

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Website

Contact

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University of Missouri-Kansas City
 Department of English Language and Literature
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Department Leadership

Department Chair

John Barton

Associate Chair

Laurie Ellinghausen

Department Description

The Department of English Language and Literature offers programs of study that lead to the Bachelor of Arts, the Master of Arts, the Master of Fine Arts, and the Interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy degrees. In the undergraduate program, students may pursue a general English program, or they may select an emphasis in American Studies; Classical, Medieval and Early Modern Literature; Creative Writing; or Language and Rhetoric. Four minors in English are offered: Creative Writing, Language and Literature; Manuscript, Print Culture, and Editing; and Writing. Master's in English students may focus their studies on Literature, or may select from two emphases: Language and Rhetoric, or Manuscript, Print Culture, and Editing. The M.F.A. in Creative Writing and Media Arts is an interdisciplinary program leading to a terminal degree. English is an academic discipline eligible for full participation in the University's Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program.

The Department of English includes faculty who have a broad range of professional competence in the study of literature and language, and who are trained to teach courses in British and American literature, linguistics, American culture, film, creative writing, and composition. The department believes the study and teaching of literature and language to be an important means of preserving and vitalizing our humanistic tradition.

Publications

The Department of English and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences publish *New Letters*, a continuation of *The University Review*, which for over 50 years published the works of new and distinguished writers. *New Letters* continues to provide a medium for the best imaginative writing available.

The Department of English sponsors the publication of *Number One*, a magazine of student poetry and fiction, and *The Sosland Journal*, a collection of award-winning student essays from the Ilus W. Davis contest.

Faculty

Listing of Faculty

Hadara Bar-Nadav^{2,3}, Professor

Ph.D. in English and Creative Writing, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

John Barton^{2,3}, Professor

Ph.D. in English, University of California, Irvine

Virginia Blanton^{2,3}, Professor

Ph.D. in English and Graduate Certificate in Medieval Studies, Binghamton University

Antonio Byrd^{2,3}, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. in Composition and Rhetoric, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Stephen Dilks^{2,3}, Professor

Ph.D. in English Language and Literature, Rutgers University

Crystal Gorham Doss^{2,3}, Associate Teaching Professor
Ph.D. in English, University at Buffalo (SUNY)

Laurie Ellinghausen^{2,3}, Professor
Ph.D. in English, University of California, Santa Barbara

Jenni Frangos^{2,3}, Associate Professor
Ph.D. in English and Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies, Stony Brook University

Jane Greer^{2,3}, Professor
Ph.D. in English, The Ohio State University

Christie Hodgen^{2,3}, Professor
Ph.D. in English, University of Missouri-Columbia

Jennifer Maritza McCauley, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature, University of Missouri-Columbia

Jennifer Phegley^{2,3}, Professor
Ph.D. in English, The Ohio State University

Michael Pritchett^{2,3}, Associate Professor
M.F.A. in Creative Writing, Warren Wilson College

Jeffrey Rydberg-Cox^{2,3}, Professor
Ph.D. University of Chicago, Committee on the Ancient Mediterranean World

Anthony Shiu², Associate Professor
Ph.D., Michigan State University

Whitney Terrell^{2,3}, Associate Professor
M.F.A. in Creative Writing, Iowa Writers' Workshop

¹ Associate or Adjunct Graduate Faculty

² Members of UMKC Graduate Faculty

³ Members of UMKC Doctoral Faculty

Professors Emeriti:

Ralph A. Berets, Associate Professor Emeritus of English; Ph.D. University of Michigan

Joan Dean^{2,3}, Professor Emerita, Ph.D., Purdue University

Maira Ferguson, Professor Emerita of English; Ph.D. University of Washington, Seattle

Daniel Mahala^{2,3}, Associate Professor Emeritus, D.A. State University of New York at Albany

James C. McKinley, professor emeritus of English; Ph.D. University of Missouri, Columbia

James McKusick^{2,3}, Professor Emeritus, Ph.D. in English Language and Literature, Yale University

David Ray, professor emeritus of English; M.A. University of Chicago

James A. Reeds; associate professor emeritus of English and linguistics; Ph.D. University of Michigan

Robert Stewart², Associate Research Professor Emeritus, M.A. in English Language and Literature

Thomas Stroik^{2,3}, Professor Emeritus, Ph.D. of English, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Linda Voigts, Professor Emerita of English; Ph.D., University of Missouri, Columbia

Robert F. Willson, Jr., professor emeritus of English; Ph.D. University of Wisconsin

Jacqueline Wood, associate professor emerita of English & Black Studies; Ph.D. University of Florida

Undergraduate Bachelor of Arts: English

To major in English is to devote oneself to the study of culture, past and present; to books, their readers, writers, and publishers; to critical thinking and the interpretation of what it means to be human; to language and the communication of ideas in both written and spoken form. An education in English allows for a command of the written and spoken word. It is this command that allows those that have pursued a degree in English to find success in a variety of arenas through their ability to persuade and interpret, clarify ideas, think independently and creatively, and their overall commitment to the cultural repository that an English degree offers.

Students who choose to major in English Literature and Language develop their abilities to read and analyze texts written in the English language. They study British and American literature of the past and present and learn to view texts through a variety of interpretive lenses. English majors also develop their abilities as flexible, effective writers, capable of moving among a variety of genres, including creative and expository writing.

Within the 36-credit hour program, English majors take a core set of courses, including survey courses on the history of British and American literature, and courses in rhetoric and writing. Beyond this core, students may choose to emphasize in the study of American Studies; Classical, Medieval and Early Modern Literature; Creative Writing; or Language and Rhetoric.

Students majoring in English may also consider a minor in another area of English studies, provided that there be no more than 9 credit hours of overlap between the major/emphasis and the minor.

Undergraduate Programs:

Bachelor of Arts: English (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/english-language-literature/bachelor-of-arts-english/>)

Bachelor of Arts: English American Studies Emphasis (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/english-language-literature/american-literary-and-cultural-studies/>)

Bachelor of Arts: English Classical, Medieval, & Early Modern Literature Emphasis (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/english-language-literature/classical-medieval-early-modern-literature-track/>)

Bachelor of Arts: English Creative Writing Emphasis (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/english-language-literature/bachelor-of-arts-english-emphasis-creative-writing/>)

Bachelor of Arts: English Language and Rhetoric Emphasis (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/english-language-literature/language-rhetoric-track/>)

Minors:

Minor in Creative Writing (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/english-language-literature/minor-creative-writing/>)

Minor in Language and Literature (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/english-language-literature/minor-language-literature/>)

Minor in Manuscript, Print Culture, and Editing (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/english-language-literature/minor-manuscript-print-culture-editing/>)

Minor in Writing (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/english-language-literature/minor-writing/>)

Undergraduate Certificate:

Certificate in Writing, Editing and Publishing (https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fumkc-preview.courseleaf.com%2Fcolleges-schools%2Fhumanities-social-sciences%2Facademic-departments-programs%2Fug-cert_writing_editing_publishing%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cportmannb%40umkc.edu%7C196e9b0ec75f46d1382108db6833f36a%7Ce3fefdbef7e9401ba51a355e01b05a89%7C0%7C638218344556725324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LhaNLC1eUsWVS0MRdWldHPB7akqvc1deqW7Y4Fw5avs%3D&reserved=0)

Dual Degree Program:

B.A./M.A. English Dual Degree (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/academic-departments-programs/english-language-literature/dual-degree-ba-ma/>)

Teacher Certification in English

Certification as a middle school (grades 5-9) or secondary (grades 9-12) English teacher in either Kansas or Missouri requires that a student complete specific requirements in English and the School of Education. A separate application for teacher education is required. For further information about the program, consult the School of Education, Social Work and Psychological Sciences section of this catalog or contact the Education Student Services Office at (816) 235-2234.

Graduate Graduate Programs:

- Master of Arts: English
- Master of Fine Arts: Creative Writing and Media Arts
- Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in English
- Doctor of Philosophy in Humanities: English Emphasis

Graduate Certificate:

- Certificate in English Language and Literature (https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fumkc-preview.courseleaf.com%2Fcolleges-schools%2Fhumanities-social-sciences%2Facademic-departments-programs%2Fenglish-language-literature%2Fgr_cr_t_english_language_literature%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cportmannb%40umkc.edu%7C196e9b0ec75f46d1382108db6833f36a%7Ce3fefdbef7e9401ba51a355e01b05a89%7C0%7C0%7C638218344556725324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9WbMNYKM0cWfoVUGj3sQ8uh5u5xgBaPRzjNwkY3LR5g%3D&reserved=0)

Assistantships

The Department of English offers a limited number of Graduate Teaching Assistantships on a competitive basis. Applications for Graduate Teaching Assistantships are considered in January for the following fall semester. All Graduate Teaching Assistants are expected to enroll in at least six hours per semester. Graduate Teaching Assistantships may be awarded to students who demonstrate readiness to become teachers in first- and second-year writing courses. Graduate Teaching Assistants must undergo a pre-semester orientation and attend mentoring meetings twice monthly with the Director of Composition and fellow graduate teachers. First-semester GTAs are also required to complete successfully ENGLISH 5519.