old English language.

411. STUDIES IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE 3 cr. Selected issues, authors, and genres of literature of the Middle Ages; specific topic announced in advance.

412. MEDIEVAL DRAMA 3 cr. Drama of the Middle Ages.

413. STUDIES IN OLD ENGLISH LITERATURE 3 cr. Selected issues, authors, and genres of Anglo-Saxon literature; specific topic announced in advance.

416. CHAUCER 3 cr. Major writings, with a study of their backgrounds, art, and language. Emphasis on *The Canterbury Tales* and *Troilus and Criseyde*.

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421. STUDIES IN RENAISSANCE LITERATURE 3 cr. Selected issues, authors, and genres of the Renaissance period; specific topic announced in advance.

422. STUDIES IN SHAKESPEARE 3 cr. Selected studies of Shakespearean drama and/or poetry; specific topic announced in advance.

423. ENGLISH RENAISSANCE DRAMA 3 cr. Theatrical conditions and chief playwrights of the English Renaissance, exclusive of Shakespeare.

425. MILTON 3 cr. Detailed examination of the major and minor works as representative of literary and cultural developments of the Baroque period.

426. SPENSER 3 cr. Major writings of Edmund Spenser; special emphasis on *The Faerie Queene*.

430. STUDIES IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE 3 cr. Specialized study of issues, authors, and genres of literature of eighteenth-century England; specific topic announced in advance.

431. DRAMA OF THE RESTORATION AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURY 3 cr. English drama from Davenant to Sheridan, with emphasis on the stage as a reflector of the period.

432. THE ENGLISH NOVEL: DEFOE THROUGH AUSTEN 3 cr. History, changing patterns, and techniques of English novel writing in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

441. STUDIES IN ROMANTIC LITERATURE 3 cr. Specialized study of Romantic literature; specific topic announced in advance.

445. BRITISH WOMEN WRITERS 3 cr. Nineteenth-century British women writers; course may occasionally include selected eighteenth- and twentieth-century women writers.

453. KEATS 3 cr. Examination of the poetry of John Keats.

454. STUDIES IN VICTORIAN LITERATURE 3 cr. Specialized study of Victorian literature; specific topic announced in advance.

458. DICKENS 3 cr. The major novels, with a study of their backgrounds, art, and language.

459. THE ENGLISH NOVEL: DICKENS THROUGH MEREDITH 3 cr. Examination of nineteenth-century British fiction.

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- 460. STUDIES IN MODERN BRITISH LITERATURE 3 cr.** Specialized study of twentieth-century literature; specific topic announced in advance.
- 461. STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY BRITISH LITERATURE 3 cr.** Specialized study of contemporary British literature; specific topic announced in advance.
- 470. STUDIES IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE 3 cr.** Specialized study of nineteenth-century American literature; specific topic announced in advance.
- 471. STUDIES IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE 3 cr.** Specialized study of twentieth-century American literature; specific topic announced in advance.
- 472. STUDIES IN AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE 3 cr.** Specific topic announced in advance.
- 473. FAULKNER 3 cr.** Major works of William Faulkner.
- 474. AMERICAN POETRY 3 cr.** Major American poets from Whitman to the present.
- 480. STUDIES IN POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURES 3 cr.** Study of literary texts from formerly colonized nations in Africa, Asia, or elsewhere; specific topic announced in advance.
- 481. STUDIES IN IRISH LITERATURE 3 cr.** Specific topic announced in advance.
- 482. STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY POETRY 3 cr.** Specific topic announced in advance.
- 483. STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY THEATRE 3 cr.** Specific topic announced in advance.
- 484. STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY FICTION 3 cr.** Specific topic announced in advance.
- 485. CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH GRAMMAR 3 cr.** Transformational-generative grammar theory and its application to an analysis and description of English sentences.
- 486. STUDIES IN MODERN DRAMA 3 cr.** Prerequisite: A 200-level literature course. Specific topic announced in advanced.
- 488. HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE 3 cr.** Study of the sounds, forms, and syntax of Early, Middle, Early Modern, and Modern English.

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- 490. HISTORY OF LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM 3 cr.** Elements of literary theory, and a survey of the major theorists from Plato to the present.
- 495. CRITICAL PRACTICE 3 cr.** Survey of options available to literary critics of the twentieth century, and practice in the application of criticism to literary texts.
- 496. FRAMED NARRATIVES: NOVEL AND CINEMA 3 cr.** Structural and thematic functions of pictorial and narrative frameworks in film and novel.
- 497. HOPKINS SEMINAR 3 cr.** Prerequisite: permission of the chair. Advanced, special seminar in literature taught by the Visiting Hopkins Professor; specific topic announced in advance.
- 498. INDEPENDENT STUDY 1-3 cr.** Consent of project advisor and department chair. Special projects in literature. Projects must be approved before registration. See chair for forms and guidelines.
- 499. SPECIAL STUDIES 1-3 cr.** Selected topics announced in advance.
- 500. ADVANCED NON-FICTION WRITING WORKSHOP 3 cr.** Advanced work in non-fiction prose.
- 501. ADVANCED POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP 3 cr.** Intense, advanced work in crafting poems.
- 502. ADVANCED FICTION WRITING WORKSHOP 3 cr.** Intense, advanced work in crafting short stories.
- 503. SPECIAL TOPICS WRITING WORKSHOP 3 cr.** Topic of special writing projects announced in advance.
- 510. READINGS IN OLD ENGLISH 3 cr.** Selected prose and poetry, with requisite linguistic study.
- 511. STUDIES IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE 3 cr.** Prose and poetry of the later Middle Ages. Study of selected works, emphasizing literary and linguistic development.
- 520. STUDIES IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE 3 cr.** Critical examination of selected authors against the literary and philosophical background of the Renaissance.
- 522. STUDIES IN SHAKESPEARE 3 cr.** Selected philosophical, critical, and textual problems. Survey of bibliography.
- 524. EARLIER SEVENTEENTH CENTURY 3 cr.** Critical examination of selected poets and prose writers of the period 1603-1660.

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533. ENGLISH LITERATURE, 1660-1798 3 cr. Representative selections from neo-classicism and other eighteenth-century movements, including drama and fiction.

540. STUDIES IN THE ROMANTIC PERIOD 3 cr. Literature of the Romantic period.

550. STUDIES IN THE VICTORIAN PERIOD 3 cr. Selected readings in poetry and prose.

560. STUDIES IN MODERN BRITISH LITERATURE 3 cr. Major British writers, from 1890 to 1950.

561. STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY BRITISH LITERATURE 3 cr. Literature since 1950.

565. STUDIES IN MODERN POETRY 3 cr. Critical reading of selected British and American poetry since 1900.

570. STUDIES IN THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE 3 cr. Selected studies in the works of major authors of the middle and late nineteenth century.

572. STUDIES IN AMERICAN REALISM 3 cr. Selected studies in the period 1860-1900.

573. STUDIES IN MODERN AMERICAN LITERATURE 3 cr. Selected readings in poetry, drama, and fiction since 1900.

580. SPECIAL TOPICS 3 cr. In-depth study of a special topic in either classroom or workshop form or as an individual project under supervision. Department approval required.

589. STUDIES IN RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION 3 cr. Study of rhetoric, composition theory, and composition pedagogy, including a practicum.

590. STUDIES IN LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM 3 cr. Special topics in theory and criticism.

599. MASTER'S THESIS 6 cr. upon approval.