

ENGLISH

(413) 662-5371

www.mcla.edu/engl/ (<http://www.mcla.edu/engl/>)

Chairperson: Amber Engelson, Ph.D.

Email: A.Engelson@mcla.edu (A.Engelson@mcla.edu)

English Major Program

In the English & Communications Department at MCLA, we educate our students to become effective, adaptable critics and creators of a variety of human discourses – individuals whose dynamic understanding of the literary and media arts contributes both to their own well-being and the well-being of others.

To this end, the department offers a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Arts in English. Students majoring in English think, study, and write about the multifaceted ways people use language across cultures. The Foundation of the program gives students a broad background in literature, language, and media, with an emphasis on how cultures shape storytelling in its many forms. Beyond the Foundation, students take additional courses in one of the following Concentrations: Film Studies, Literature, or Writing (in either the Creative or Professional Writing track).

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

- Communicate effectively in oral, written, and other forms of discourse;
- 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;
- Employ relevant technologies in the production, critique, and presentation of texts;
- Reflect on how the knowledge and abilities developed in the English/Communications Department transfer meaningfully to other academic and non-academic, real-world situations.

Programs

- Creative Writing Minor (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/english/creative-writing-minor/>)
- English - Film Studies Concentration, B.A. (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/english/english-film-studies-concentration-ba/>)
- English - Literature Concentration, B.A. (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/english/english-literature-concentration-ba/>)
- English - Writing Concentration, B.A. (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/english/english-writing-concentration-ba/>)

- English Minor (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/english/english-minor/>)
- Literature Minor (<https://catalog.mcla.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs-study/english/literature-minor/>)

English Major Foundation Courses

Code	Title	Hours
COMM 211	Introduction to Mass Media	3
ENGL 250/250H	Introduction to Literature	3
Select one of the following Language Studies courses: ¹		3
COMM 410	From Semiotics to Significations	
ENGL 231	The Power of Words	
ENGL 313	Global Anglophone Language and Literature	
ENGL 331	The Story of English	
OR one 200-level or above foreign language course		
Select one of the following Texts in Context courses: ¹		3
ENGL 341	Hybrid Poetics	
ENGL 367	The Beat Generation	
ENGL 365	Reading the Graphic Novel	
Or any course within ENGL 365 - ENGL 380 range		
Select one of the following Diverse Voices in Culture courses: ¹		3
ENGL 313	Global Anglophone Language and Literature	
ENGL 441	Special Topics in Literature (Modern and Contemporary Black Literature)	
ENGL 441	Special Topics in Literature (Writing Women)	
ENGL 393	Faulkner and the Global South	
Or any course within ENGL 381 - ENGL 394 range		
Select one of the following Literary Survey courses: ¹		3
ENGL 313	Global Anglophone Language and Literature	
ENGL 381	African American Literature (only for non-literature concentrators)	
ENGL 451	British Literary Survey	
ENGL 461	American Literary Survey	
ENGL 471	World Literary Survey	
Any advanced writing course at 200 level or above		3
ENGL 490	Senior Seminar	3
or COMM 490	Senior Seminar	
Total Hours		24

¹ ENGL 313 Global Anglophone Language and Literature can only be used to fulfill one major requirement.

English

ENGL 100 College Writing I **3 cr**

Explores the writing process, providing practical strategies and techniques. Emphasis is on constructing texts with attention to various levels of organization and development.

ENGL 150 College Writing II **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.

Prerequisite: ENGL 100

Attributes: Critical Reading, Thinking, Writing (CWR)

<p>ENGL 202 The Personal Essay Explores personal essays from the classical era to the present. Uses a workshop format where students write a variety of personal essays, choosing from among meditation, confession, letter, memoir, portrait, prose poem, reportage and humor.</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 265 Literary Theme 3 cr 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.</p>
<p>ENGL 207 Introduction to American Ethnic Studies Explores the methodological and thematic evolution of American and Ethnic Studies. We will ask: Who is an American? What does it mean to be American? We will approach this task through a critical vantage point that considers the impacts of race, class, gender, and sexuality on "Americanness." We will also explore how economics, empire, racism, transnationalism, and imperialism all impact our definitions of "Americanness."</p> <p>Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ), Core Human Heritage (CHH)</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 270 Literary Genre 3 cr 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.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA) Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>
<p>ENGL 208 Experiments in Creative Writing Initiate new storytelling practices inspired by historic literary movements and contemporary writers. The goal is not to perfect stable pieces but to move our writing (fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry) around, via formal conditions, limits, and games.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA)</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 300 Creative Writing: Fiction 3 cr Focuses on the craft of fiction and the student's own short stories. Literary works are analyzed for writing techniques, but the emphasis of the course is on constructive criticism of the student's work by peers and by the instructor and on exercises to help develop imagination and skill.</p>
<p>ENGL 210 Essentials of Film 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>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 301 Creative Writing: Poetry 3 cr Features the art of writing poetry and a critique of the student's own poems. Literary works are analyzed for form and writing techniques, but the emphasis of the course is on constructive criticism of the student's work by peers and by the instructor.</p>
<p>ENGL 221 Literary Journalism 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>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 302 Creative Writing: Scripts 3 cr Pursues the craft of scripting, focusing on the student's own writing of television, film, theatre, or slide/tape scripts. Published works are analyzed for writing techniques, but the emphasis of the course is on constructive criticism of student work by peers and by the instructor and on exercises that help to develop imagination and visual literacy in the creation of dialogue, characters and action.</p>
<p>ENGL 231 The Power of Words Explores the way words and symbols shape human thought, behavior and institutions. Traces how meanings arise, why communication is hazardous, and what makes messages subject to misinterpretation. Provides useful tools for functioning in a world in which language can be misleading and even destructive.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Self & Society (CSS), Leadership Minor (LDRS)</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 303 Writing Prose 3 cr 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.</p> <p>Repeatable: Unlimited Credits</p>
<p>ENGL 250 Introduction to Literature Seeks to develop each student's ability to understand and respond to a variety of literary texts by repeated practice in textual explication through discussion and written work. While most readings will be drawn from poetry, drama and prose fiction, the course will also embrace, where appropriate, texts drawn from mass media. (English/communications majors may not take ENGL 250 to fulfill their Creative Arts Core Curriculum requirement.)</p> <p>Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA)</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 304 Creative Writing: Playwriting 3 cr Develops and exercises story-telling abilities through the writing of dramatic works for the stage. Students will explore the Aristotelian elements of classical drama as well as the unities of time, place and action. Through activities designed to improve skills used to create these elements and through close textual analyses of successful models, students will work toward the goal of writing individual producible one-act plays.</p>
<p>ENGL 250H Honors: Introduction to Literature Seeks to develop each students' ability to understand and respond to a variety of literary texts by repeated practice in textual explication through discussion and written work. While most readings will be drawn from poetry, drama and prose fiction, the course will also embrace, where appropriate, texts drawn from mass media.</p> <p>Attributes: Core Creative Arts (CCA), Honors Program (HONR)</p>	3 cr	<p>ENGL 308 Writing Associate Workshop 3 cr Offers students who desire to work as writing associates both individual and group instruction in ways to respond to student writing. Serves as a forum for discussion of topics relating to being a writing associate at MCLA.</p> <p>Prerequisite: ENGL 150, permission of instructor</p>

- ENGL 313 Global Anglophone Language and Literature** 3 cr
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.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250
Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ), Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)
- ENGL 315 Constructing the Short Film** 3 cr
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.
- ENGL 331 The Story of English** 3 cr
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: ENGL 250
- ENGL 340 Literature and Society** 3 cr
Discusses and analyzes a variety of literary works that illuminate social issues. Integrates literature with other disciplines by focusing on several contemporary themes of social relevance.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250
- ENGL 341 Hybrid Poetics** 3 cr
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: Junior/senior status or instructor approval
- ENGL 341H Honors: Hybrid Poetics** 3 cr
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: Junior/senior status
Attributes: Honors Program (HONR)
- ENGL 349 Critical Reading** 3 cr
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 250 or department approval
- ENGL 351 William Shakespeare** 3 cr
Considers such works as the Sonnets, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Measure for Measure* and *The Tempest*.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
- ENGL 353 Hawthorne and Melville** 3 cr
Studies the chief works of Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville with particular attention to their innovations in American letters. Includes such works as *Typee*, *Moby-Dick*, *Billy Budd*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *The Tanglewood Tales*.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
- ENGL 361 John Steinbeck** 3 cr
Considers the vision of the Nobel Prize-winning author of *The Red Pony*, *Of Mice and Men* and *Travels with Charley*. 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 *Cannery Row*, *The Grapes of Wrath* and *The Winter of Our Discontent*.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
- 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.
- ENGL 365 Reading the Graphic Novel** 3 cr
Explores the graphic novel and related forms. Examines the meaning of the proliferation of this literary form as well as the perceptual mechanisms and processes involved in reading image.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
- ENGL 367 The Beat Generation** 3 cr
Explores the literature of the Beat Generation, including its antecedents, influences, and lasting legacy. Authors include Ginsberg, Kerouac, Burroughs, Corso, Snyder, McClure, Ferlinghetti, DiPrima, Baraka, Cassady, Johnson, Jones, Bob Dylan, and others.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250
- ENGL 368 The Age of Milton** 3 cr
Studies Milton's major works, emphasizing the relation between his development as a poet and the intellectual and social currents of the Puritan Revolution and of the restoration of the monarchy. Includes such works as "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity," "L'Allegro," "Il Penseroso," "Lycidas," "Samson Agonistes," and "Paradise Lost".
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval

- ENGL 368H Honors: The Age of Milton** 3 cr
Studies Milton's major works, emphasizing the relation between his development as a poet and the intellectual and social currents of the Puritan Revolution and of the restoration of the monarchy. Includes such works as "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity," "L'Allegro," "Il Penseroso," "Lycidas," "Sampson Agonistes," and "Paradise Lost".
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
Attributes: Honors Program (HONR)
- ENGL 371 The American Renaissance** 3 cr
Surveys texts from such authors as Emerson, Dickinson, Thoreau, Alcott, Fuller, Melville, Hawthorne, Whitman, Douglas.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
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.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250, sophomore status, instructor approval (Students pay travel fee)
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 the visual arts, architecture, music, theatre, dance, fashion, food, and landscapes and cityscapes of Britain.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250, sophomore status, instructor approval (Students pay travel fee)
Attributes: Additional Fees Apply (FEE), Honors Program (HONR)
- ENGL 374 Literature and the Environment** 3 cr
Explores, through literary study, the variety of ways that human beings have regarded our relationship to nature and the environment. Examines some of the many cultural factors conditioning these views, as well as the impact on the environment-and us-when these views are put into practice.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250
Attributes: Environmental Studies (ENVI)
- ENGL 375 Civil War in Literature and Film** 3 cr
Considers texts which focus on the American Civil War for thematic and generic purposes.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
- ENGL 377 Novel in Context** 3 cr
Examines the genre of the novel written in English, setting it in historical and cultural context. Traces the development of the novel, locating in even its earliest examples characteristic methods and concerns. Explores the prose narratives and epistolary writing of the 17th century as influential predecessors of the novel genre, progressing from that base to studying key examples of novels from the 18th century through the present.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250
- ENGL 381 African American Literature** 3 cr
Surveys texts drawn from such writers as Hughes, Dubois, Wright, Morrison, Giovanni, Reed, Douglas, etc.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ), Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)
- ENGL 387 Latino/a American Literature** 3 cr
Studies texts focusing on the Latino/a experience in the United States. Considers the history of immigration, assimilation, resistance and bi-lingualism which have marked writers placing their vision within the frame of Latino/a history; it will pay particular attention to how such texts set forth a Latino/a experience as both part of and as also distinct from other cultural strands in the United States. Includes such writers as Villareal, Rodriguez, Perez-Firmat, Zamora, Alvares Islas, and Pena.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ)
- ENGL 388 Visions and Voices: American Ethnic Literature and Art** 3 cr
Explores a range of works (fiction, poetry, memoir, photography, music, painting, news media) 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: Junior/senior status
Attributes: Women Gender Sexuality Studies (WMST)
- ENGL 389 Contemporary American Literature:** 3 cr
Surveys representative literary texts from the margins and boundaries of the American experience. Concentrates on familiarizing students with issues, questions and motifs that recur in works which diagnose ongoing conflicts in the American temper. Readings are drawn from both the margins and mainstream of American literary traditions and all eras. Content identified by subtitle.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
Repeatable: Unlimited Credits
- ENGL 392 Queer Identity in Contemporary Literature** 3 cr
Explores representations of queer identity by contemporary writers working in a variety of literary genres including short and novel-length fiction, the graphic novel, poetry, and memoir. Authors may include David Leavitt, Jeanette Winterson, Olga Broumas, Colm Toibin, Raphael Campo, Alan Hollinghurst, Leslie Fienberg, Mark Wunderlich, Alison Bechdel, or Michelle Tea.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ), 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 250
- ENGL 395 Experiential Credit Portfolio Preparation and Writing** 3 cr
Provides students with help in completing a portfolio for experiential credit. Includes a rigorous essay-writing component.
Prerequisite: Approval of the Advising Center in consultation with the appropriate department(s)

- 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. Content identified by subtitle.
Prerequisite: ENGL 210 or instructor approval
Repeatable: Unlimited Credits
- ENGL 401 Open Up: Community Dialogue Workshop** 3 cr
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 *The New Jim Crow* and *White Fragility*, as well as documentary films, exploring power, society, and identity. Student groups will then develop workshops and partner with local high schools.
Prerequisite: Junior/senior status
- 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 Filmmakers and Filmmaking** 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.
Prerequisite: ENGL 210 or instructor approval
Repeatable: Unlimited Credits
- ENGL 430 Advanced Poetry Workshop** 3 cr
Focuses on the work of the individuals in the workshop. The work of established poets is analyzed for method and craft. Weekly writing assignments are critiqued by the class and the instructor for rewriting. There is a final portfolio of 12 to 15 poems.
Prerequisite: ENGL 301 or department approval
- ENGL 435 Advanced Fiction Workshop** 3 cr
Focuses on creating finished short stories. As in ENGL 300, the major emphasis is on constructive criticism of student work by peers and by the instructor.
Prerequisite: ENGL 300 or department approval
- 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: Junior/senior status or department approval
Repeatable: Unlimited Credits
- ENGL 451 British Literary Survey** 3 cr
Explores the landmark texts in British literature. Readings may include *Beowulf* and works by Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Johnson, Wordsworth, Austen, Dickens, Woolf or Joyce.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
- ENGL 461 American Literary Survey** 3 cr
Explores the landmark texts in the traditions of American literature. Readings may be drawn from the Puritan and Colonial periods and from such writers as Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, Melville, Dickinson, Twain, James, Pound, Hughes, Eliot, Faulkner, Porter, Ellison and Walker.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
- ENGL 471 World Literary Survey** 3 cr
Explores myths, epics and other important texts from around the world that have served as repositories of the values of their respective cultures. Also examines more recent texts that stand as efforts to shift those cultural values. Texts studied may include such Greek, Hebrew, Western African, Japanese, Mayan and Islamic texts such as *The Odyssey*, *The Bible*, *The Epic of Son Jara*, *The Tale of Genji*, *Popul Vuh* and *The Koran*.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250 or department approval
- ENGL 481 Special Topics in Mass Communication** 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 or instructor approval
Repeatable: Unlimited Credits
- ENGL 490 Senior Seminar** 3 cr
Provides a 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 language, literature and media, and together the students, pooling their special knowledge in these areas, respond to the specific theme, concept or topic.
Prerequisite: ENGL majors only or department approval
Repeatable: Maximum of 6 credits
- ENGL 493 Teaching Assistantship in English/Communications** 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
- ## Communications
- 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 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 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 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 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 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 or dept approval</p>
<p>COMM 211 Introduction to Mass Media 3 cr</p> <p>Surveys the range of types of communication, focusing on the context of mediated mass media and their characteristics, history, evolution and the socio-cultural forces that shape them including newspapers, magazines, film, radio, television and the Internet.</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 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 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 214 Basic TV Production: Theory and Practice 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 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 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 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>
	<p>COMM 314 Advanced TV Production: Theory and Practice 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 214 or instructor approval</p>

<p>COMM 315 Social Media Strategies 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>COMM 338 Photojournalism 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 205 or department approval</p>
<p>COMM 316 Broadcast Delivery 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>COMM 339 Writing and Reporting the News II 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 239 or department approval</p>
<p>COMM 319 Global Issues in Communication 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 211 or department approval</p> <p>Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ)</p>	<p>COMM 396 Public Relations 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 239 or COMM 211 or department approval</p>
<p>COMM 321 News Media Practicum 1-6 cr</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 239 and instructor approval</p> <p>Repeatable: Maximum of 15 credits</p>	<p>COMM 400 Intercultural Communication 3 cr</p> <p>Studies in depth the role culture plays in the communication process in various world cultures including Africa, Asian and Central American. Also examines the cultural differences in language, thought patterns and non-verbal behaviors.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Junior/senior status or instructor approval</p> <p>Attributes: Cross-Cultural and Social Justice (CCSJ)</p>
<p>COMM 323 Publication Design and Typography 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>COMM 405 Data Journalism & Infographics 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 239 and COMM 339 or instructor approval</p>
<p>COMM 324 Broadcast Journalism 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 214 and instructor approval</p>	<p>COMM 410 From Semiotics to Significations 3 cr</p> <p>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>
<p>COMM 328 Issues in Journalism 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>COMM 415 Media Meaning-Making: Theory/Practice 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 211 and junior/senior status</p>
<p>COMM 337 Advanced Photography 3 cr</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prerequisite: COMM 205 or department approval</p>	

COMM 420 Public Relations and Crisis Management 3 cr

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 or department approval

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

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

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 or department approval

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

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

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

Students majoring in English may opt to pursue initial licensure as an early childhood teacher, or elementary teacher. Also, English majors may pursue initial licensure as a teacher of English for the middle school and secondary levels. These students will complete an English major, and a licensure program in education. Please see the Education major for more details.