

# Graduate Studies College of Arts and Sciences

[www.jcu.edu/graduate](http://www.jcu.edu/graduate)



## ENGLISH Master of Arts

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. The department welcomes students interested in preparing for doctoral programs, teachers intent on deepening their understanding of literature, and persons eager to enrich their lives through reading and writing.

The program cultivates broad reading, rigorous analysis of texts, and extended writing informed by research. It includes coursework spanning a range of historical periods from the medieval to the present.

### Course of Study

Students elect to concentrate on Literary Studies, Composition and Rhetorical Studies, or Creative Writing. Those pursuing the Creative Writing Track will include four workshops in their course of study and produce a creative project. Students in the Literary or the Composition and Rhetorical Tracks pursue the degree either by coursework and thesis (Plan A) or, more commonly, by coursework and essay (Plan B).

- **Plan A:** requires at least eight courses (consisting of a minimum of 24 hours of course work) together with a thesis, typically 60 to 100 pages.
- **Plan B:** requires at least 10 courses (consisting of a minimum of 30 hours of course work) with an essay, typically 25 to 50 pages.

### Admission Requirements

- Transcripts from previous institutions.
- Two current letters of recommendation.
- A statement of purpose outlining the applicant's vocational aims and reasons for undertaking graduate studies in English.
- A sample of critical writing.
- The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) for those applying for graduate assistantships.

### Financial Assistance

- Licensed teachers qualify for a 33% tuition reduction scholarship
- Some graduate assistantships are available. Graduate assistants are given a tuition waiver for 15-18 credit hours per year, plus a stipend. Graduate assistants must be full-time students who can work 20 hours per week during the day. Graduate assistants help faculty and the department with research and acquire valuable teaching experience.
- The University's Office of Admissions and Financial Aid offers assistance on student loans.

### Program Coordinator

**Debra J. Rosenthal, Ph.D.**

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## Faculty and Research Interests

**George Bilgere, Ph.D.**  
(University of Denver)  
Creative writing (poetry),  
modern poetry

**Emily Butler, Ph.D.**  
(University of Toronto)  
Medieval literature, history of  
the book

**Jeanne Colleran, Ph.D.**  
(The Ohio State University)  
20th-century drama and fiction

**John Day, Ph.D.**  
(Harvard University)  
Renaissance literature

**Jean Feerick, Ph.D.**  
(University of Pennsylvania)  
Renaissance literature

**Thomas L. Hayes, M.A.**  
(John Carroll University)  
18th- and 19th-century British  
literature, American literature

**Peter Kvidera, Ph.D.**  
(University of Washington)  
19th- and 20th-century  
American literature

**David M. LaGuardia, Ph.D.**  
(Kent State University)  
American literature

**Brian K. Macaskill, Ph.D.**  
(University of Washington)  
Literary theory, 20th-century  
Anglophone literatures

**John S. McBratney, Ph.D.**  
(University of California Berkeley)  
19th-century English literature

**Philip Metres, Ph.D.**  
(Indiana University)  
20th-century American  
literature, creative writing  
(poetry)

**Maryclaire Moroney, Ph.D.**  
(Harvard University)  
Renaissance Literature

**Alissa M. Nutting, Ph.D.**  
(University of Nevada)  
Creative Writing (fiction)

**Thomas Pace, Ph.D.**  
(Miami University)  
Rhetorical theory, composition  
studies, Renaissance literature

**Debra J. Rosenthal, Ph.D.**  
(Princeton University)  
19th- and 20th-century  
American literature, feminist  
literary criticism

**Jayme Stayer, S.J., Ph.D.**  
(The University of Toledo)  
Modernism

## Course of Study

Students are required to take at least three courses that examine pre-18th century materials, and to take at least three courses that examine materials from the 18th century onwards in the following categories:

- Medieval
- Renaissance
- Restoration and Eighteenth Century
- Romantic and Victorian
- American Literature to 1900
- Modernism
- Contemporary

The course of Literary Studies is completed with a comprehensive examination in one of the period categories above; the Creative Writing and the Composition and Rhetoric Tracks have their own culminating examinations.

