



ENGLISH COURSE BULLETIN

Spring 2024

Tentative Schedules
(subject to change)

Course Descriptions
(subject to change)

**Program
Descriptions and
Requirements**

And more!



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**.

The following courses DO NOT count toward the English major or minor degree requirements:

**ENGL 110; ENGL 111; ENGL 112; ENGL 250; ENGL 252;
and ENGL 281.**

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Spring 2024 Tentative Course Schedule

January 16th-May 12th

***NEOMFA Students Only

COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	START	END	INSTRUCTOR
300-001	Critical Reading & Writing	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Miller
301-002	English Literature I	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Ambrisco
315-001	Shakespeare: Early Plays	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Rhoades
341-001	American Literature I	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Chura
350-001	Black American Literature	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Chura
362-001	World Literatures	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Dukes
362-501	World Literatures	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
364-001/501	Women Writers	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Rhoades
371-001	Intro to Linguistics	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Sarvis
377-001	Advanced Poetry Writing	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Biddinger
381-001	Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Giffels
389-501	Sem: Western Through Film and Fiction	Online	Online	Online	Thelin
457/557-001	Writers on Writing	MWF	2:00PM	2:50PM	Giffels
473/573-501	Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
478/578-501	Grammatical Structures of Modern English	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
489/589-001	Sem: Poe & Hawthorne	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Miller
489/589-002	Unclass: Digital Projects in the Archives	TTh	3:30PM	4:45PM	Nunn
492-002	Senior Seminar	W	5:20 AM	7:50PM	Chura
689-801/501	Grant Writing	T	5:20PM	7:50PM	Nunn

689-802	Grad Writing Seminar: Creative Nonfiction***	W	5:20PM	7:50PM	Giffels
689-803	Sem: Literature for Creative Writers***	M	5:20PM	7:50PM	Biddinger
690-501	Critical Approaches to Literature	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco

Spring 2024 Course Descriptions

(Subject to change)

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.*

315 Shakespeare: The Early 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, and the Domestic Diversity Gen Ed 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.*

364

Women Writers

3 credit hours

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. Through reading, writing, and discussion, we will work to understand women and their respective roles in literature and culture. 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*.

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 ENGL 466 Linguistics and Language Arts.*

377

Advanced Poetry Writing

3 credit hours

Practice writing and discussing poetry in a welcoming environment. Students will be encouraged to experiment with new poetry techniques. Consideration of contemporary poems in addition to student work, and discussions on topics such as publishing and public reading. Students will create a chapbook of their original poetry as the final project for this class. All course texts/readings will be provided by the instructor (no books to purchase). Open to students who have completed ENGL 277: Intro to Poetry Writing and to others with instructor permission (email marybid@uakron.edu to request). *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

381

Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing

3 credit hours

This course workshops original creative nonfiction produced by students, and explores the genre through close-reading, analysis, and evaluation of published essays in both academic and popular media. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

389 **Westerns Through Film and Literature** **3 credit hours**

Students will study the Western genre as it developed in the 20th century on through the 21st century. We will examine the conventions of Western films and look at the genre's impact on popular culture. Students can expect to view classic movies with stars such as John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, and Joel McCrea, but we will also spend time on important films that bucked convention and that led to major changes in the genre in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The selected films will be supplemented with short Western novels, as well as episodes from popular television programs. *Satisfies an elective for the Popular Literature and Film Minor.*

457/557 **Writers on Writing** **3 credit hours**

This is a class about the writing life, as portrayed through the work of people whose lives are about writing. Throughout the semester, we will explore essays and books by writers describing the practical and philosophical nature of their work. We will discuss the features of creativity, techniques of the craft, the interaction of life and art, the present and future of literature, the publishing process, and other topics of relevance to active writers and readers. We will also practice our own creative and critical writing. Graduate students will prepare and present a biography of the creative life of a writer of their choosing. *Satisfies the Minor in Creative Writing requirement.*

473/573 **Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL** **3 credit hours**

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. *This course is required for the Undergraduate and Graduate Certificate in TESL and meets the requirements of the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies.*

478/578 **Grammatical Structures** **3 credit hours**

This course surveys sentence types in English and the component elements of the English sentence. The sentence will be viewed on its own but also as part of larger rhetorical units. In particular, it explores the grammatical structure and properties of modern English in the context of academic language development and beyond. Students are expected to apply the linguistic knowledge and analytic tools learned in this class to analyze content texts and to create teaching strategies for academic language instruction at various levels. *This course is required for the Undergraduate and Graduate Certificate in TESL and meets the requirements of the Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies.*

489/589 Poe & Hawthorne

3 credit hours

In this literature seminar we will study writings by Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne in the context of the sensational popular literature of their time. There will be additional emphasis on literary editing and publishing. For the final assignment, students can write a regular seminar paper or an article presenting a short, forgotten, and once-popular text for possible publication in Nineteenth-Century Ohio Literature:

<https://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/nineteenthcenturyohioliterature/>

489/589 Unclass: Digital Projects in the Archives

3 credit hours

In this hands-on course, called “Round Howard Street: Telling the Story of Akron Jazz,” we’ll explore the central role that jazz played in Akron’s cultural life in the early twentieth century. We’ll delve into the archive to uncover long-hidden stories about musicians, clubs, and audiences, and we’ll use social media tools to share our research to new audiences. We’ll also add to the Cleveland Greenbook Project to ensure that Akron’s history is fully represented on that website. No special experience with archival research or digital tools required.

492 Senior Seminar: Albert Maltz and the American Century 3 credit hours

This Seminar will use the films, plays, novels and political writings of Academy Award winning screenwriter Albert Maltz (1908-1985) as tools for understanding and analyzing key moments in the cultural history of the Twentieth-Century United States. For the same purpose, we will also study the substantial journalism, speeches, and nonfiction works of Maltz's wife, Margaret Larkin. *Limited to senior English majors. Please contact the English Department Advisor, Lisa Rhoades, at rhoades@uakron.edu to get permission to register for the course.*

689 Grant Writing

3 credit hours

This course takes an interdisciplinary and experiential approach to grant writing, grounded in rhetorical strategies. Will address strategies for approaching grant funding, crafting narratives, developing budgets, and best practices overall. Includes writing grants for individuals and for non-profits. Students will work in teams and/or with community groups to develop grant proposals.

689 Creative Nonfiction Workshop

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 Literature for Creative Writers

3 credit hours

This is a friendly and welcoming MFA literature course for writers who are interested in developing a reading practice as part of their creative process. The course will have a manageable reading list of contemporary writing in several genres, with a focus on how texts can inspire writers in their own work. We will also spend time discussing how creative writing pedagogy can incorporate literature when teaching high school and college courses, as well as community workshops. Assignments will include creative responses to readings, a review of a recent book (of the student's choosing), and a final writing project. Literature for Creative Writers can be counted toward the NEOMFA literature requirement. *Limited to students in the NEOMFA program.* Book list: *Know the Mother* by Desiree Cooper, *The Loneliness Files* by Athena Dixon, *Whereabouts* by Jhumpa Lahiri, *Constellation Route* by Matthew Olzmann, and *Here in the Night* by Rebecca Turkewitz.

690 Critical Approaches to Literature

3 credit hours

This 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, drama, 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. Literary texts studied include Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*, and John Frankenheimer's 1962 version of *The Manchurian Candidate*.

Requirements for 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. Credits: 6) 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. Credits: 3) 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.

Procedures for Minors



See the department advisor Prof. Lisa Rhoades 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 ENGL 110, ENGL 111, ENGL 112, ENGL 250, ENGL 252, and ENGL 281 **DO NOT** count toward any minor degree requirements.

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. A student entering the program should discuss plans with the director.

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



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

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

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.

PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Students admitted with an undergraduate status are required to take ENGL 111 English Composition I and ENGL 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)

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



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

Electives** (Min. Credits: 3)

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.

Department of English BA/MA Accelerated Degree Pathway (ADP)

ACCELERATED OPTION

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

The Accelerated Degree Pathway (ADP) 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.
- **Reduce 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.
- **Save tuition costs.**
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 Accelerated Degree Pathway (ADP) 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 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 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:

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.

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:

- 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)

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.



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.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the graduate application and official transcripts, applicants must submit a statement of purpose by email to the Graduate Coordinator, Hillary Nunn, at nunn@uakron.edu.

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.

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 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.

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](#).



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

Graduate Certificate in Composition (330002GC)

Dr. Lance Svehla, Coordinator - 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

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 director)

ENGL 600 Teaching Coll Comp Practicum

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 574 African American English

ENGL 577 Sociolinguistics

ENGL 578 Grammatical Structures of English



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

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

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.

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

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. For Ohio qualification in teaching ESL in the Ohio public school system, see the TESOL Endorsement requirements in the School of Education. The program is designed to introduce students 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. Students who wish to pursue the TESL certificate should meet with the program director to discuss the program and course availability. 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 (Min. Credits: 12)

- 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



Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.

Electives** (Min. Credits: 3)

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

*Students should have successfully completed ENGL 371 or ENGL 566 prior to taking this course.

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

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.

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

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 of all tracks (Composition, Fine Arts, and Literature) 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 of all three tracks.

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

Department Contacts



UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

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NEOMFA ADVISING

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MA & GRAD CERTIFICATE ADVISING

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English Department Program Codes

330000BA	English Major
330000M	Minor in English
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 Communication
330002GC	Graduate Certificate in Composition
330003GC	Graduate Certificate in TESL
330010GC	Graduate Certificate in Literature

Additional Information



English Department Website

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



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Social Media Pages

[UA Department of English Facebook](#)

[Upstart Crows Facebook](#)

[Department of English Instagram](#)



LinkedIn

[English Dept U of A](#)