

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

**SUMMER &
FALL 2026**

ENGLISH COURSE BULLETIN



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SCHEDULES AND DESCRIPTIONS ARE
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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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 **world 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.**



Summer 2026 Tentative Course Schedule

INTERSESSION: MAY 18TH-JUNE 7TH

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 690-501	Critical Approaches to Literature	Online	Online	Poder

SUMMER I: JUNE 8TH-JULY 12TH

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 611-501	Argument and Research Writing	Online	Online	Svehla

SUMMER II: JULY 13TH-AUGUST 16TH

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 389-501	Literature & Language: (A Wonky Mirror - Cartoons: Their History, Development, and Reflection of Society)	Online	Online	Wallace
ENGL 473/573-501	Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL	Online	Online	Zhang
ENGL 629-501	Twentieth Century Literature	Online	Online	Chura

**389: LITERATURE & LANGUAGE:
(A WONKY MIRROR - CARTOONS: THEIR HISTORY, DEVELOPMENT, AND REFLECTION OF SOCIETY)**

Traditional and nontraditional topics in English literature and language, supplementing course listed in this General Bulletin, generally constructed around theme, genre and language study.

473/573: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS AND PRINCIPALS OF ESL

This course surveys the theories in second language acquisition and teaching methodologies in second language teaching. Principles of the teaching of English as a second language based on research in linguistics, psycholinguistics, and second language pedagogy are explored in lectures, structured readings, discussions, and projects.

611: ARGUMENT AND RESEARCH WRITING

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 and the Graduate Certificate in Dual Credit Preparation. Elective for Certificate in Composition Studies. Also satisfies the NEOMFA Elective requirement.

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

629: TWENTIETH CENTURY LITERATURE

This fully online course emphasizes recent approaches to Twentieth Century American Literature, and it asks teachers to undertake scholarly research appropriate for the graduate level.

Course objectives are, first, to help teachers expand their knowledge of pedagogically useful literary works and interpretive methods, and second, to consider in detail how such knowledge might impact the secondary school classroom. While pedagogical issues will be a consistent focus of our discussions, the course is also open to non-teachers seeking growth through close study of benchmark texts in the multicultural canon.

Required for the Graduate Certificate in Dual Credit Preparation. Elective for the M.A. in English and Certificate in Literature. Also satisfies the NEOMFA Elective requirement.

690: CRITICAL APPROACHES TO LITERATURE

Critical Approaches to Literature is an asynchronous online graduate-level course that centers on critical analysis, literary theory, and research to uncover meaning in canonical and non-canonical literary texts. This course is also part of The University of Akron's Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation for high school teachers. We will read and analyze poetry, fiction, and film using several critical lenses to illustrate depth, complexity, and meaning in diverse texts. By the end of the semester, you will gain an extensive knowledge of specific texts and theoretical approaches while learning to articulate and pursue your own interpretative strategies.

Required for the M.A. in English and the Graduate Certificate in Dual Credit Preparation. Elective for Certificate in Literature Studies. Also satisfies the NEOMFA Elective requirement.

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

Fall 2026 Tentative Course Schedule

*NEOMFA STUDENTS ONLY

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 276-001	Intro to Creative Nonfiction Writing	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Giffels
ENGL 277-001	Intro to Poetry Writing	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Biddinger
ENGL 279-001	Intro to Script Writing	TTh	Online	Online	Svehla
ENGL 281-001	Fiction Appreciation	MWF	8:35AM	9:25AM	Chura
ENGL 281-002	Fiction Appreciation	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Rhoades
ENGL 281-501	Fiction Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
ENGL 283-002	Film Appreciation	MWF	8:35AM	9:25AM	Heldenfels
ENGL 283-003	Film Appreciation	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Heldenfels
ENGL 283-504	Film Appreciation	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
ENGL 300-001	Critical Reading & Writing	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Nunn
ENGL 301-001	English Literature I	TTh	10:45	12:00PM	Ambrisco

Fall 2026 Tentative Course Schedule

*NEOMFA STUDENTS ONLY

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 350-001	Black American Literature	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Chura
ENGL 362-501	World Literatures	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
ENGL 364-001	Women Writers	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Rhoades
ENGL 389-001	Literature & Language: Literature of the Holocaust	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Chura
ENGL 466/566-501	Linguistics & Language Arts	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
ENGL 477/577-501	Sociolinguistics	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
ENGL 489/589-001	Unclass: Digital Projects in the Archives	MW	3:30PM	4:45PM	Nunn
ENGL 489/589-002	Poe & Hawthorne	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Miller
ENGL 489/589-501	Shakespeare in Performance	TTh	3:30PM	4:45PM	Nunn
ENGL 492-001	Senior Seminar	MW	2:00PM	3:15PM	Miller

Fall 2026

Tentative Course Schedule

*NEOMFA STUDENTS ONLY

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
ENGL 610-501	New Directions in the Teaching of Writing	Online	Online	Online	Svehla
ENGL 689-800	Grad Writing Seminar: Flash and Microfiction*	M	5:20PM	7:50PM	Biddinger
ENGL 689-801	Grad Writing Seminar: Creative Nonfiction*	W	5:20PM	7:50PM	Giffels

276: INTRO TO CREATIVE NONFICTION WRITING

This workshop welcomes creative writers from all backgrounds and experiences to explore techniques of creative nonfiction through a series of writing exercises. With an emphasis on the personal essay, the class will expose writers to a range of writing based on real life, including literary journalism, memoir, lyric essay, and cultural criticism. Most of our class time will be spent in shared discussion of student work as we develop a spirit of literary community.

Prerequisite for Advanced Creative Nonfiction. Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.

277: INTRO TO POETRY WRITING

Practice in writing poetry and study of the craft of poetry in a friendly environment, using contemporary models. Students will learn a variety of literary terms and techniques and will receive helpful feedback from peers and professor during workshop. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

279: INTRO TO SCRIPT WRITING

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 professional and student-created scripts. Course is 100% online asynchronous. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

281: FICTION APPRECIATION

The purpose of this course is just as the title suggests: to read and appreciate fiction. Through immersion in short stories and novels that range from classics to recent works, we will enhance our skills of critical and cultural analysis, aesthetic appreciation, and identifying aspects of literary craft. This is a general education class that will operate like a book club, with the emphasis on group discussion.

Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Humanities" Requirement.

283: FILM APPRECIATION

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.*

283-504: FILM APPRECIATION [ONLINE]

Initiates students into the thoughtful study of film as a form of visual narrative. 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 variety of films, filmmakers, and genres. Course is 100% online asynchronous. *Satisfies the Minor in Popular Literature & Film requirement. Satisfies the General Education Tier II: Disciplinary Area Courses "Arts" Requirement.*

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

300: CRITICAL READING & WRITING

An introduction to English studies, focusing on critical methods for reading and writing about literature, with attention to research skills. The class will examine works from three literary genres, and it will focus on participation as a means of building interpretive skills. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*

301: ENGLISH LITERATURE I

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. This course is 100% online asynchronous. Satisfies the English major requirement.

350: BLACK AMERICAN LITERATURE

A contextualized study of key works in African American literature from the eighteenth century to the present. *Satisfies the English major World/Multicultural Literature requirement, and the U.S. Perspectives Gen Ed requirement.*

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
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362: WORLD LITERATURES

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 Perspectives requirement for the General Education Program.*

364: WOMEN WRITERS

In this course, we will focus on the social construction of gender and its influence on writers, readers, and characters in literature. Examining perspectives on issues faced by women, we will recognize and celebrate the literary and artistic merits of women writers over the centuries, across various genres, and from various geographic locations. We know that texts grow out of their relevant historical, political, and cultural contexts; as such, we will work to understand the issues particular to women, specifically themes relating to marriage, the family, motherhood, sexuality, sisterhood, creativity, abuse, patriarchal oppression, and feminist practices of political resistance and empowerment. We will begin with some of the earliest recorded women writers and move through classic and contemporary texts including, but not limited to, works by Anne Bradstreet, Phyllis Wheatley, Adrienne Rich, and Virginia Woolf; Nella Larsen's *Passing*, Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, and Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*.

389: LITERATURE OF THE HOLOCAUST

The course begins with a close reading of Lion Feuchtwanger's *The Oppermanns*, a novel that explores the socio-political conditions that enabled the rise of German fascism in the early 1930s. We'll then turn to Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night* and a selection of influential Holocaust narratives by Cynthia Ozick, Albert Maltz, Jerzy Kosinski, and Art Spiegelman. Supplementary readings include excerpts from important philosophical, historical, and reflective works by Primo Levi, Emmanuel Levinas, Viktor Frankl, Hannah Arendt, and Dara Horn.

466/566: LINGUISTICS & LANGUAGE ARTS

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. Elective for the M.A. in English.

477/577: SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Major sociolinguistic concepts and methodology examined, as well as relationships between language, socio-cultural factors, and education. Issues of Standard English, power, and gender also examined. It is a core course in the Department of English's TESL Certificate Program as well as an elective in the undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies and the M.A. Program in the Department of English. *Required for the Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language.*

489/589: UNCLASS: DIGITAL PROJECTS IN THE ARCHIVES

For almost 40 years, Horace and Evelyn Stewart ran a thriving photography studio that served Akron's Black community. The memories they captured to mark birthdays, weddings, military deployments, and other family occasions offer a valuable glimpse of Akron in the 1930s-1970s, showing the events and people Black families wanted to remember. While over 40,000 of these photographs are visible online via the University of Akron Archives and Special Collections, the names of people and places in them have not always been recorded. This UnClass aims to remedy that. We will be working to identify the people and locations in these photographs, collecting oral histories from members of the Akron community and reconnecting their stories to the memories the Stewarts preserved on film.

Elective for the M.A. in English.

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
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489/589: POE & HAWTHORNE

In this course we will study the poetry and short fiction of Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne. We will examine their significant achievements and innovations. We'll learn about their historical and cultural contexts and their enduring presence in popular culture and literary practices. (Poe haunts us, and he will not go away. Why is that? We shall see.) The course will also include opportunities to study the work of selected antebellum American contemporaries. Students will write short papers that assemble into longer papers.

Elective for the M.A. in English.

489/589: SHAKESPEARE IN PERFORMANCE

The purpose of this course is not only to study and interpret Shakespearean plays, but to understand their adaptation, performance, and reception in our own times. Much of the class will involve study of filmed versions of Shakespeare plays and adaptations, as well as optional attendance of local performances. Students will consider how staging choices influence understanding of these early modern texts, and how performances today reshape Shakespearean works for current audiences. *Can be used to satisfy the Shakespeare requirement for the English major.*

Elective for the MA in English

492: SENIOR SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERARY MAGAZINES

In this course we will study a range of creative literature in the context of the literary magazines that first published it. We'll read the latest Pushcart anthology and look at examples of active literary magazines. We'll also study the history of literary magazines and what goes on behind the scenes to make them work — how they are funded, how they are edited, how they are printed, how they are distributed, and so forth. For this students will gain an understanding of the business of literary publishing at the magazine level, which is where many new writers of poetry, literary fiction, and creative nonfiction first break into print.

**EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.
DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

610: NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE TEACHING OF WRITING

Designed to introduce recent and innovative approaches to the teaching of writing. Also prepares teachers to create relevant classes likely to be offered as dual credit options on their high school campuses. Course is 100% online asynchronous. *Required for the Dual Credit Credentialing Module. Elective for the M.A. in English and Graduate Certificate in Composition Studies. Also satisfies the NEOMFA Elective requirement.*

689: GRADUATE WRITING SEMINAR: FLASH AND MICROFICTION

This is a workshop for writers who would like to learn more about the tiniest of stories and write some of their own. We will read an assortment of published flashes and micros, but the focus will be primarily on student fiction. At the end of the semester, we will also discuss publishing these small works. All NEOMFA students—including those without prior fiction writing experience—are very welcome in this workshop. Feedback will be tactful and abundant. ***Limited to students in the NEOMFA program.***

689: GRADUATE WRITING SEMINAR: CREATIVE NONFICTION

This MFA workshop welcomes writers from all genres and from all levels of experience with creative nonfiction. Community-building will be our priority, as we share everything we know about the craft to help us all get better at it. At the beginning of the term, each student will propose a semester-long writing project tuned toward their individual literary style, goals, and experiences. From there, each student will submit two to three pieces of original work to be read and discussed by the workshop participants, including written responses. An individual reading will also be assigned: a book chosen in collaboration with the instructor, tailored to the writer's interests and goals. ***Open only to students in the NEOMFA program in creative writing.***



The BA in English (330000BA)

Our course of study of literature, language, rhetoric, and creative writing fosters the development of critical thinking, skilled communication, appreciation of cultural contexts, informed citizenship, and knowledge of the various literary texts representing human thought and inquiry through the centuries.

Students majoring in English studies go on to become successful professionals in their chosen fields. Graduates have taken the department's reputation into the world outside the campus gates and hold careers ranging from positions in successful law practices, to jobs as published authors, technical writers, and journalists.

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.

Please visit The University of Akron's [Undergraduate Bulletin page for the English BA](#) for the current degree requirements.

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)

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



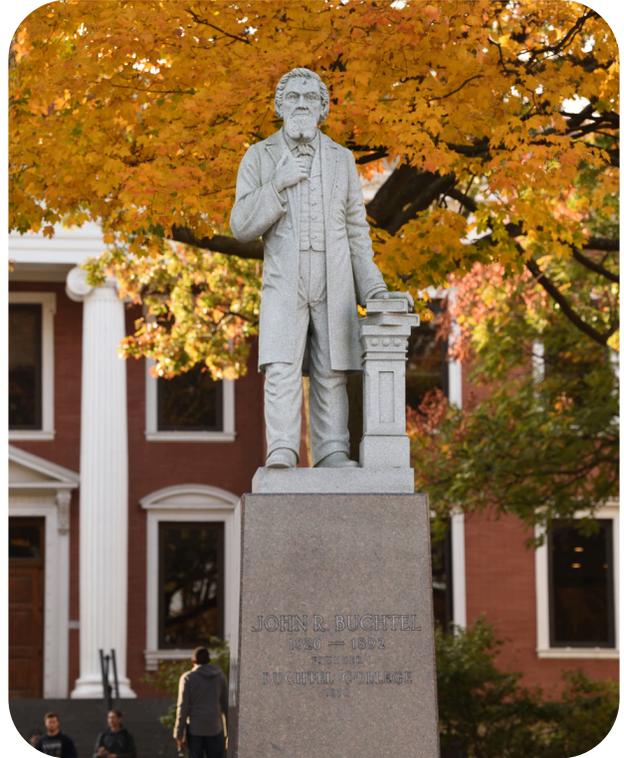
Minor in Popular Literature and Film (330009M)

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: ENGL 300 Critical Reading & Writing; ENGL 301 English Literature 1; ENGL 315 Shakespeare: Early Plays; ENGL 316 Shakespeare: Mature Plays; ENGL 341 American Literature 1; one course in World or Multicultural literature.

Procedure for Minors

- See the department advisor Prof. Lisa Rhoades for information and guidance. Take the required courses.
- 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 ENGL 110, ENGL 111, and ENGL 112 **DO NOT** count toward any minor degree requirements.



The 3 + 3 Juris Doctor Degree.

Earn your bachelor's and law degrees in six years instead of the usual seven!

The English major provides students with an excellent pathway to Law School. With an emphasis on critical reading skills, logical reasoning, and analytical writing, the English degree prepares students for the rigorous demands of Law School and sets them up for success on the LSAT. Working with controlled class sizes and personal attention, the English Faculty sharpen students' intellectual skills, making this the ideal undergraduate degree for future lawyers.

Available Fall 2026.

For more information, please contact Prof. Lisa Rhoades at rhoades@uakron.edu .

Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies (330008C)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - 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.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

FOUNDATION (REQUIRED)

ENGL 371 Introduction to Linguistics **OR**
ENGL 466 Linguistics and Language Arts

CORE (MINIMUM OF TWO OF THE FOLLOWING)

ENGL 470 History of the English Language
ENGL 477 Sociolinguistics
ENGL 478 Grammatical Structures of English
PHIL 481 Philosophy of Language
SLPA 230 Language Science and Acquisition **OR**
SLPA 430 Aspects of Normal Language Development

ELECTIVES (MINIMUM OF TWO OF THE FOLLOWING)

ENGL 400 Anglo Saxon
ENGL 473 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL
ANTH 101 Human Cultures
ANTH 251 Human Diversity
CPSC 430 Theory of Programming Languages
CPSC 440 Compiler Design
CPSC 460 Artificial Intelligence and Heuristics Programming
SPAN 403 Advanced Grammar
PHIL 170 Introduction to Logic
PHIL 374 Symbolic Logic
PHIL 418 20th Century Analytic Philosophy
PHIL 471 Metaphysics
POLIT 402 Politics and the Media
POLIT 403 Media, Crime and Public Opinion
COMM 325 Intercultural Communication
SLPA 101 American Sign Language I
SLPA 210 Introduction to Clinical Phonetics

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.

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

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - 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.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

CORE (MINIMUM OF FOUR OF THE FOLLOWING)

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

ELECTIVES** (MINIMUM OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING)

- ENGL 470 History of the English Language
- ENGL 477 Sociolinguistics
- ENGL 487 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners
- SPAN 403 Advanced Grammar
- EDCI 456 Scaffolding Language and Content to Second Language Learners
- EDCI 485 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners
- EDCI 487 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language
- COMM 325 Intercultural Communication
- SLPA 230 Language Science & Acquisition
- SLPA 430 Aspects of Normal Language Development

*Students should have successfully completed ENGL 371 or ENGL 466 prior to taking this course.

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

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.

Department of English

BA/MA Combined Degree Pathway

You can earn your bachelor's and master's in less time and at a significant savings.

The Combined Degree Pathway program is a 5-year bridge program between our undergraduate B.A. degree in English and our graduate M.A. in English degrees. Selected students can complete up to 9 credits of graduate coursework during their fourth undergraduate year at the University of Akron. Students will then transition into our M.A. graduate program, pending satisfactory fulfillment of their undergraduate degree and graduate program admission requirements. Selected students have the potential to earn both an undergraduate and graduate degree from the University of Akron in 5 years.

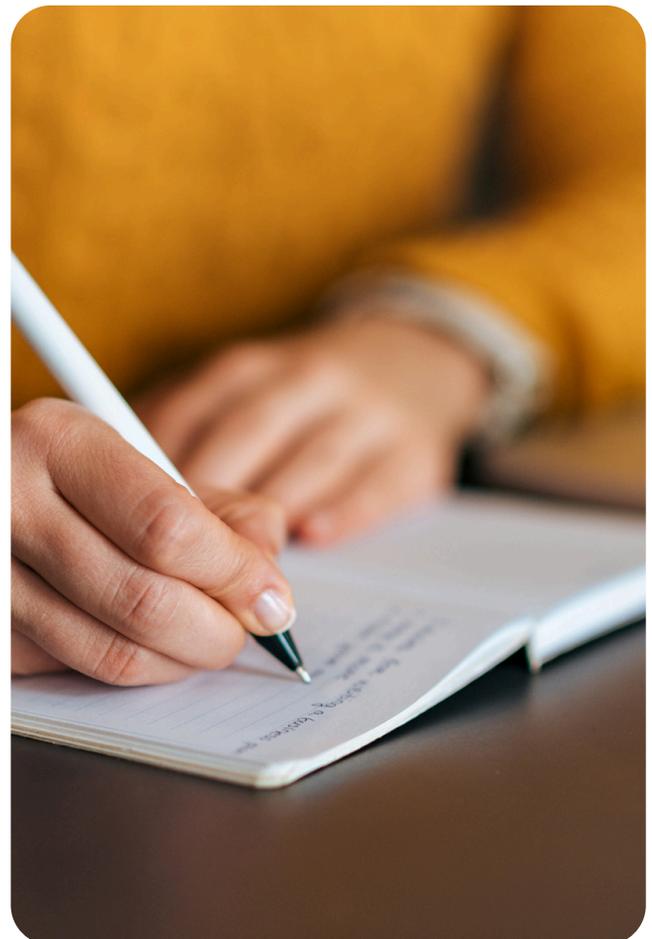
The advantages to the accelerated program include:

- **Flexibility during graduate school.**
Students can complete graduate classes while fulfilling undergraduate degree requirements.
- **Reduced time.**
Students start fulfilling graduate school requirements sooner. The ADP Program engages students in graduate level courses before their peers and provides the opportunity to make connections with graduate instructors and other students in the program.
- **Cost saving.**
Students can save tuition costs by completing up to 9 graduate credit hours at the undergraduate price. These same graduate credits will be applied to their graduate degree at The University of Akron.

Curriculum

The 5-Year Combined Degree Pathway Program curriculum includes the same coursework offered in the English undergraduate and graduate programs. Check out our [handbook here](#).

Interested students should contact our Assistant Chair, Prof. Lisa Rhoades at rhoades@uakron.edu.





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 admission, a student must meet the Graduate School requirement of a minimum overall GPA of 2.5-2.74 or better.

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. The Graduate School also requires that you submit a Statement of Purpose via their online portal. Applications should be received at least six weeks prior to registration, which may occur in the fall, spring, or summer terms.

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 two 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 three 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 Teaching Assistantships

Graduate Teaching Assistantships in the Department of English are awarded on a competitive basis to MFA 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, 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), a letter of application, and two letters of recommendation. Scores from the Graduate Record Examination are not required. Please email all materials directly to the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Hillary Nunn, at nunn@uakron.edu.

The letter of application should address:

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



The MA 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 other 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 credit hours** is required.

Core classes for MA students consist of the following 18 credits at the 600-level:

ENGL 611 Argumentation and Research Writing
ENGL 673 Theories of Composition
ENGL 665 Literary Criticism **OR**
ENGL 690 Critical Approaches to Literature
One additional 600-level literature course
ENGL 689 Grant Writing **OR**
ENGL 689 Professional Writing Theory and Practice
ENGL 699 Master's Thesis/Capstone (3 credit hours)

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.

Master's Thesis/Capstone

In consultation with a faculty member, students complete either a Capstone Project or a Thesis. In the Capstone Option, students complete a customized final project along with a Portfolio based on the revision and presentation of 3-6 course artifacts, at least one of which is an academic paper. In the Thesis Option, students complete a sustained, publishable 60–100-page scholarly treatment of a subject in Literature or Composition studies.

Application Deadline

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

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.



The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (NEOMFA) (330007MFA)

The University of Akron, Cleveland State University, and Kent 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 two 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 three universities.

Deadline for full-time applicants seeking funding:
January 15 (fall matriculation)

Deadlines for part-time applicants and other students not seeking funding:
November 15 (spring matriculation)
April 15 (fall matriculation)

The deadline for all assistantships in the Department of English is February 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. Email David Giffels with questions at dg36@uakron.edu. More information is available at <https://neomfa.org/>.

Graduate Certificate in Literature (330010GC)

Dr. Hillary Nunn, Coordinator - nunn@uakron.edu

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.

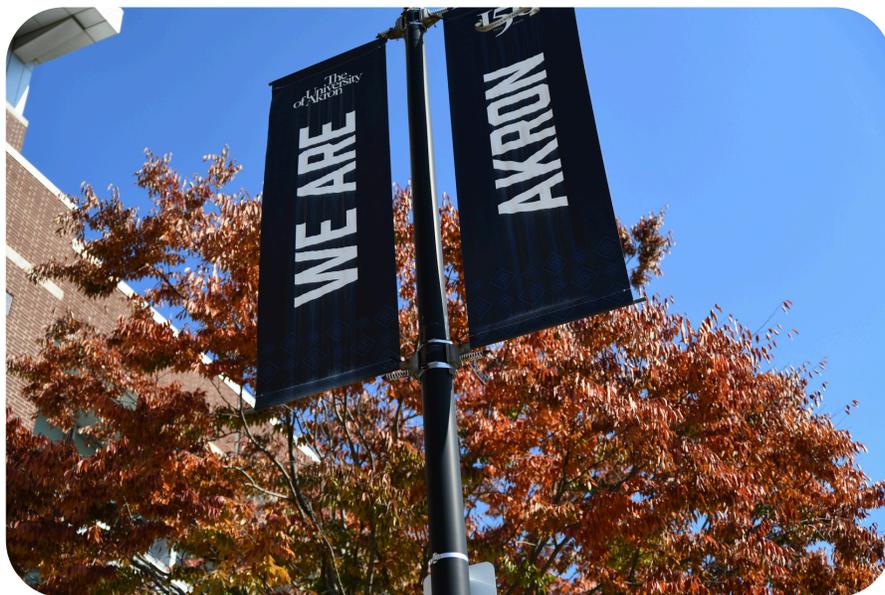
CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Of the four required courses (12 credits), two must be core courses, ENGL 690: Critical Approaches to Literature and ENGL 615: Shakespearean Drama*; three of the four courses must be at the 600-level; and one must be in American literature.

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

Graduate students who are not enrolled in a University of Akron graduate degree program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School. Students who are currently in a graduate program should contact the Certificate Coordinator to add certificate programs.

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



EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.

Graduate Certificate in Composition (330002GC)

Dr. Lance Svehla, Coordinator - lms3@uakron.edu

To be eligible for the certificate in Composition, a person must be admitted to the University as a graduate student. Graduate students who are not enrolled in a University of Akron graduate degree program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School. Students who are currently in a graduate program should contact the certificate coordinator to add certificate programs.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGL 673 Theories of Composition
ENGL 674 Research Methodologies in Composition
OR
ENGL 676 Theory and Teaching of Basic Composition

ELECTIVES*

(9 credits from the following list chosen with the certificate coordinator)

ENGL 600 Teaching Coll Comp Practicum
ENGL 610 New Directions in the Teaching of Writing
ENGL 611 Argument and Research Writing
ENGL 625 Autobiographical Writing
ENGL 650 New Rhetorics
ENGL 651 The Pragmatists
ENGL 660 Cultural Studies
ENGL 670 Modern Linguistics
ENGL 679 Scholarly Writing
ENGL 566 Linguistics and Language Arts
ENGL 570 History of the English Language
ENGL 573 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL
ENGL 574 African American English
ENGL 577 Sociolinguistics
ENGL 578 Grammatical Structures of English

*Other courses may be considered in consultation with the coordinator.

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.

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

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - 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 students 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 6.5 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. The certificate requires the completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours of course work, including 4 core courses and 1 elective course.

Graduate students who are not enrolled in a University of Akron graduate degree program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School. Students who are currently in a graduate program should contact the Certificate Coordinator to add certificate programs.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

- ENGL 566 Linguistics and Language Arts
- ENGL 573 Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL*
- ENGL 578 Grammatical Structures of English
- ENGL 577 Sociolinguistics **OR**
- ENGL 570 History of the English Language

ELECTIVES**

- ENGL 570 History of the English Language
- ENGL 577 Sociolinguistics
- ENGL 587 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners
- EDCI 556 Scaffolding Language and Content to Second Language Learners
- EDCI 541 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners
- EDCI 543 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language
- SLPA 530 Aspects of Normal Language Development

*Students should have successfully completed ENGL 371 or ENGL 466 prior to taking this course.

**Choice to be decided in consultation with the program coordinator.

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.



Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation (530113GC)

Dr. Hillary Nunn, Coordinator - nunn@uakron.edu

The University of Akron's Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation offers a cohesive set of coursework for high school English teachers who wish to meet the credentialing standard for dual-credit instructors in the state of Ohio. Our online Certificate forms a foundation for the teaching of general education courses in both Composition and Literature, providing 18 hours of coursework in the discipline for those teachers who already have or are working toward master's degrees. Classes are offered through web-based instruction by experienced professors. No travel to campus is required.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Participants must have a master's degree in education or other subject area, or they must be actively enrolled in an Education Master's program, in UA's MA in English program, or the NEOMFA.

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGL 611 Argument and Research Writing
ENGL 629 Twentieth Century Literature
ENGL 610 New Directions in the Teaching of Writing
ENGL 690 Critical Approaches to Literature
ENGL 673 Theories of Composition
ENGL 615 Shakespearean Drama

EACH COURSE LISTED IS THREE (3) CREDIT HOURS.



Student Groups

THE UPSTART CROWS

Upstart Crows 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 Upstart Crows 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) for more information.

Stay up to date on 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 develop professionally 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.

Contact Dr. Hillary Nunn (nunn@uakron.edu) for more information.

Department Contacts

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Prof. Lisa Rhoades
rhoades@uakron.edu
(330) 972-8556

NEOMFA ADVISING

Prof. David Giffels
dg36@uakron.edu
(330) 972-6256

MA & GRAD CERTIFICATE ADVISING

Dr. Hillary Nunn
nunn@uakron.edu
(330) 972-7601

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Dr. Mary Biddinger
Department Chair
(330) 972-6960
marybid@uakron.edu

Prof. Katie Stoyhoff
*Director of University
Composition Program*
(330) 972-7480
cf@uakron.edu

Dr. Wei Zhang
TESL Advising
(330) 972-5216
wz23@uakron.edu

Ms. Theresa Procopio
Administrative Assistant
(330) 972-6640
tmp77@uakron.edu

English Department Program Codes

330000BA	English Major
330000M	Minor in English
330007M	Minor in Creative Writing
330009M	Minor in Popular Literature & Film
330000MAT	MA in English
330007MFA	Creative Writing - NEOMFA
330003C	Undergraduate Certificate in TESL
330008C	Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies
530113GC	Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation
330002GC	Graduate Certificate in Composition
330003GC	Graduate Certificate in TESL
330010GC	Graduate Certificate in Literature



Contact Us

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

PHONE NUMBER

(330) 972-7470

SOCIAL MEDIA

