

ENGLISH

William Shakespeare. Jonathan Swift. Jane Austen. Emily Dickinson. James Joyce. Toni Morrison. The heart of the English major at Lawrence is the study of the masterpieces of British and American literature.

If you've always loved reading, and have always longed for the chance to read deeply and widely, then you should consider an English major. At Lawrence, you will have the chance to explore literary works dating from the Middle Ages into the twenty-first century. Before long, you'll have developed a strong sense of literary history, as well as a deeper appreciation of individual works.

As you move through the English major, you'll strengthen your ability to write and communicate effectively. We take our work as writing teachers seriously, as we believe that the ability to write clearly remains the single most important skill that anyone can take away from college.

CURRICULUM—*Creative writing*

Creative writing is an area of great and growing strength at Lawrence. The department offers beginning and advanced courses in both poetry and fiction writing, and most of our majors take at least one of these courses before graduation.

There are at least a couple of reasons for that. First, creative writing is inherently rewarding and interesting. Beyond that, many English majors find that the experience of being in a creative writing workshop helps to deepen their understanding of literature itself. Having thought through your own stories and poems, you're better able to imagine the creative process behind the works you're reading in other classes.

Many creative writing courses offer students the opportunity to work with visiting writers and to read from their own works in public. Interested students can also submit their creative work for honors in independent study. Recently, several students have earned honors for their work on poetry manuscripts and longer works of fiction.

The English Major

It's worth noting that many of our students are doing double majors, combining English with theatre or music, history or philosophy, government or psychology. Indeed, English seems to make a particularly

good complement for most other major and minors.

Most majors begin their study of English with *Literary Analysis*, a course that emphasizes close reading and analytical writing. At the intermediate level, majors take at least two "major writers" courses. These courses may take them from Chaucer to Swift and Pope, or from Cooper to Hemingway and Stevens.

All majors are also required to take a course on Shakespeare, and to explore a variety of literary traditions at the advanced level. Advanced courses recently offered in the department include *Renaissance Literature, Restoration and 18th-Century Comedy, American Literature and the Civil War, Modern Drama, and Literature of the Harlem Renaissance*, among others.

During your career at Lawrence, you may pursue tutorials or independent studies, working closely with faculty members on topics of special interest. Independent study may result in a senior honors thesis.

Recent honors projects in English include Erin Pryor Ackerman, "Explaining Grace; Marianne Moore and Elizabeth Bishop's Nature Poetry," and Courtney McNamara, "'The Story Won't Tell': Henry James, Benjamin Britten, and the Ambiguities of *The Turn of the Screw*."

The English Minor

The minor in English requires six courses, representing four categories—introductory

literary analysis, medieval to 19th-century British literature, American literature, and modern literature.

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

Faculty from the English department are involved in a number of other programs on campus, and English majors often participate in these programs as well.

The interdisciplinary program in linguistics allows you to examine the structure of the English language and its relation to other languages. In addition to courses in historical and descriptive linguistics, you can choose from classes in psychology, anthropology, philosophy, and, of course, the foreign languages.

Gender Studies encourages you to examine such varied issues as the images of men and women in literature and the arts, the psychology of gender identity, and sex roles in the family and in society from the Middle Ages to the present. Ethnic Studies allows you to consider the impact of various ideas about race and ethnicity, as well as the experience of particular ethnic groups.

CAMPUS PUBLICATIONS

If you have an interest in journalism, you can develop your skills by working for the *Lawrentian*, the student-produced weekly newspaper. The paper includes campus news articles, as well as editorials, features, sports, and arts and entertainment. The paper is completely student-produced and has positions open for reporters, editors, managers, and photographers.

If you have an interest in creative writing, you can write or edit works for Lawrence's literary magazine, *Tropos*, an annual publication of students' poems, art work, and short stories. The staff members of *Tropos* also organize literary workshops and readings and may also publish a 'zine at various times during the year.

VISITING WRITERS AND ARTISTS

Students at Lawrence enjoy regular visits to the campus by scholars, writers, and artists. In the past few years, such events have included talks and readings by authors John Updike, Isabel Allende, and Joyce Carol Oates. Other recent visitors to Lawrence have included playwright Tony Kushner; poets Maya Angelou, Billy Collins, and Robert Creeley; and scholars Henry Louis Gates, Cornel West, and Martha Nussbaum.

Lawrence students have also enjoyed annual week-long residencies by a company of actors. In addition to performing a Shakespeare play, the actors participate in classes and informal discussions with students and faculty.

AFTER LAWRENCE

What can you "do" with an English major? Almost anything, frankly. For although it's true that the English major doesn't prepare you for any particular career, it's just as fair to say that English majors will always thrive in fields that value the skills of reading closely and writing clearly.

As you might expect, many of our graduates enter the fields most often associated with English, becoming teachers, editors, and print journalists. It may surprise you to hear that Lawrence English majors have also gone on to careers as movie actors, indie rockers, and network news correspondents. Here's what some of our recent graduates are doing.

Rachel Beck, '98, graduated with majors in English and music. While at Lawrence, she received five prizes for creative

writing, including two awarded by her fellow students. She recently completed an M.F.A. in creative writing at the Writers' Workshop of the University of Iowa.

Arleigh Helfer, '93, is an associate in the litigation department at Ballard, Spahr, Andrews, and Ingersoll, in Philadelphia, PA.

Ann Dude, '99, graduated with majors in English and biology. She is now enrolled in a joint M.D./Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago. Her Ph.D. studies are focused in the area of public policy.

Michael Spofford, '94, graduated with majors in English and Spanish. He holds an M.S.J. from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and has worked as a sports reporter for the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*. He is currently Media Relations Coordinator for Aurora Health Care.

Rebecca Whelan, '96, majored in chemistry as well as in English and is now assistant professor of chemistry at Oberlin College. In 1999, her outstanding work as a teaching assistant at Stanford earned her the Walter J. Gores Award.

Stephen Rodgers, '98, graduated from Lawrence with a double major in English and music. He received a Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Study and is now working on a Ph.D. in music theory at Yale University.

FACULTY

Faith Barrett, assistant professor of English Swarthmore College, B.A.; University of Iowa, M.F.A.; University of California, Berkeley, M.A., Ph.D. Interests: 19th-century American literature, poetry, creative writing

Garth Bond, instructor Trinity University, B.A.; University of Chicago, M.A. Interests: Renaissance literature, Shakespeare, poetry and drama, film

Mark Dintenfass, professor Columbia University, B.A., M.A.; University of Iowa, M.F.A. Interests: prose fiction, film, American literature, theatre directing, drama

Bertrand Goldgar, John N. Bergstrom Professor of Humanities Vanderbilt University, B.A., M.A.; Princeton University, M.A., Ph.D. Interests: satire, 18th-century politics and literature (particularly Pope, Swift, and Fielding)

Karen A. Hoffmann, associate professor Lawrence University, B.A.; Indiana University, M.A., Ph.D. Interests: Modernist British and American literature, African-American literature

David McGlynn, assistant professor University of California Irvine, B.A.; University of Utah, M.A., Ph.D. Interests: 20th-century British and American literature, fiction and nonfiction writings

David Kaplin, visiting assistant professor Wesleyan University, B.A.; Boston University Law School, J.D.; Indiana University, M.A., Ph.D. Interests: 19th-century British literature, the novel, comparative literature, law and literature

Timothy A. Spurgin, associate professor and Bonnie Glidden Buchanan Professor of English Literature Carleton College, B.A.; University of Virginia, M.A., Ph.D. Interests: Victorian fiction, Dickens, literary theory, cultural studies