

COMMUNICATIONS

(413) 662-5081

www.mcla.edu/comm (<https://www.mcla.edu/comm/>)

Chairperson: Mariana Bolívar Rubín, Ph.D.

Email: M.Bolivar@mcla.edu

Communications Major Program

In the Communications, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Modern Languages Department at MCLA, we educate our students to become effective, adaptable critics and creators of a variety of human discourses - individuals who are comfortable with storytelling across a range of mediums and who want to create stories that inform, entertain, enlighten, and educate. To this end, the department offers a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Communications.

Students majoring in Communications think, study, and write about the multifaceted ways people communicate across cultures. Critical thinking, strong writing and multimedia storytelling skills are at the heart of the Communications major. Courses typically combine hands-on media production with theory across digital media platforms. The Foundation of the program gives students a broad background in media theory and practice, with opportunities to explore forms of storytelling across different media and across cultures. Beyond the Foundation, students choose one or more of the following concentrations: Broadcast Media, Digital Media Innovation, Journalism, or Public Relations & Corporate Communications.

Students graduating with a major in Communications will be able to:

- Communicate effectively in oral, written, and other forms of discourse;
- Employ relevant technologies in the production, critique, and presentation of texts;
- Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in collaborative learning and problem-solving environments;
- Craft thoughtful, creative texts that demonstrate a keen sensitivity to language, form, style, and effect;
- Analyze texts closely and critically, demonstrating how languages, style, form, and genre create effects and shape meanings;
- Articulate an understanding of how cultural, historical, and ideological contexts condition both the creation and the reception of texts across time and in today's complex, diverse world;
- Use various critical methods and theoretical frameworks in scholarly dialogue with others about the interpretations of texts;
- Design and conduct research, applying it to problem-solving and contributing to various forms of public discourse;
- Reflect on how the knowledge and abilities developed in the Communications, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Modern Languages Department transfer meaningfully to other academic and non-academic, real-world situations.

Communications Programs

- Communications - Broadcast Media Concentration, B.A. (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/communications/english-broadcast-media-concentration-ba/>)
- Communications - Digital Media Innovations Concentration, B.A. (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/communications/english-digital-media-innovations-concentration-ba/>)

[study/communications/communication-digital-media-innovations-concentration-ba/](https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/communications/english-journalism-concentration-ba/))

- Communications - Journalism Concentration, B.A. (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/communications/english-journalism-concentration-ba/>)
- Communications - Public Relations & Corporate Communications Concentration, B.A. (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/communications/english-public-relations-corporate-communications-concentration-ba/>)

Communications Major Foundation Courses

Code	Title	Hours
COMM 200	Communication Research and Methods	3
COMM 201	Media Writing and Production	3
COMM 211	Introduction to Mass Media	3
Select one of the following Literature Studies courses:		3
ENGL 151	Fundamentals of Literary Studies I: Reading and Imagination	
	or ENGL 151H Honors: Fundamentals of Literary Studies I: Reading and Imagination	
ENGL 221	Literary Journalism	
ENGL 265	Literary Theme	
ENGL 270	Literary Genre	
OR one 200-level or above foreign language course		
Select two of the following Media Practice in Context courses: ¹		6
COMM 205	Introduction to Photography	
COMM 212	Audio Production	
COMM 214	Digital TV: Theory and Production I	
COMM 312	Radio Practicum	
COMM 314	Digital TV: Theory and Production II	
COMM 321	News Media Practicum	
COMM 323	Publication Design and Typography	
COMM 337	Advanced Photography	
COMM 338	Photojournalism	
COMM 427	Senior News Media Practicum	
ENGL or COMM writing course (200 level or above)		
Select one of the following Media & Cultural Studies courses:		3
COMM 204	Media Self-Identity & Society	
COMM 231	The Power of Words	
COMM 410	From Semiotics to Significations	
ENGL 331	The Story of English	
ENGL/COMM Upper-Level literature or film analysis course		
COMM 490	Senior Seminar	3
Total Hours		24

¹

One must be a writing course, must be different from concentration/track required course

Communications Courses

COMM 200 Communication Research and Methods **3 cr**
 Develops knowledge about the role of communication research in academic and professional disciplines, preparing students to better analyze data and critically engage with research findings. It introduces quantitative, qualitative, and combined communication research methods so students can begin primary research of their own.

<p>COMM 201 Media Writing and Production 3 cr</p> <p>Introduces students to multiple ways of storytelling through various types of writing and working with audio, video, and interactive media. Students become familiar with audio and video recording and editing, as well as producing stories for the Web. Introduces script writing and storyboarding as part of an overall emphasis on clear and engaging writing within creative writing and journalistic frameworks.</p>	<p>COMM 231 The Power of Words 3 cr</p> <p>Explores the way words, symbols, and communication shape thought, behavior, society, and culture. Examines the origins of spoken and written language and the multiple ways that meanings are derived, ranging from the basic sounds we make to the sociolinguistic categories we create to define ourselves and others. Students learn how to frame arguments and persuade others, and how to use communication to better understand, analyze, and empathize with each other and with our world.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Self & Society (CSS)</p>
<p>COMM 204 Media Self-Identity & Society 3 cr</p> <p>Introduces the concept of self-identity, examining it within the contexts of gender, sexuality, health, and ethnicity across media and society. Using interdisciplinary approaches, this cultural studies course focuses upon themes and theories that explore identity through analyzing meanings in media and social/cultural texts. It questions how these develop across history and questions identity in everyday common sense discourse and its relationships to media and society at local and global levels.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Self & Society (CSS)</p>	<p>COMM 239 Writing and Reporting the News I 3 cr</p> <p>Teaches basic principles and skills involved in news reporting and writing. These include interviewing, identification of news values, formal and informal research, story organization, lead writing, transitions, attributions, and grammar and style, including application of the AP Stylebook and Libel Manual. Students develop their skills by writing several practice stories. They are invited to contribute stories to The Beacon, the weekly newspaper of MCLA.</p>
<p>COMM 205 Introduction to Photography 3 cr</p> <p>Introduces students to photography, digital cameras and photo editing programs. Topics include various forms of composition for communication including documentary photography. Combines lectures and discussion with hands-on experience. Instruction includes camera functions, exposure control, technical and creative control, basic computer manipulation of images and digital output options. Students must provide a digital SLR or point and shoot camera.</p>	<p>COMM 281 Special Topics in Communications 3 cr</p> <p>Studies introductory topics in media production and/or mass communications. Designed to provide foundational frameworks in communication subjects, including but not limited to media analysis, interpretation, research, media production, and media-specific writing. Content identified by subtitle.</p>
<p>COMM 211 Introduction to Mass Media 3 cr</p> <p>Focuses on the historical evolution of all media while critically examining from technological, economic, and socio-cultural perspectives how contemporary digital and social media practices have transformed our media ecosystems and the implications these changes have for society.</p>	<p>COMM 305 Magazine Writing and Editing 3 cr</p> <p>Studies the art of writing and editing articles for magazines. Students will analyze current publications, write articles on subjects of their own choosing and practice editing skills. Class will include group critiques of written work and individual conferences.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 239</p>
<p>COMM 212 Audio Production 3 cr</p> <p>Introduces students to the recording and editing practices involved in producing audio stories. Explores the range of programming, both live and recorded, for an FCC-licensed non-commercial radio station. Includes news, music shows, interviews and sports. Students produce live and recorded shows for WJJW, MCLA's radio station. Adobe Audition is used for digital recording and editing.</p>	<p>COMM 306 Business Writing and Presentation 3 cr</p> <p>Provides practice in writing strong, clear, and creative business communication.</p>
<p>COMM 214 Digital TV: Theory and Production I 3 cr</p> <p>Examines how digital video and audio and writing help produce effective storytelling in television production. Develops theoretical and practical knowledge of television production in both studio and in-the-field settings while also considering the audience. Students work on individual and group projects that include basic level introduction to cameras, audio, Avid editing, control room technologies and studio protocols.</p>	<p>COMM 309 Technical Writing 3 cr</p> <p>Emphasizes principles of technical communication, particularly document design and readability, and gives students the opportunity to apply these principles in writing reports, instructions, descriptions, and abstracts for science, business and communications.</p>
<p>COMM 220 Media Theories 3 cr</p> <p>Examines the key themes among media theories and how they help explain important aspects of modern and postmodern society, including political, social, and cultural life, means of communication, and the changes between audiences and media institutions in the digital world. Students will learn about media effects, medium theory, symbolic interactionism and structuration, political economy, critical theory, feminism and gender studies, and postmodernity and the information society.</p>	<p>COMM 310 Avid Editing 3 cr</p> <p>Learning basic video and audio editing, this course teaches students the fundamental skills of Avid Media Composer and knowledge about networked server-systems. The course also grounds students in understanding the editing software; learning about inputting media, trimming, the smart tool, customization; and organization as well as examining the crucial area of sound in significant detail. Special effects along with titles and color correction are also examined.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 214</p>
	<p>COMM 312 Radio Practicum 1-6 cr</p> <p>Teaches the daily operation of an FCC-licensed non-commercial educational radio station, WJJW, 91.1 FM. Topics include compliance with FCC regulations, digital streaming copyright, use of Adobe Audition for advanced audio recording and editing, producing live and recorded shows for broadcast, and producing news and interview shows and podcasts. A weekly live on-air shift is part of the class requirements. Students may assume management positions at WJJW. Repeatable for a max of 15 credits.</p> <p>Repeatable: Maximum of 15 credits</p>

- COMM 314 Digital TV: Theory and Production II** 3 cr
Develops advanced understanding about written, video and audio communicative elements in either broadcasting or documentary forms via practical and theoretical applications of television production. Via group work in the studio and in-the-field projects, specialized attention to program form facilitates understanding about different journalism and storytelling practices. Students write stories at more advanced level and use technologies that are more complex in filming, editing and studio work.
Prerequisite: COMM 214
- COMM 315 Social Media Strategies** 3 cr
Gives students a broad-based understanding of the fundamental trends and dynamics taking place in the digital media landscape today. Students learn about new measurement metrics, how to conduct social media campaigns, and are able to practice skills that they can use when working in a range of organizations that utilize digital and social media. Guest speakers from the industry are invited, and we work with real-world clients that want to have strategic media campaigns.
- COMM 316 Broadcast Delivery** 3 cr
Focuses on the analysis and development of techniques and skills needed for performance of news, commercials, editorials and live reporting. Also emphasizes voice quality, diction and presentational skills and culminates in the production of professional audition videotapes.
- COMM 319 Global Issues in Communication** 3 cr
Studies in depth a specific aspect of global communication and provides the students a general knowledge of the geopolitical issues of international communication, including technological, economic and political/ideological patterns.
Prerequisite: COMM 211
Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ)
- COMM 321 News Media Practicum** 1-6 cr
Concentrates on writing, editing, and producing news stories in a convergent newsroom. Fills the junior staff position of the college newspaper to refine writing, design, and editing skills in print, video, audio, and online, as well as advertising sales and public relations for the Beacon. Repeatable for a max of 15 credits.
Prerequisite: COMM 239 and instructor approval
Repeatable: Maximum of 15 credits
- COMM 323 Publication Design and Typography** 3 cr
Studies contemporary layouts and design principles, with special emphasis on creating and integrating logos, content, typography and design for visually appealing communications packages. Includes basic typography and an overview of printing processes. Students create layouts for flyers, brochures, newsletters, newspapers, and magazines, and learn Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign.
- COMM 324 Broadcast Journalism** 3 cr
Emphasizes investigative reporting as it relates to gathering, writing and presenting news and documentary for television. Also examines the practical and theoretical concepts of electronic news gathering (ENG) and electronic field production (EFP) including analysis of broadcast journalism standards.
Prerequisite: COMM 214 and instructor approval
- COMM 328 Issues in Journalism** 3 cr
Discusses issues and problems central to the practice of journalism and the role of the media in a democratic society. Issues may include environmental journalism; media, law and ethics; investigative reporting; government, politics and the press; covering popular culture and others. Students may be required to produce journalism articles and/or commentaries based on those or related issues.
- COMM 337 Advanced Photography** 3 cr
Builds upon skills learned in Introduction to Photography to include sophisticated camera techniques and advanced darkroom developing and procedures. Students are encouraged to develop various forms of composition such as photography for science, art or publication. Some consideration will be given to digital photography and related procedures.
Prerequisite: COMM 205
- COMM 338 Photojournalism** 3 cr
Concentrates on photojournalism as a form of composition. Designed to help students to understand and master a number of techniques such as story-telling and photo editing. The subject of ethics will also be covered, as will digital camera applications. Students will be encouraged to submit work to The Beacon for consideration.
Prerequisite: COMM 205
- COMM 339 Writing and Reporting the News II** 3 cr
Offers writing and reporting experience through the writing of advanced news stories and features. These include covering campus community meetings, reporting on police, fire and safety news and concerns, dealing with local courts and investigative level-two reporting. Students expand their knowledge of ethics, libel, privacy and freedom of information laws. Students may submit stories to The Beacon.
Prerequisite: COMM 239
- COMM 396 Public Relations** 3 cr
Introduces students to the broad career area of public relations. Principles, cases and problems of public relations will be studied through contact with local organizations. Topic areas include internal communications systems, applications of mass communications, researching public opinions and social responsibilities.
Prerequisite: COMM 239 or COMM 211
- COMM 400 Intercultural Communication** 3 cr
Studies in depth the role culture plays in the communication process in various world cultures including African, Asian and Central American. Also examines the cultural differences in language, thought patterns and non-verbal behaviors.
Prerequisite: Junior/senior status
Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ)
- COMM 405 Data Journalism & Infographics** 3 cr
Teaches how to do in-depth research with large datasets and how to find stories from numbers, crucial skills for today's journalists. Relevant statistical and computer-assisted reporting (CAR) techniques are learned and applied to stories, and software and apps are used to create powerful and meaningful data visualizations and infographics to accompany stories. Previous experience with statistics and design or production software is helpful, but not necessary.
Prerequisite: COMM 239 and COMM 339
- COMM 410 From Semiotics to Significations** 3 cr
Develops knowledge about the field of semiotics from its inception to the contemporary practice of reading significations. Focusing upon reading signs/meanings across different media and culture, students learn about symbolic activities and different interpretative models and analytical approaches. These include: de Saussure, Peirce, Burke, Marx, Freud, Lacan, Irigaray, Gramsci, Laclau and Mouffe, Levi-Strauss, Barthes, Althusser, Foucault, Williams, Hall and Lash and Urry.

<p>COMM 415 Media Meaning-Making: Theory/Practice Explores theory about genre and meaning-making practices across television. Focusing upon media history the course critically reviews transformations to television genres in drama, documentary, documentary-drama, comedy, news and reality TV. Concentrating on the development of genre the course examines how the nature of meanings have changed giving further attention to animation, popular entertainment forms like soap operas and video on demand. Prerequisite: COMM 211 and junior/senior status</p>	3 cr	<p>COMM 540 Internship in Communications 1-15 cr Provides a practical, hands-on field experience to supplement classroom courses. The student works with an on-campus faculty advisor and usually with an on-site supervisor, and the two jointly evaluate the student's work. Prerequisite: Department approval and junior/senior status Repeatable: Maximum of 15 credits</p>
English Courses		
<p>COMM 420 Public Relations and Crisis Management Provides an in-depth look into the Public Relations area of crisis management. Through case-book studies, other texts, and media portrayals, students will learn how communications experts conduct themselves in critical situations, and the ethical and other considerations involved. Students will conduct extensive research into the area in order to enhance their own knowledge of the subject. Prerequisite: COMM 211</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 150 College Writing 3 cr Emphasizes college-level writing, reading, research and revision practices necessary for 21st century academic and civic engagement. Teaches students to use a variety of genres, rhetorical techniques, and sources of evidence to reach academic and civic audiences. Attributes: Critical Reading, Thinking, Writing (CWR)</p>
<p>COMM 427 Senior News Media Practicum 3-12 cr Focuses on editorial and management roles of the campus newspaper in a convergent newsroom, including editorial writing, news editing, page design/layout, photography, newsroom and advertising management, and budgeting. Fills editorial board and other senior staff positions on the campus newspaper and its online properties for the purpose of expanding skills in team management and producing news. Prerequisite: COMM 321 and instructor approval Repeatable: Maximum of 12 credits</p>	3-12 cr	<p>ENGL 150E College Writing-Enhanced 4 cr Emphasizes college-level writing, reading, research and revision practices necessary for 21st century academic and civic engagement. Teaches students to use a variety of genres, rhetorical techniques, and sources of evidence to reach academic and civic audiences. The enhanced 4-credit version of ENGL 150 will provide students extra time and instructor guidance in critical reading, writing, revising and editing. Attributes: Critical Reading, Thinking, Writing (CWR)</p>
<p>COMM 481 Advanced Special Topics in Communications 3 cr Studies in depth a specific aspect of mass communications. Designed to provide advanced work in media analysis, interpretation and research. Primarily for majors in the junior and senior year. Content identified by subtitle. Prerequisite: Junior/senior status</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 151 Fundamentals of Literary Studies I: Reading and Imagination 3 cr Introduces students to the imaginative potentials of reading as a practice that transforms our understanding of the world. Students will learn the fundamental skills associated with the study of literature across multiple genres and from various cultural traditions, with attention paid to how the close reading of a text informs the creative act of interpretation. Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA)</p>
<p>COMM 490 Senior Seminar 3 cr Provides a departmental capstone course in which majors meet in their final undergraduate year to explore a significant theme or topic. Students integrate what they have learned about communication and media, and together the students, polling their special knowledge in these areas, respond to the specific theme, concept, or topic. Prerequisite: Communication major</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 151H Honors: Fundamentals of Literary Studies I: Reading and Imagination 3 cr Introduces students to the imaginative potentials of reading as a practice that transforms our understanding of the world. Students will learn the fundamental skills associated with the study of literature across multiple genres and from various cultural traditions, with attention paid to how the close reading of a text informs the creative act of interpretation. Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA), Honors Program (HONR)</p>
<p>COMM 493 Teaching Assistantship in Communications 1-3 cr Provides the opportunity for a student to assist in preparation and implementation of a communications course. Course may be repeated for a total of 6 credits. Prerequisite: Department approval Repeatable: Maximum of 6 credits</p>	1-3 cr	<p>ENGL 152 Fundamentals of Literary Studies II: Interpretation and Methods 3 cr Introduces first-year students to the rigors of academic research through a scaffolded research project and the exploration of multiple theoretical frameworks applied to literature, films, and other cultural texts. Students will explore critical frameworks related to a centralized theme (e.g. Explorations of Elegy, Nordic Noir). Prerequisite: ENGL 151 or ENGL 151H</p>
<p>COMM 500 Independent Study 3 cr Open to juniors and seniors who wish to read in a given area or to study a topic in depth within the fields of communications, media writing and production, or media and cultural studies. Written reports and frequent conferences with the advisor are required. Prerequisite: Department approval and junior/senior status Repeatable: Maximum of 12 credits</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 153 Introduction to Visual Culture 3 cr Explores how our encounters with images profoundly impact our experiences of the world. Through an examination of diverse modes of visual expression, this course introduces students to key concepts of visual culture, including the social dynamics of representation, power structures of looking, and phenomena of spectacle. Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA)</p>

<p>ENGL 153H Honors: Introduction to Visual Culture 3 cr</p> <p>Explores how our encounters with images profoundly impact our experiences of the world. Through an examination of diverse modes of visual expression, this course introduces students to key concepts of visual culture, including the social dynamics of representation, power structures of looking, and phenomena of spectacle.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA), Honors Program (HONR)</p>	<p>ENGL 230 Creative Writing: Poetry 3 cr</p> <p>Introduces a structured and supportive environment in which students can develop their skills as poets. Through exposure to a variety of forms and styles of poems by writers from a wide array of cultural backgrounds, students will learn to expand their own poetry-writing practices in a hands-on, collaborative setting.</p> <p>Prerequisite: ENGL 208</p> <p>Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>
<p>ENGL 202 Writing Identities 3 cr</p> <p>Explores in theory and practice how writers critically and creatively illuminate questions of identity and power through the lens of personal experience. By engaging with personal essays written by a diversity of authors, students will discover voices they've never encountered, or that they never knew they had, opening up space for rhetorical engagement across difference. Students will leave the course with a critical understanding of who they are as writers and audience members.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA)</p>	<p>ENGL 235 Creative Writing: Fiction 3 cr</p> <p>Introduces potentially lifelong practices for those interested in creating, honing and expanding their fictional experiments. Students will be exposed to a variety of ways they can enrich their writing practice as they study particular forms in fiction writing. There will be many opportunities to share and discuss new work.</p> <p>Prerequisite: ENGL 208</p> <p>Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>
<p>ENGL 208 Experiments in Creative Writing 3 cr</p> <p>Introduces students to a range of creative writing techniques and practices inspired by various literary movements and contemporary writers from a wide array of cultural backgrounds. Working across multiple genres (fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry) our goal is not to perfect stable pieces but to expand the possibilities for writing, by experimenting with formal conditions, styles and language games.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA)</p>	<p>ENGL 251 Queer Lit 3 cr</p> <p>Explores a vast, messy, intersectional and moving canon of queer literature as it takes up a range of positionalities, politics, styles, and forms. Students will read transhistorically with an eye towards the contemporary - how are queer identities articulated in the latest additions to this always mutable and proliferating canon?</p> <p>Prerequisite: ENGL 151 or ENGL 151H</p> <p>Attributes: Child & Family Studies Minor (C&FS), Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ), Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)</p>
<p>ENGL 209 Writing and the Visual 3 cr</p> <p>Explores the relationship between writing and visual media at the introductory level. Through a variety of writerly modes and genres, students will engage directly in imaginative acts of interpretation and translation of visual texts from historical and/or contemporary eras. Visual texts including painting, sculpture, photography, film, graphic art, installation art, and new digital media may serve as occasions for creative writing experimentation.</p>	<p>ENGL 256 African American Literature 3 cr</p> <p>Explores literature produced in the United States with a focus on writing by and about African Americans from the country's inception to the present period. Running throughout this literature, we will see many common features, such as the importance of orality, multiplicity and diversity of subject positions and perspectives (masking, double-consciousness, double-voiced texts), gender roles, sexuality, and concern with social issues.</p> <p>Prerequisite: ENGL 151 or ENGL 151H</p> <p>Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ), Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)</p>
<p>ENGL 210 Essentials of Film 3 cr</p> <p>Focuses on film interpretation by emphasizing elements such as light, sound, composition, camera movement, acting, and direction. Initiates students into developments in film history, film genre and film theory.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA)</p>	<p>ENGL 257 Global Anglophone Literary Survey 3 cr</p> <p>Analyzes Global Anglophone Literature and Postcolonial theory with a particular focus on writing from and about Africa, the Caribbean, and India. Discussions will center on questions of language, representation, and form. We will explore the various aesthetic strategies and techniques employed by writers to communicate contemporary postcolonial themes, such as neocolonialism, globalization, nationalism, imperialism, feminism, migration, hybridity, and diaspora.</p> <p>Prerequisite: ENGL 151 or ENGL 151H</p> <p>Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ), Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)</p>
<p>ENGL 216 Coming of Age in Literature and Film 3 cr</p> <p>Investigates the space between characters' identities through close work with film and literature by way of course discussions, group activities, and a range of writing projects. We will focus on texts from the 20th and 21st centuries across cultures to consider why the genre remains in such wide circulation in today's society.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Self & Society (CSS)</p>	<p>ENGL 258 American Literary Survey 3 cr</p> <p>Explores landmark texts in American literature, from the Colonial period to the 21st century, with special attention paid to the politics of canon formation and to the question of how "America" has been conceived and re-conceived over time.</p> <p>Prerequisite: ENGL 151 or ENGL 151H</p>
<p>ENGL 221 Literary Journalism 3 cr</p> <p>Surveys the rich literature of creative nonfiction. Students read and analyze the work of several contemporary literary journalists such as John McPhee, Annie Dillard, Gretel Ehrlich and Joseph Mitchell, as well as a sampling of historical authors, such as Daniel DeFoe and Henry David Thoreau. Students identify themes and techniques of literary journalists and how these are similar to or different from fiction writers. They also have an opportunity to practice writing short pieces in this genre.</p>	<p>ENGL 259 British Literary Survey 3 cr</p> <p>Explores the landmark texts in British literature. Readings may include Beowulf and works by Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Johnson, Wordsworth, Austen, Dickens, Woolf or Joyce.</p> <p>Prerequisite: ENGL 151 or ENGL 151H</p>

<p>ENGL 265 Literary Theme Utilizes both primary and secondary literary and historical sources to explore ways in which a selected theme continually reappears in literature. Texts are examined, interpreted and evaluated within historical contexts; critical and comparative approaches are used to draw conclusions regarding content and context. The specific theme to be examined will vary and will be identified by subtitle. Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 331 The Story of English Examines English as the global language of power from the Anglo-Saxon era to today's digitally-connected world and the ways it has been continually transformed by the diverse racial and ethnic communities who have used it. Students explore English's complexity by engaging with multiple genres across a diversity of research traditions, from creative non-fiction, to historical research, to contemporary scholarship in the fields of Writing Studies, Linguistics, and Comparative Rhetorics. Prerequisite: Junior status</p>	3 cr
<p>ENGL 270 Literary Genre Examines the question of how an author's choice of a single literary mode, genre, or type affects the meanings of a text. May focus on plays, short stories, song lyrics, comedy, romance, novels, myths, or other genres. The specific genre to be examined will vary and will be identified by subtitle. Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA) Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 340 Literature and Society Analyzes a range of texts that illuminate significant social issues, integrating literary study with other disciplinary approaches to address themes of contemporary cultural relevance. The specific topic to be examined will vary and will be identified by the course's subtitle. Prerequisite: ENGL 152 Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>	3 cr
<p>ENGL 289 Special Topics in English Explores a specific theme or practice in literature, writing, film, or cultural studies. Designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of analysis and/or practice at the 200-level. Content identified by subtitle. Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 341 Hybrid Poetics Investigates a range of experimental literary texts that cross, blur, or recombine different modes and genres of writing, in order to invent new forms of expression. Students explore the porous borders between poetry and prose, the creative and the critical, the visual and the verbal, the oral and the written, the factual and the imaginative. In their own writing, students are invited to move between two types of writing, creative and analytical, that are ordinarily kept separate. Prerequisite: ENGL 202 or ENGL 230 or ENGL 235</p>	3 cr
<p>ENGL 291 Open Up: Community Dialogue Workshop A high-impact, community-based learning course that puts students directly in the classroom, leading discussions on important topics, such as race, gender, sexuality, identity, and community. The course centers theoretical and pedagogical discussions grounded in books and articles, such as <i>The New Jim Crow</i> and <i>White Fragility</i>, as well as documentary films, exploring power, society, and identity. Student groups will then develop workshops and partner with local high schools.</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 341H Honors: Hybrid Poetics Investigates a range of experimental literary texts that cross, blur, or recombine different modes and genres of writing, in order to invent new forms of expression. Students explore the porous borders between poetry and prose, the creative and the critical, the visual and the verbal, the oral and the written, the factual and the imaginative. In their own writing, students are invited to move between two types of writing, creative and analytical, that are ordinarily kept separate. Prerequisite: ENGL 202 or ENGL 230 or ENGL 235 Attributes: Honors Program (HONR)</p>	3 cr
<p>ENGL 303 Creative Writing: Prose Gives students who have completed their foundational studies additional practice and instruction in writing nonfiction prose. Explores the adaptation of such prose to specific contexts. Individual courses may focus on prose writing in a particular discourse community (e.g., business, science and technology, education), which will be identified by subtitle. Prerequisite: ENGL 202 or ENGL 230 or ENGL 235 Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 349 Critical Reading Explores different ways of reading a text. Students use diverse critical methods to consider the distinct understandings of a text produced by different reading methods. Examines connections between developments in critical theory and parallel developments in philosophy, art and film criticism and social theory. A variety of critical methods will be examined. Prerequisite: ENGL 152</p>	3 cr
<p>ENGL 308 Writing Associate Workshop Journey between Writing Studies theory and hands-on practice, exploring questions of voice, identity, power and rhetorical agency and how to ethically and effectively collaborate with other writers. Students will leave this course with a better understanding of the nuances of academic writing and with the ability to work one-on-one with writers in various contexts, from MCLA's Writing Studio, to their future classrooms, to the publishing industry. Prerequisite: ENGL 150, instructor approval</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 351 The World of Shakespeare Explores the plays of William Shakespeare and the various worlds they imagine, including this one. Discussions and lectures focus on understanding the historical political, and social climates of the Renaissance, as well as their persistent recrudescence. Readings may include <i>Twelfth Night</i>, <i>Othello</i>, and <i>the Tempest</i>. Prerequisite: ENGL 152</p>	3 cr
<p>ENGL 315 Constructing the Short Film Acquaints students with the various aspects of the film production process through the use of videotape. This course gives students an understanding of the kinds of decisions filmmakers encounter and the kinds of techniques they employ. Activities include preparing detailed shooting scripts, experimenting with photography, light, color, motion, sound and editing, and manipulating both live action and animated materials. Individually or in small groups, students will produce a 10-15 minute film.</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 361 John Steinbeck Considers the vision of the Nobel Prize-winning author of <i>The Red Pony</i>, <i>Of Mice and Men</i> and <i>Travels with Charley</i>. Examines texts drawn from throughout Steinbeck's career, with special attention to the common themes, preoccupations and narrative devices which characterize his works. Readings will be drawn from such works as <i>Cannery Row</i>, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> and <i>The Winter of Our Discontent</i>. Prerequisite: ENGL 152</p>	3 cr

- ENGL 363 Travel Writing** 3 cr
Examines a variety of travel literatures across multiple modes and genres - including essay, poetry, memoir and fiction - in order to spur students' own writing and thinking processes about how "traveling" happens, from the local to the global. Students explore not only the personal, ethical and ethnographic dimensions of travel, but will create exploratory texts that move and rove, cross borders, pitch questions and field discoveries in which the reader can participate as traveling companion.
Prerequisite: ENGL 202 or ENGL 230 or ENGL 235
- ENGL 364 MASS MoCA Immersion** 3 cr
Explores how visual culture encodes race, gender, sexuality, class, ability and other aspects of social life through exhibitions at MASS MoCA. Students will investigate whose vision is reinforced or discarded and what goes seen or unseen in contemporary culture. This course will feature regular visits to the museum and pedagogical engagements with MASS MoCA staff.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152
- ENGL 368 The Age of Milton** 3 cr
Explores the works of John Milton in relation to the major intellectual and social currents of early modernity. Discussions and lectures focus on analyzing the literary, philosophical, and religious attitudes of the period, as well as their uncanny afterlives in the present. Readings include *Lycidas*, *Areopagitica*, and *Paradise Lost*.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152
- ENGL 368H Honors: The Age of Milton** 3 cr
Explores the works of John Milton in relation to the major intellectual and social currents of early modernity. Discussions and lectures focus on analyzing the literary, philosophical, and religious attitudes of the period, as well as their uncanny afterlives in the present. Readings include *Lycidas*, *Areopagitica*, and *Paradise Lost*.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152
Attributes: Honors Program (HONR)
- ENGL 371 The American Renaissance** 3 cr
Explores the artistic, social, racial, political, and religious dimensions of mid-19th century American culture through in-depth study of literary texts by authors such as Dickinson, Douglass, Whitman, Jacobs, Thoreau, Stowe, Fuller, Melville, Hawthorne.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152
Attributes: Environmental Studies (ENVI)
- ENGL 372 Arts of Medieval and Renaissance Britain** 3 cr
Explores medieval and Renaissance British literature, history and culture. The course includes a spring break travel component. During travel students contextualize literature with the cultural heritage experienced via visual arts architecture, music, theatre, dance, fashion, food, and landscapes and cityscapes of Britain. There are additional fees associated with the travel portion of this course that the student will be responsible for.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152, instructor approval
Attributes: Additional Fees Apply (FEE)
- ENGL 372H Honors: Arts of Medieval and Renaissance Britain** 3 cr
Explores medieval and Renaissance British literature, history and culture. The course includes a spring break travel component. During travel students contextualize literature with the cultural heritage experienced via visual arts architecture, music, theatre, dance, fashion, food, and landscapes and cityscapes of Britain. There are additional fees associated with the travel portion of this course that the student will be responsible for.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152, instructor approval
Attributes: Additional Fees Apply (FEE), Honors Program (HONR)
- ENGL 388 Visions and Voices: American Ethnic Literature and Art** 3 cr
Explores a range of works (fiction, poetry, memoir, photography, music, painting) from American ethnic writers and artists of the twentieth-century and beyond. This course critically examines the cross-section of ethnicity and creative expression as it applies to questions of American identity. Topics include systemic oppression, nationhood, immigration, marginalization, intersectionality, cultural hybridity, intergenerational trauma and survival, border crossing, and heritage.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152
Attributes: Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)
- ENGL 393 Faulkner and the Global South** 3 cr
Explores the reciprocal resonances between the writing of white southern modernist, William Faulkner, and the diverse literatures coming out of the Global South. Examines the ways in which Global South writers use experimental poetics to continue Faulkner's project and tell the stories of colonialism from the neocolonial present.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152
- ENGL 393H Honors: Faulkner and the Global South** 3 cr
Explores the reciprocal resonances between the writing of white southern modernist, William Faulkner, and the diverse literatures coming out of the Global South. Examines the ways in which Global South writers use experimental poetics to continue Faulkner's project and tell the stories of colonialism from the neocolonial present.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152
Attributes: Honors Program (HONR)
- ENGL 394 Film and the Creative Writer** 3 cr
Explores the forms, ideas, and innovations of filmmakers as inspiration for creative writing. How might cinematic styles and grammars provoke, enchant or inform your own writing experiments? How might contemporary writers use films and filmmaking to inspire pieces in a range of modes: autobiography, fanfic, social commentary, homage - in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. Students will be assigned to write creatively in this course.
Prerequisite: ENGL 209 or ENGL 210
- ENGL 397 Special Topics in Film** 3 cr
Studies in-depth a specific issue in film and filmmaking linked by one or more common contexts, such as genre and subject matter, or historical, social, economic, philosophical or aesthetic concerns. Students will practice using evidence from those contexts to produce close, critical readings of films that reflect both an understanding of the context and an understanding of the visual and auditory languages of film. A filmmaking component may be incorporated. Content identified by subtitle.
Prerequisite: ENGL 210
Repeatable: Unlimited Credits
- ENGL 399 Junior Colloquium** 3 cr
Offers in-depth explorations of a topic or question that requires interdisciplinary inquiry and research, culminating in a colloquium that presents student research projects to broader publics. Content will be identified by subtitle.
- ENGL 402 Special Topics in Visual Culture** 3 cr
Explores a specialized topic of visual culture. Students will critically examine how images generate meaning and communicate complex ideas through an interdisciplinary and experiential approach. Content identified by subtitle.
Prerequisite: ENGL 153 and junior status
Repeatable: Unlimited Credits

- ENGL 405 Creativity and Survival** 3 cr
Explores how creative pursuits can offer life-affirming counternarratives of recognition and resiliency. Students will study a range of 20th- and 21st- century art in literary, visual, and performative realms while examining the role of experimental art-making in the representation of systematic forms of trauma. Includes intersecting critical lenses - trauma studies, queer theory, critical race studies, and visual culture - as well as immersive, high-impact learning experiences.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152 and junior status
Attributes: Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)
- ENGL 405H Honors: Creativity and Survival** 3 cr
Explores how creative pursuits can offer life-affirming counternarratives of recognition and resiliency. Students will study a range of 20th- and 21st- century art in literary, visual, and performative realms while examining the role of experimental art-making in the representation of systematic forms of trauma. Includes intersecting critical lenses - trauma studies, queer theory, critical race studies, and visual culture - as well as immersive, high-impact learning experiences.
Prerequisite: ENGL 152 and junior status
Attributes: Honors Program (HONR), Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)
- ENGL 410 Special Topics in Creative Writing** 3 cr
Explores new forms, genres, and approaches to the craft of creative writing for advanced students looking to further their creative and critical artistic practices. Content identified by subtitle. Primarily for majors in the junior and senior year.
Prerequisite: Junior/senior status
Repeatable: Unlimited Credits
- ENGL 412 Films and Filmmakers** 3 cr
Studies in depth a number of films by one or a cluster of filmmaking professionals. The professionals may include directors, screenwriters, editors, cinematographers, producers or others. Guides students in understanding the aesthetic, technical, economic and other concerns of various film professionals, leading students to analyze and appreciate a filmmaker's body of work. A student filmmaking component may be incorporated dependent on instructor.
Prerequisite: ENGL 210 and junior status
Repeatable: Unlimited Credits
- ENGL 430 Advanced Poetry Workshop** 3 cr
Offers a structured and supportive environment in which students will deepen their poetry-writing practice. Through exposure to a variety of forms and styles by writers from a wide array of cultural backgrounds, students will work toward a short manuscript of related poems by semester's end.
Prerequisite: ENGL 230 and junior status
- ENGL 435 Advanced Fiction Workshop** 3 cr
Initiates a workshop space in which advanced students in creative writing may share and critique new writing, study a variety of forms, and challenge the limits of their own practice.
Prerequisite: ENGL 235 and junior status
- ENGL 441 Special Topics in Literature** 3 cr
Studies in depth a specific aspect of literature. Designed to provide advanced work in literary analysis, interpretation and research. Primarily for majors in the junior and senior year. Content identified by subtitle.
Prerequisite: ENGL152
Repeatable: Unlimited Credits
- ENGL 490 Senior Seminar** 3 cr
Explores in both theory and practice how texts shape meaning in today's complex world. After examining various critical approaches and methods, students will craft a sustained, inquiry-based critical and/or creative project. They will use this project to reflect on how they have developed as knowledge-makers, storytellers and creators since they joined the department and how these abilities might transfer meaningfully to future situations.
Prerequisite: ENGL 399, junior/senior status, ENGL or COMM Major
Repeatable: Maximum of 6 credits
- ENGL 493 Teaching Assistantship in English** 1-6 cr
Assists the instructor with the organization, implementation and assessment of individual English/Communications courses.
Prerequisite: Department approval
Repeatable: Maximum of 6 credits
- ENGL 500 Independent Study** 1-3 cr
Open to juniors and seniors who wish to read in a given area or to study a topic in depth. Written reports and frequent conferences with the advisor are required.
Prerequisite: Junior/senior status, department approval
Repeatable: Maximum of 12 credits
- ENGL 540 Internship in English** 1-15 cr
Provides a practical, hands-on field experience to supplement classroom courses. The student works with an on-campus faculty advisor and usually with an on-site supervisor, and the two jointly evaluate the student's work.
Prerequisite: Junior/senior standing, department approval
Repeatable: Maximum of 15 credits