The Department of English is committed to the study of literature, as well as the cultures and history surrounding its creation and reception. We study poetry, fiction, nonfiction, drama, film, popular culture, and digital media and place them in historical and geographical context for interpretation.

**Core Skills**

We expect our graduating majors to be able to demonstrate:

1. Interpretation of literary and nonliterary texts; an understanding of genres and forms. This includes mediums such as lyric and narrative poetry, the epic, short fiction, the novel, non-fiction, and film and digital media.

2. Understanding of story and plot; conflict; character; theme; and language (including the nuances of words or syntax).

3. Ability to contextualize texts, including (a) relevant literary histories and movements, (b) relevant world cultures, and (c) the social and political situations in which they were written or read.


5. Close reading skills and critical methods, such as gender theory, critical race theory, performance theory, ideology theory.

6. Creative writing track majors will develop skills to create their own works in fiction or poetry, as well as give constructive feedback to other writers.

**Knowledge**


2. Understanding of the history and evolution of literary criticism.

3. Appreciation of the dynamics between author, text, audience, and cultural/historical context.

4. Understanding of language's capacity for rhetoric and representation.

**Social Justice**

Our curriculum is designed to encourage our students to attend to neglected voices and literary traditions.