

# ENGLISH COURSE BULLETIN

The University of Akron  
Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences

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## Summer 2021

Tentative Schedules  
Course Descriptions  
(subject to change)

## Fall 2021

Tentative Schedules  
Course Descriptions  
(subject to change)

## Program Descriptions and Requirements

Last updated: MAY 12

[www.uakron.edu/english](http://www.uakron.edu/english)



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# Statement of Purpose

This issue of The University of Akron English Department **Course Bulletin** reflects the efforts on the part of the Department faculty to enrich the Department curriculum.

In addition to courses in **Shakespeare, English Literature, American literature,** and **international literature,** a wide range of writing and linguistics courses are offered for undergraduate and graduate students.

Prospective students will find upcoming courses described by the professors who will teach them. These descriptions provide the student with a clearer outline of **course content** and **requirements** than can be found in either The University of Akron's General Bulletin or the class schedule bulletin which is issued by the University.

Courses are arranged in this **Course Bulletin** in numerical order. Courses which satisfy the Shakespeare, linguistics, and world/multicultural literature requirements, as well as the minor requirements, are identified in the course descriptions.

The English faculty hopes this bulletin will be helpful to counselors and students in planning the best possible selection of **major courses** and **electives**.

The Department of English requires  
that students complete freshman composition  
before enrolling in other English courses.  
The following courses **DO NOT** count toward the  
English major or minor degree requirements:

3300:111; 3300:112; 3300:250; 3300:252; and 3300:281.

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## Courses that satisfy degree requirements for the B.A.



Note: If a course does not automatically drop in to satisfy a requirement in the DPR system, email English department undergraduate advisor **Dr. Biddinger** at [marybid@uakron.edu](mailto:marybid@uakron.edu) for assistance, including the name of the course, the requirement that it should be fulfilling, and your student ID number. Some courses need to be manually applied in the DPR in order to fulfill requirements.

» **English majors** (and second majors) should consult the DPR and speak with an advisor regarding degree requirements, including literature course distribution, as there are currently two active degree plans.

### Summer 2021

**One Course in World/Multicultural Lit:**

3300:362 World Literatures

### Fall 2021

**One Course in World/Multicultural Lit:**

3300:350 Black American Literature

3300:362 World Literatures

3300:364 Women Writers

3300:389 Sem: Literary Ohio

**One Course in British Lit. After 1800:**

3300:430 Victorian Poetry & Prose

**One Course in American Lit. After 1865:**

3300:350 Black American Literature

3300:389 Sem: Literary Ohio

3300:489 Sem: Disease in Literature

3300:489 Sem: New Poetry

3300:489 Sem: Young Adult Literature

**One Literature Course in Fiction:**

3300:430 Victorian Poetry & Prose

3300:364 Women Writers

3300:489 Sem: Young Adult Literature

**One Course in Poetry:**

3300:430 Victorian Poetry & Prose

3300:489 Sem: New Poetry

# Summer 2021 Tentative Course Schedule

**INTERSESSION:** May 17<sup>th</sup>-June 6<sup>th</sup>

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
283-501	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Drew
362-501	World Literatures	Online	Online	Biddinger

**SUMMER I:** June 7<sup>th</sup>-July 11<sup>th</sup>

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
111-501	English Composition I	Online	Online	Stoyhoff
281-501	Fiction Appreciation	Online	Online	Braun
673-501	Theories of Composition	Online	Online	Thelin

**SUMMER II:** July 12<sup>th</sup>-August 15<sup>th</sup>

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
112-501	English Composition II	Online	Online	Rhoades
222-501	Technical Report Writing	Online	Online	Rhoades
283-502	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Svehla
341-401	American Literature I	MTWThF	9:45-11:15am <i>Synchronous</i>	Chura
341-401A	American Literature I	MTWThF	9:45-11:15am <i>In Person</i>	Chura
615-501	Shakespearean Drama	Online	Online	Nunn

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# Summer 2021 Course Descriptions

## **222 Technical Report Writing**

**3 credit hours**

Prepares students to write the types of reports most often required in a variety of careers, including technicians, engineers, and scientists. Includes types of reports, memoranda, and letters; techniques of research, documentation, and oral presentations. *Prerequisites: 2020:121, 3300:111, or equivalent.*

## **281 Fiction Appreciation**

**3 credit hours**

Close reading of modern masters of short story and novel. *Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Humanities" Requirement. CANNOT be used to fulfill the English Department's requirements.*

## **283 Film Appreciation**

**3 credit hours**

Initiates students into the thoughtful study of film as a form of visual narrative. Our emphases will be on: 1) the crucial elements of filmmaking, 2) the process of close viewing, and 3) the power of critical analysis. Attention will be paid to a diversity of films, filmmakers, and genres. *Satisfies the Minor in Popular Literature & Film requirement. Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Arts" Requirement.*

## **341 American Literature I**

**3 credit hours**

Historical survey of major and minor American writers to 1865. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*

## **362 World Literatures**

**3 credit hours**

This course explores literatures of the non-western world through representative works. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Literature requirement and the World Literature requirement for Education majors. Also fulfills the Tier 3 Global Diversity requirement for the General Education Program.*

## **615 Shakespearean Drama**

**3 credit hours**

This seminar will deal with Shakespeare as a professional dramatist in the Early Modern English theatre. Although various approaches may be used, the primary focus will be on text, performance, and theatrical conditions, both contemporary and modern. *Satisfies M.A.in Literature requirement for British Literature up to 1660 and the Shakespeare requirement if needed.*

## **673 Theories of Composition**

**3 credit hours**

Theories of Composition is a survey of composition theory, reviewing its historical development in the academy and evaluating competing trends in the field as they relate to both philosophy and classroom practice within cultural contexts. Appropriate for teachers of post-secondary language arts, including CCP, and those interested in pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Composition. No background in composition theory needed. *Required for the M.A. in English. Elective for Certificate in Composition Studies. Also satisfies the NEOMFA Elective requirement.*

# Fall 2021 Tentative Course Schedule

August 23<sup>rd</sup>-December 5<sup>th</sup>

\*\*NEOMFA Students Only

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
111-XXX	English Composition I	Online	Online	Online	Braun
112-XXX	English Composition II (Honors)	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Bean
252-001	Shakespeare & His World	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Ambrisco
275-002	Specialized Writing: Business	TTh	9:15AM	10:30AM	Embree
275-501	Specialized Writing: Business	Online	Online	Online	Amodio
276-001	Intro to Creative Nonfiction Writing	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Giffels
277-001	Intro to Poetry Writing	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Biddinger
279-001	Intro to Script Writing	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Svehla
281-001	Fiction Appreciation	MWF	2:00PM	2:50PM	Thelin
281-002	Fiction Appreciation	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Thelin
281-004	Fiction Appreciation (DL)	TTh	1:15PM	2:30PM	Rhoades
281-005	Fiction Appreciation	TTh	9:15AM	10:30AM	Chura
283-002	Film Appreciation	MWF	8:35AM	9:35AM	Heldenfels
283-003	Film Appreciation	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Heldenfels
283-004	Film Appreciation	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Hebert
283-005	Film Appreciation	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Dukes
283-501	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
300-001	Critical Reading & Writing	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Bolton
301-001	English Literature I	TTh	9:15AM	10:30AM	Ambrisco



316-001	Shakespeare: The Mature Plays	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Nunn
341-001	American Literature I	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Chura
350-001	Black American Literature	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Bolton
362-002	World Literatures	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Dukes
362-501	World Literatures	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
364-001	Women Writers	MWF	2:00PM	2:50PM	Bolton
371-001	Introduction to Linguistics	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Sarvis
389-001	Sem: Literary Ohio	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Giffels
430/530-001	Victorian Poetry & Prose	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Braun
466/566-501	Linguistics and Language Arts	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
466/566-502	Linguistics and Language Arts	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
470/570-001	History of the English Language	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Zhang
489/589-001	Sem: Disease in Literature	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Nunn
489/589-002	Sem: New Poetry	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Miller
489/589-003	Sem: Young Adult Literature	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Braun
492-001	Senior Seminar	TTh	5:15PM	6:30PM	Miller
611-501	Argument & Research Writing	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
625-801	Sem: Autobiographical Writing	M	5:20PM	7:50PM	Thelin
630-803	Sem: Literature of the 1930's	W	5:20PM	7:50PM	Chura
689-801	Grad Writing Sem: Creative Nonfiction**	T	5:20PM	7:50PM	Giffels
689-802	NEOMFA: Craft & Theory of Poetry**	TH	5:20PM	7:50PM	Biddinger



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# Fall 2021 Course Descriptions

(Subject to change)

## **252 Shakespeare & His World**

**3 credit hours**

An introduction to the works of Shakespeare. Each section studies a representative selection of Shakespeare's plays and/or poems. *Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Humanities" Requirement.* CANNOT be used to fulfill the English department requirements.

## **275 Specialized Writing: Business**

**3 credit hours**

Business Writing provides instruction and extensive practice in writing effective memos, letters, and short reports for typical business situations. A special feature is the preparation of a résumé and practice in job application letters. Successful approaches for conducting job interviews are also included. Recommended for students planning to work in business and industry.

## **276 Intro to Creative Nonfiction Writing**

**3 credit hours**

This course introduces students to techniques of Creative Nonfiction through a series of exercises intended to give experience with the form and develop toward full length work. The main focus is on student writing, with extensive discussion in workshop setting. *Prerequisite for Advanced Creative Nonfiction. Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

## **277 Intro to Poetry Writing**

**3 credit hours**

Practice in writing poetry, and study of the craft of poetry using contemporary models. Students will learn a variety of useful literary terms and techniques, and will present their poems for peer critique during workshop. Attendance and participation are essential. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

## **279 Intro to Script Writing**

**3 credit hours**

A course in developing the visual imagination. Craft scenes, create characters, write dialogue, construct plot arcs, and learn screenplay formatting. Class will be a small, informal group responding to each other's scripts. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

## **281 Fiction Appreciation**

**3 credit hours**

Close reading of modern masters of short story and novel. *Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Humanities" Requirement.* CANNOT be used to fulfill the English department requirements.

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**283 Film Appreciation 3 credit hours**  
Initiates students into the thoughtful study of film as a form of visual narrative. Our emphases will be on: 1) the crucial elements of filmmaking, 2) the process of close viewing, and 3) the power of critical analysis. Attention will be paid to a diversity of films, filmmakers, and genres. *Satisfies the Minor in Popular Literature & Film requirement. Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses “Arts” Requirement.*

**300 Critical Reading & Writing 3 credit hours**  
An introduction to English studies, focusing on critical methods for reading and writing about literature, with attention to research skills and uses of computer technology. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*

**301 English Literature I 3 credit hours**  
Studies in English Literature from Old English to 1800, with emphasis upon specific representative works and upon the cultural and intellectual backgrounds which produced them. Literature to be read will include both major and minor poetry, drama and prose. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*

**316 Shakespeare: The Mature Plays 3 credit hours**  
Introduction to early drama of Shakespeare with close reading of tragedies, history and comedies. Includes explanatory lectures of both the plays and their backgrounds. *Satisfies the English major Requirement.*

**341 American Literature I 3 credit hours**  
Historical survey of major and minor American writers to 1865. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*

**350 Black American Literature 3 credit hours**  
Survey of African-American literature beginning with the vernacular tradition—spirituals, folktales— and continuing with a chronological assessment of 18th, 19th, and 20th century prose, poetry, and drama written by Americans of African ancestry. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Literature requirement, American Literature after 1865 requirement, the requirement for Education majors.*

**362 World Literatures 3 credit hours**  
This course explores literatures of the non-western world through representative works. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Literature requirement and the World Literature requirement for Education majors. Also fulfills the Tier 3 Global Diversity requirement for the General Education Program.*

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**364**

**Women Writers**

**3 credit hours**

This course provides a look at literature by women of diverse backgrounds and across time periods. Although it is structured as a survey, we will achieve depth through comparative analysis work that will reveal significant thematic and stylistic patterns in the collective writings we will study. We will look at multiple genres and build our conversations with attention to certain socio-cultural issues that form the context for the stories we will read. We also will “interrogate” the writers. What does it mean to write as a woman? What kinds of political maneuvers were made in order to have one’s story told? These, and other like questions, will take center in this course. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Literature requirement, the English major Fiction requirement, and the Education requirement for women writers.*

**371**

**Introduction to Linguistics**

**3 credit hours**

Scientific introduction to the study of written and spoken linguistic behavior in English. History of English, varieties of English, and acquisition of English are also introduced. *Satisfies the English major requirement and is required for the Undergraduate Certificate in TESL and the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies parallel to 3300:466 Linguistics and Language Arts.*

**389**

**Literary Ohio**

**3 credit hours**

In this course, we will explore the rich, varied, occasionally quirky tradition of Ohio literature. Our reading list will focus mainly on writers who were born in Ohio or spent a significant part of their lives here, with particular emphasis on literature that uses the Buckeye State as a setting or theme. The texts will include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, graphic narrative, and film. *Fulfills the World/Multicultural Literature and/or American Literature after 1865 degree requirement.*

**430**

**Victorian Poetry & Prose**

**3 credit hours**

This course focuses on specific authors, genres, and events during Queen Victoria’s reign in Britain (1837-1901) that have shaped contemporary views of gender, politics, art, history, and culture. We will explore key poetry, fiction, and drama from this period, including works by Charlotte Brontë, R.L. Stevenson, Christina Rossetti, and Oscar Wilde. Topics of discussion will likely include: legacies of Romanticism; the rise of the middle class; urbanization and progress; imperialism and empire; the Bildungsroman; the Angel in the House; Gothic hauntings; madness and desire; and reflections on childhood. Your final project will explore a single text not included on our syllabus that contributes something new and significant to our class discussions. *Satisfies the English major British Lit After 1800 requirement and English major distribution requirements for Fiction and Poetry.*

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**466/566     Linguistics & Language Arts****3 credit hours**

A foundation course in linguistics with a focus on pedagogical implications for second language (L2) learners. Fundamental concepts in the core of linguistics, including morphology, syntax, semantics, phonetics, phonology, and pragmatics as well as in other fields of linguistics, such as sociolinguistics are covered in lectures and structured linguistic exercises with both English and other languages for contrastive analyses. *Satisfies the requirement for graduate and undergraduate students pursuing the Certificate in TESL and the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies.*

**470/570     History of the English Language****3 credit hours**

This course will study the development of our language beginning with its Indo-European origins and moving through Old and Middle English to modern varieties of English. The focus is on exploring the mechanisms which produce language change and variety, the most salient characteristics of English at different stages in its historical development, and the social contexts which are associated with historical change in English. *Elective for the M.A. in English, the Certificate in TESL, and the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies.*

**489/589     Sem: Disease in Literature****3 credit hours**

This course will interrogate literary representations of illness and its effects on individuals and communities, as well as society's perceptions of those who are sick. We will be reading works from different time periods to understand historical perceptions of disease, its mental and physical effects, and its perceived moral and bodily causes. With attention to medical history and cultural studies, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, we will examine the ways that the mechanics of illness lend meaning to literary works, and vice versa. *Satisfies the English major requirement for American Literature after 1865, and the NEOMFA Elective requirement.*

**489/589     Sem: Young Adult Literature****3 credit hours**

In a [2020 interview](#), Jason Reynolds described young adult writers as “those of us who acknowledge the humanity of young people...the complexity and the beauty and the sophistication of childhood.” With this description as our starting point, we will explore the evolution of young adult literature over the past century, including contemporary debates about what YA literature is, what it should contain, and who should be reading it. Focusing on first-person narrators who are entering, immersed in, or about to leave their teenage years, we will consider classic adolescent novels such as J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* (1951) and S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* (1967) alongside contemporary YA novels including Rainbow Rowell's *Eleanor and Park* (2013) and Namina Forna's *The Gilded Ones* (2021). At the end of the course, students will introduce one new YA novel that speaks to significant themes of the course and where the genre may be heading in the next decade. *Satisfies the English major requirement for Fiction, the English/Education major requirement for American Literature after 1865, and the NEOMFA Elective requirement.*

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**489/589 New Poetry****3 credit hours**

In this course we will read, discuss, and write about poetry that has been published in the last year or two. We will read new magazines, anthologies, and books. *Satisfies the English major requirement for American Literature after 1865 and the poetry requirement. Satisfies the M.A. in Literature requirement for American Literature 1865-present, and the NEOMFA Elective requirement.*

**492 Senior Seminar (American Literary Magazines) 3 credit hours**

We'll read creative literature in the context of periodical publication. We'll read older literature and older magazines through websites like Hathi Trust. And we'll read contemporary literature and present-day magazines with the Pushcart anthology and the internet. We'll look at the history of American literature magazines, large and small, and how they express regional cultures and social movements. We'll look at the way that the editorial tastes and policies of literary magazines can shape the style and career of different writers. Students will write capstone papers that interpret creative literature in the context of its original periodical publication. *Limited to senior English majors. Please contact the English Department Advisor, Dr. Mary Biddinger, at [marybid@uakron.edu](mailto:marybid@uakron.edu) to get permission to register for the course.*

**611 Argument and Research****3 credit hours**

This course explores the teaching, reading, and writing of argument and research. In it, we will attempt to both expand and refine the perception of what argument is, what research is, and what each can be. We will contemplate the value of argument and research not only for the academy but also for a democratic society and for personal growth. Students will create lesson plans, read a variety of classical and contemporary essays, and write on self-selected topics. *Required for the M.A. in English. Elective for Certificate in Composition Studies. Also satisfies the NEOMFA Elective requirement.*

**625 Sem: Autobiographical Writing****3 credit hours**

In *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, Oliver Sacks writes, "If we wish to know about a man [or woman], we ask 'what is his [her] story--his [her] real, inmost story?'" --for each of us is a biography, a story. Each of us is a singular narrative, which is constructed, continually, unconsciously, by, through, and in us--through our perceptions, our feelings, our thoughts, our actions; and, not least, our discourse, our spoken narratives. Biologically, physiologically, we are not so different from each other; historically, as narratives--we are each of us unique. In this course, we will examine our life-stories, the inner dramas that make us who we are as individuals. Using a writing workshop format, we will write about ourselves while also reading contemporary authors who focus on their own life stories in humorous and compelling ways. *Elective for the M.A. in English and Certificate in Composition Studies.*

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**630**

**Sem: Literature of the 1930's**

**3 credit hours**

The decade of the Great Depression was a Second American Renaissance that produced enduring forms of fiction, poetry and drama in response to economic hardship and class conflict. This course will study the literary 1930's in historical context with a reading list that includes works of modernism and socialist realism, agitprop drama, and several examples of "proletarian literature." Through these works we'll address the severe political and cultural tensions provoked by hunger and rampant unemployment, labor strife, the environmental catastrophe of the Dust Bowl, and the rise of Fascist impulses in both Europe and the United States. The syllabus includes John Steinbeck, Agnes Smedley, Shirley Graham, Mike Gold, Langston Hughes, John Dos Passos, Sinclair Lewis, Myra Page, Arna Bontemps. *Satisfies the M.A.in Literature requirement for American Literature after 1865, and the NEOMFA Literature requirement.*

**689**

**Graduate Writing Seminar: Creative Nonfiction**

**3 credit hours**

In this MFA creative nonfiction writing workshop, students will propose a semester-long writing project tuned toward their own literary style, goals, and writing background. Once the proposals are discussed and approved, each student will submit two to three pieces of original work to be read and discussed by the workshop participants. Individual readings will also be assigned, tailored to each writer's aesthetic and goals. *Open only to students in the NEOMFA program in Creative Writing.*

**689**

**NEOMFA Craft & Theory of Poetry**

**3 credit hours**

Craft & Theory of Poetry: First Books. In this course we will read recent first books of poetry, and discuss the process of creating, publishing, and marketing a first book. Assignments will include creative responses to the texts, and research on current publication opportunities. This class welcomes NEOMFA students concentrating in all genres. *Open only to students in the NEOMFA program in Creative Writing.*

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## Requirements for the B.A. degree major in English (330000BA)

The Department of English urges all English majors to meet with the English Department Advisor at least once a year to discuss their progress toward the degree.

### GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Complete General Education requirements.

### COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES BACCALAUREATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1. You must complete at least three credits of mathematics or statistics (excluding 3450:100 Intermediate Algebra) earned in the Department of Theoretical & Applied Mathematics or the Department of Statistics.
2. You must complete a minimum of 120 credits.
3. You must complete a minimum of 40 semester credits of 300-400 level courses, exclusive of General Education courses and workshops.
4. You must complete the second year of a foreign language.
5. You must complete the requirements for the English major. These are (a) You must earn a minimum 2.20 GPA in all University of Akron coursework (b) 36 credits in English, including (c) each of the following courses, in which you must earn a C- or higher.

3300:300 Critical Reading and Writing

3300:301 English Literature 1

3300:315 Shakespeare: Early Plays OR 3300:316 Shakespeare: Mature Plays

3300:341 American Literature 1

3300:371 Introduction to Linguistics OR 3300:400 Anglo-Saxon OR

3300:470 History of the English Language

3300:492 Senior Seminar (not any Senior Seminar; only 3300:492, our capstone course)

(d) And you must complete at least three additional courses at the 400-level. (Workshops cannot be used for this requirement.)

(e) And you must complete enough additional electives to have at least 36 credits in English.

**NOTE:** Courses 3300:111, 3300:112, 3300:250, 3300:252, and 3300:281 **DO NOT** count toward the English major or minor degree requirements.

(f) And you must satisfy any literature distribution areas required by your English major plan (see your DPR for details).

One course in World or Multicultural literature outside the canon of British and American writers, one course in British literature after 1800, one course in American literature after 1865, one literature course in Poetry, one literature course in Fiction. Note that one course can fulfill multiple distribution requirements.

(g) Finally, you must earn a minimum 2.20 GPA in all coursework in English at The University of Akron, including transfer work.



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# Minors in English

## Minor in English (330000M)

1. 18 hours of courses in the English Department with at least 6 of those hours at the 300/400 level.

## Minor in Creative Writing (330007M)

Total credits: 18

1. Two introductory creative writing courses (Min. Credits: 6) from:
  - 3300:276 Introduction to Creative Nonfiction Writing
  - 3300:277 Introduction to Poetry Writing
  - 3300:278 Introduction to Fiction Writing
  - 3300:279 Introduction to Script Writing
2. At least one advanced creative writing course (Min. Credits: 3) from:
  - 3300:377 Advanced Poetry Writing
  - 3300:378 Advanced Fiction Writing
  - 3300:379 Advanced Script Writing
  - 3300:381 Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing
  - 3300:457 Writers on Writing
3. Two additional courses in any form of creative writing or literature from Department offerings, 300 or 400 level.

## Minor in Popular Literature and Film (33009M)

1. 12 hours of courses in popular literature or film at the 300/400 level in the English Department.
2. 6 hours of courses in any literature or film topics at any level in the English Department.



**NOTE:** The following courses taken to fulfill specific requirements in the English major **CANNOT** also be used to fulfill the 18 hours requirement in this minor: 3300:300 Critical Reading & Writing; 3300:301 English Literature 1; 3300:315 Shakespeare: Early Plays; 3300:316 Shakespeare: Mature Plays; 3300:341 American Literature 1; one course in World or Multicultural literature.

## Minor in African-American Literature and Language (330011M)

1. Any 18 hours of African-American literature and language courses.

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## Procedures for Minors



See the department advisor for information and guidance. Take the required courses. Then, when applying for graduation, fill out an application for minor(s) form and turn it in with your graduation application. Your college record will document the minor(s) you have earned. Forms are available in the department.

## Other Notes

- Students must achieve an overall GPA of at least 2.0 to earn the minor.
- If a student desires a minor from the same department/school as their major, there is a college requirement for a minimum of nine (9) non-overlapping credits between the minor and the major, as well as between the minor and other minor programs in the department/school.
- Courses 3300:111, 3300:112, 3300:250, 3300:252, and 3300:281 **DO NOT** count toward any minor degree requirements.

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# Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies (330008C)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - [wz23@uakron.edu](mailto:wz23@uakron.edu)

Completion of five linguistically oriented courses is required as follows: the foundation course, two core courses and at least two elective courses. Three or more of the courses must be at the 300/400 level. (Subject to approval by the program director, other theoretically oriented linguistics courses may substitute for core courses.)

To obtain the certificate, the student must have at least two semesters of a second language. A student entering the program should discuss plans with the director.

## Foundation (Required)

- 3300:371 Introduction to Linguistics **OR**
- 3300:466 Linguistics and Language Arts

## Core (Minimum of two of the following)

- 3300:470 History of the English Language
- 3300:477 Sociolinguistics
- 3300:478 Grammatical Structures of English
- 3600:481 Philosophy of Language
- 7700:230 Language Science and Acquisition **OR**
- 7700:430 Aspects of Normal Language Development



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**Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.**

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## Electives (Minimum of two of the following)

- 3300:400 Anglo Saxon 3
- 3300:473 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL
- 3230:150 Human Cultures
- 3230:251 Human Diversity
- 3460:430 Theory of Programming Languages
- 3460:440 Compiler Design
- 3460:460 Artificial Intelligence and Heuristics Programming
- 3580:403 Advanced Grammar
- 3600:170 Introduction to Logic
- 3600:374 Symbolic Logic
- 3600:418 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
- 3600:471 Metaphysics
- 3700:402 Politics and the Media
- 3700:403 Media, Crime and Public Opinion
- 7600:325 Intercultural Communication
- 7700:101 American Sign Language
- 7700:210 Introduction to Clinical Phonetics

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# Undergraduate Certificate in Professional Communication (770008C)

This program will help meet our technological society's growing need for educated people who can develop sophisticated strategies for effective communication of business and technical information. People in the business community increasingly depend on communication to solve complex management, sales, and information processing problems.

The communication demands of business and industry are significant, and in many ways, different from those dealt with in traditional courses and majors. This certificate will recognize their preparation for handling the communication needs of business and industry and must be earned concurrently with an undergraduate (associate or bachelor's) degree. A student who already possesses an undergraduate degree may directly pursue this certificate.

## Program Credits

3300:390 Professional Writing I\*  
3300:391 Professional Writing II\*  
7600:309 Public Relations Publications  
7600:345 Business and Professional Speaking



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**Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.**

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Because all four courses have prerequisites, students should consult course descriptions.

\*3300:390 and 3300:391 do not have to be taken in sequence

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# Undergraduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (330003C)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - [wz23@uakron.edu](mailto:wz23@uakron.edu)

This program is intended for both native and non-native speakers of English who seek training in the teaching of English as a second language (ESL) and wish to obtain an initial qualification to teach ESL/EFL (English as a Foreign Language) in educational settings other than public schools in Ohio and other states or in countries outside the United States. The program is designed to introduce the student to central issues in the theory and practice of teaching English to non-native speakers through courses in modern and applied linguistics, in second language pedagogy, and in related disciplines.

Students who do not have English as a native language must demonstrate adequate proficiency in English with a valid TOEFL score of 550 (paper based)/213 (computer based)/79 (Internet based/iBT) or higher, or a valid IELTS score of 6.0 or higher. The awarding of this certificate is not contingent upon completion of a degree program. Undergraduate certificate programs require a 2.00 grade point average.

## PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Students admitted with an undergraduate status are required to take 3300:111 English Composition I and 3300:112 English Composition II prior to applying for the certificate.
2. All students who wish to pursue the TESL certificate should meet with the program director to discuss the program and availability of courses.
3. To apply for the certificate, fill out the “ADD Certificate” form with the certificate advisor. After all requirements are completed, fill out the “Undergraduate Certificate Program Application” with the certificate advisor.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

This certificate requires the completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours of course work, including four core courses and one elective course.

### Core Courses (Min. Credits: 12)

- 3300:371 Introduction to Linguistics
- OR
- 3300:466 Linguistics and Language Arts
- 3300:473 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL\*
- 3300:478 Grammatical Structures of English
- 3300:477 Sociolinguistics
- OR
- 3300:470 History of the English Language



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**Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.**

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**Electives\*\*** (Min. Credits: 3)

3300:470 History of the English Language

3300:477 Sociolinguistics

3300:487 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners

3580:403 Advanced Grammar

5500:456 Scaffolding Language and Content to Second Language Learners

5500:485 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners

5500:487 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language

7600:325 Intercultural Communication

7700:230 Language Science & Acquisition

7700:430 Aspects of Normal Language Development

\*Students should have successfully completed 3300:371 or 3300:466 prior to taking this course.

\*\*Choice to be decided in consultation with the program director.

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# Graduate Programs in English



## Admission Requirements

### M.A. Program

To be accepted into the M.A. program, the English Department requires that applicants have a B.A. in English, a minor in English, or other suitable course preparation.

To qualify for full admission, a student must meet the Graduate School requirement of a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 for four years or 3.0 over the last two years.

Complete [the online application through the Graduate School](#). Applicants must request that official transcripts of undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate work, be sent to the Graduate School. A nonrefundable application fee is also required. Applications should be received at least six weeks prior to registration, which may occur in the fall, spring, or summer terms.

To qualify for provisional admission, the Graduate School requires a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 over four years or 2.75 over the last two years. A student whose GPA falls below 2.75 or who lacks the B.A. in English may be granted deferred admission and given post-baccalaureate status, which is a probationary category.

### NEOMFA Program

Applicants to the NEOMFA in Creative Writing must be accepted by the Graduate School at The University of Akron or one of the other three participating universities. They must also submit three letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a writing portfolio. The portfolio will be reviewed by an admissions committee of members from all four universities. Applicants using The University of Akron as a “gateway” school for the MFA must additionally satisfy the requirements for the M.A. program listed above.

For those students admitted to the NEOMFA program, up to nine credits from previously uncompleted graduate degrees may be accepted for transfer credit. Of the nine elective credits, up to six may be from Advisor-approved courses not solely restricted to graduates.





## Financial Aid

### Graduate Assistantships

Graduate assistantships in the Department of English are awarded on a competitive basis to M.F.A. students. Applications for fall appointments will be accepted until February 1.

Students may renew twice, for a total of three years of support.

Along with the application form and letter of application, applicants for assistantships must submit a clean copy of a writing sample in the form of a typed essay completed in a college course (5-10 pages), two letters of recommendation, and scores from the general section of the Graduate Record Examination. Please email all materials directly to the Graduate Coordinator.

The letter of application should address:

1. why you are interested in the position
2. what prepares you for the position both as far as your work history and academic preparation, and
3. how your experiences and interests would contribute to the program's academic atmosphere.

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# Requirements for the M.A. in English (330000MAT)

The MA in English provides students with a strong practical and theoretical grounding as they prepare to move forward into careers or into graduate and professional schools.

Students will learn

1. advanced methods for deeper study of literatures written in English,
2. the fundamentals of Composition as a discipline, and
3. practical writing skills through courses in professional and rhetorical writing.

Courses will place texts within wider cultural and multicultural debates. Through assigned writings, students will articulate informed viewpoints on real-world issues and practice various forms of professional and critical writing, learning to interpret texts in contexts ranging from academic debate to the contemporary classroom to a variety of professional settings.

A minimum of 30 credits is required.

**Core classes** for all MA Students consist of the following 18 credits at the 600 level:

- 3300:611 Argumentation and Research Writing
- 3300:673 Theories of Composition
- 3300:665 Literary Criticism

**OR**

3300:690 Critical Approaches to Literature

- One additional 600-level literature course
- 3300:689 Grant Writing

**OR**

3300:689: Professional Writing Theory and Practice

- Capstone (3 credit hours):  
3300:699 Thesis

**OR**

3300:698 Individual Reading in English/Portfolio

In this option, students complete a Portfolio based on the revision and presentation of 3-6 course artifacts, at least one of which is an academic paper.



Students must take 12 additional credit hours in English, selecting from classes listed in the Course Bulletin that are offered at either the 500 or 600-level.

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## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the graduate application and official transcripts, applicants must submit a statement of purpose to The Department of English by mail (see address on page 32) or by email to our administrative assistant Kate Tasseff at [kit4@uakron.edu](mailto:kit4@uakron.edu).

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications to the master's degree program in English are accepted on a rolling basis.



## ASSISTANTSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

All assistantships (and any fellowships) are awarded through the academic department. Students interested in obtaining an assistantship must apply. New students may indicate on their online application for admission that they would like to be considered for an assistantship. Students admitted as non-degree seeking or to a certificate program may not hold an assistantship.

## FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Paying for college is a vital part of the education process! It is important to be informed of the many sources of aid available. Student loans are available to degree-seeking graduate students. Information on student loans can be found through the Office of Student Financial Aid. The Office of Student Financial Aid is located in Simmons Hall.

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# Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (NEOMFA) (330007MFA)

The University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, and Youngstown State University offer jointly the MFA in Creative Writing. This degree provides students with opportunities to develop their skills in writing fiction, poetry, drama, and creative nonfiction. The MFA is the terminal degree. Through extensive practice in workshops and craft and theory courses, students will develop their creative writing abilities while also studying literature and completing a relevant internship.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must be accepted by the Graduate School at The University of Akron or one of the other three participating universities. Applicants must also submit three letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a writing portfolio. The portfolio will be reviewed by an admissions committee of members from all four universities. Applications must be submitted by January 15.

The deadline for all assistantships in the Department of English is March 1.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete the following courses among the participating universities:

Writing Workshops	15 credits
Craft and Theory Courses	9 credits
Literature Courses	6 credits
Internship	3 credits
Thesis	6 credits
Electives	9 credits



A total of 48 credit hours is required for the MFA in Creative Writing.

Up to nine credits from previously uncompleted graduate degrees may be accepted for transfer credit in the NEOMFA program.

Questions should be directed to: Professor David Giffels, Olin 349, [dg36@uakron.edu](mailto:dg36@uakron.edu).  
More information is available at [www.uakron.edu/neomfa](http://www.uakron.edu/neomfa).

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# Graduate Certificate in Literature (330010GC)

Dr. Hillary Nunn, Coordinator - [nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)

## REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the graduate certificate in literature, a person must be admitted to the University as a graduate student (with either full or provisional status). An eligible person interested in the program should contact the Certificate Coordinator.

Of the five required courses (15 credits), two must be core courses, Chaucer and Shakespearean Drama; four of the five courses must be at the 600-level; and one must be in American literature.

### Core Courses

3300:506 Chaucer\*

3300:615 Shakespearean Drama



**Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.**

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\*unless the student has passed a comparable course with a grade of B or better.

All students who wish to pursue a certificate program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School regardless of whether they are current graduate students.

More information can be found at [the Graduate School Website](#).

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# Graduate Certificate in Composition (330002GC)

Dr. Lance Svehla, Coordinator - [ims3@uakron.edu](mailto:ims3@uakron.edu)

## REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the certificate in composition, a person must be admitted to the University as a graduate student (with either full or provisional status). An eligible person interested in the program should contact the certificate coordinator.

### Required Courses

3300:673 Theories of Composition

3300:674 Research Methodologies in Composition

**OR**

3300:676 Theory and Teaching of Basic Composition

### Electives\* (9 credits from the following list chosen with the certificate director)

3300:600 Teaching Coll Comp Practicum

3300:625 Autobiographical Writing

3300:650 New Rhetorics

3300:651 The Pragmatists

3300:660 Cultural Studies

3300:670 Modern Linguistics

3300:679 Scholarly Writing

3300:574 African American English

3300:577 Sociolinguistics

3300:578 Grammatical Structures of English



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**Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.**

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\*Other courses may be considered in consultation with the director.

All students who wish to pursue a certificate program must apply for admission to the certificate program through Graduate School regardless of whether they are current graduate students. More information can be found at [the Graduate School Website certificate page](#).

Once the coursework for the certificate has been completed, students should apply for graduation in MyAkron.

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# Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (330003GC)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - [wz23@uakron.edu](mailto:wz23@uakron.edu)

This program is intended for both native and non-native speakers of English who seek training in the teaching of English as a second language (ESL) and wish to obtain an initial qualification to teach ESL/EFL (English as a foreign language) in educational settings other than public schools in Ohio or in countries outside the United States. For Ohio qualification in teaching ESL in the Ohio public school system, see the TESOL Endorsement requirements in the College of Education section of the graduate bulletin.

The program is designed to introduce the student to the central issues in the theory and practice of teaching English to non-native speakers through courses in modern and applied linguistics, in second language pedagogy and in related disciplines. Students who do not have English as a native language must demonstrate adequate proficiency in English with a valid TOEFL score of at least 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), or 79 (internet-based) or a valid IELTS score of 6.5 or higher.

The awarding of this certificate is not contingent upon completion of a degree program. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 is required. Graduate students must apply for the certificate program through the Graduate School. All students who wish to pursue the TESL certificate should meet with the certificate coordinator director to discuss the program and availability of courses. The certificate requires the completion of a minimum of 18 credit hours of course work, including 5 core courses and 1 elective course.

## Core Requirements (Min. Credits: 15)

- 3300:566 Linguistics and Language Arts
- 3300:573 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL\*
- 3300:578 Grammatical Structures of English
- 5500:543 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Lang.
- 3300:577 Sociolinguistics **OR** 3300:570 History of the English Language



## Electives\*\* (Min. Credits: 3)

- 3300:570 History of English Language
- 3300:577 Sociolinguistics
- 3300:587 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners
- 5500:541 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners
- 5500:543 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language
- 5500:566 Scaffolding Language and Content for English Learners
- 7700:530 Aspects of Normal Language Development

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**Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.**

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\*Students should have successfully completed 3300:371 or 3300:566 prior to taking this course.

\*\*Choice to be decided in consultation with the program director.



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# Student Groups



## The Literary Guild & The Upstart Crows

The Literary Guild is a group of graduate and undergraduate students from many majors who are interested in literature and share a common love for the written word. The Literary Guild sponsors a reading group and a writing group, dubbed The Upstart Crows, which hosts “open mic” poetry nights, travels to see plays performed in Akron and Cleveland, and engages in a variety of other intellectual and social activities throughout the year. New members from all majors are always welcome.

Contact Dr. Hillary Nunn ([nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)) for more information.

Stay up to date on Lit Guild events! Go to our Facebook page: [Upstart Crows UA](#)



## Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars (SAGES)

SAGES is a student organization open to all English graduate students that focuses on helping English graduate students of all tracks (Composition, Fine Arts, and Literature) develop professionally during their time at The University of Akron by providing members with tools to help them publish, present, and prepare for the future. SAGES also strives to promote unity among English graduate students by creating events, providing resources, and visiting places that benefit scholars of all three tracks.

Contact Dr. Hillary Nunn ([nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)) for more information.

# Department Contacts



## UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Dr. Mary Biddinger  
[marybid@uakron.edu](mailto:marybid@uakron.edu)  
(330) 972-6960



## NEOMFA ADVISING

Mr. David Giffels  
[dg36@uakron.edu](mailto:dg36@uakron.edu)  
(330) 972-6256

## English Department Program Codes

330000BA	English Major
330000M	Minor in English
330006M	Minor in Professional Writing
330007M	Minor in Creative Writing
330009M	Minor in Popular Literature & Film
330011M	Minor in African American Lit & Lang
330000MAT	MA in English
330007MFA	Creative Writing - NEOMFA
330003C	Undergraduate Certificate in TESL
330008C	Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies
770008C	Undergraduate Certificate in Professional Writing
330002GC	Graduate Certificate in Composition
330003GC	Graduate Certificate in TESL
330010GC	Graduate Certificate in Literature

## Additional Contacts

**Dr. Matt Wyszynski**  
*Department Chair*  
(330) 972-6067  
[wyszynski@uakron.edu](mailto:wyszynski@uakron.edu)

**Ms. Katie Stoyhoff**  
*Director University Composition Program*  
(330) 972-7480  
[cf@uakron.edu](mailto:cf@uakron.edu)

**Dr. Hillary Nunn**  
*Graduate Advisor*  
(330) 972-7601  
[nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)

**Ms. Kate Tasseff**  
*Department Administrative Assistant*  
(330) 972-5944  
[kit4@uakron.edu](mailto:kit4@uakron.edu)

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# Additional Information



## English Department Website

<https://www.uakron.edu/english/>



## Mailing Address

The University of Akron  
Department of English  
Olin 301  
Akron, OH 44325-1906



## Phone

(330) 972-7470



## Fax

(330) 972-8817



## Facebook Pages

[UA Department of English](#)  
[Lit Guild and Upstart Crows UA](#)