THE ENGLISH MINOR

The English minor has been designed by the English Department faculty with three purposes in mind: 1) to give students an overview of the history and variety of literature written in English; 2) to use the careful study of language and literature to help students think critically and express themselves effectively; and 3) to introduce students to the debates about literature and culture that shape our intellectual lives and our national and global conversations. We expect our graduates to enter the world with the sophistication, critical acumen, and sympathy born of wide reading and the skills needed to carry their convictions into action, no matter what line of work they pursue.

To those ends, we require the following:

21 Credits to be distributed as follows:

ENGLISH 301: Critical Methods in the Study of Literature. English minors must take 301 before they take other 300- or 400-level English courses. (For an explanation of 301, see below.)

GROUP 1 REQUIREMENTS
English minors must take two courses from two different categories of the Group 1 listings (6 credits). These courses will be taken at the 200- or 300- level. The three categories in Group 1 are:

- Literary and Cultural History
- Literary, Linguistic, or Rhetorical Analysis
- Literature of African Americans, peoples of color, women, and/or lesbians, gays, and bisexuals.

GROUP 2 REQUIREMENTS*
English minors must take four courses (12 credits) from the Group 2 listings. At least two of these courses must be taken at the 400 level. These four courses should be distributed in the following ways:

Two courses (6 credits) on writing before 1800.
One course in Modern British, Anglophone, and/or Postcolonial writing (after 1800).
One course in American, African American, and/or U.S. Ethnic writing.

*One (and only one) Group 2 distributional requirement may be satisfied with an English elective at the 300 or 400 level, with the exception of ENGL 386 and ENGL 388.

Plans for Program Assessment and Learning Outcomes Assessment
The English minor will implement three measurable learning outcome goals:
1. Students minoring in English will acquire skills in persuasive writing and the critical analysis of literature. The program's capacity to teach these skills will be assessed by attention to a sample of papers written for 301.

2. English minors will be able to synthesize a range of critical arguments, giving credit to and distinguishing competing ideas. They will be able to conduct secondary research, understanding the difference between legitimate and illegitimate sources of information. They will also be able to conduct primary research in libraries, through electronic databases, and by way of other resources. This capacity will be assessed through a sample of papers written for 400-level courses, which all require a research paper.

3. English minors will acquire a broad foundation of literary knowledge and an awareness of the diversity, in the fullest sense of the word, of literary expression. This can be assessed by checking to see if the courses actually taken by students fulfill this particular goal of the minor and through a sample of interviews with students.

**English Minor Courses**

**ENGL 301**

301 is the English Department's introduction to the issues that confront all critics of literature. It also acts specifically as an introduction to the structure of the English major and what that means as to how students might plan their educations in the English Department at Maryland. In 301 students learn skills of reading—how to explicate texts; how to recognize and analyze various aspects of literary form (attention to nuances of diction, sensitivity to ambiguity, appreciation of languages, etc.); what to call those various aspects (literary terminology). Students learn concepts central to the study of literature. 301 also prepares students for the more advanced courses.

**Courses that fulfill Group I requirements (200-300 level)**

**Literary and Cultural History**

201, Literature of the Western World I: Ancient and Medieval  
202, Literature of the Western World II: Renaissance to Modern  
210, Love, Adventure, and Identity in Early English Literature  
211, English Literature: Beginnings to 1800  
212, English Literature: 1800 to Present  
221, American Literature: Beginning to 1865  
222, American Literature: 1865 to Present  
240, Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama  
302, Medieval Literature in Translation
Courses that fulfill Group II distributional requirements (300-400 level)

Writing Before 1800 (2 courses)*

302, Medieval Literature in Translation
304, The Major Works of Shakespeare
305, Shakespeare and His Contemporaries: An Introduction
310, Medieval and Renaissance British Literature
311, British Literature from 1600-1800
377, Medieval Myth and Modern Narrative
402, Chaucer
403, Shakespeare: The Early Works
404, Shakespeare: The Later Works
407, Non-dramatic Literature of the Sixteenth Century
408, Literature by Women Before 1800
410, Edmund Spenser
412, Literature of the Seventeenth Century, 1600-1660
414, Milton
415, Literature of the Seventeenth Century, 1660-1700
416, Literature of the Eighteenth Century, 1700-1750
417, Literature of the Eighteenth Century, 1750-1800
418, Major British Writers before 1800
430, American Literature, Beginning to 1810, the Colonial and Federal
450, Renaissance Drama I
451, Renaissance Drama II
452, English Drama From 1660-1800
455, The Eighteenth-Century English Novel
466, Arthurian Legend
478, Selected Topics in English and American Literature before 1800
486, Introduction to Old English

Modern British/Anglophone/Postcolonial (post-1800)*

312, Romantic to Modern British Literature
345, Twentieth Century Poetry
419, Major British Writers after 1800
420, English Romantic Literature
422, English Victorian Literature
425, Modern British Literature
445, Modern British and American Poetry
446, Post-Modern British and American Poetry
456, The Nineteenth-Century English Novel

American/African American/US Ethnic Writing*

313, American Literature
339, Native American Literature
345, Twentieth Century Poetry
349, Asian American Literatures
430, American Literature, Beginning to 1810, the Colonial and Federal
431, American Literature: 1810 to 1865, the American Renaissance
432, American Literature: 1865 to 1914, Realism and Naturalism
433, American Literature: 1914 to the Present, the Modern Period
434, American Drama
435, American Poetry: Beginning to the Present
437, Contemporary American Literature
438, Major American Writers before 1865
439, Major American Writers after 1865
440, The Novel in America to 1914
441, The Novel in American Since 1914
442, Literature of the South
443, Afro-American Literature
445, Modern British and American Poetry
446, Post-Modern British and American Poetry
463, American Folklore
464, African-American Folklore and Culture
470, African-American Literature: The Beginning to 1910
471, African-American Literature: 1910-1945
472, African-American Literature: 1945 to Present

*as well as certain 379 and 428 courses, as designated

**Electives**

Students may choose any 300 or 400 level English course (except 386 and 388) for an elective.

**Advising**

Like English majors, English minors will have mandatory advising every semester before registration.