



COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCES

# MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

## Explore the Power of the English Language

The National University Master of Arts in English offers students the opportunity to engage in the study of language and literature. The program assists students in developing the advanced critical reading, writing, and research skills necessary to participate confidently and meaningfully with other English studies scholars and professionals and to apply disciplinary knowledge beyond the field of English studies.

The MA in English is offered entirely online with small and interactive courses. Students benefit from the individual attention of professors while engaging with each other and the course material, and building knowledge through collaboration in an invigorating and supportive learning community. In addition to core courses that provide a strong foundation in the literary tradition, students choose from a variety of elective course offerings, including 17th and 18th century literature, Romanticism, Gothic, and Harlem Renaissance.

### Writing Across the Curriculum

The University's Writing Across the Curriculum program offers opportunities for students to enhance their career development through projects such as editing and producing the student literary journal, the GNU, and working on the WHACK, the Writing Across the Curriculum Newsletter. Various departmental faculty also have opportunities for students to assist them with teaching and scholarly projects.

### Program highlights:

- Entire program can be completed online
- Interpret and assess specific works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for style, content, meaning, and significance
- Engage in informed critical discussion, both oral and written, of theoretical issues pertaining to the study of literature
- Revise and expand a paper to submit for publication in a scholarly or literary journal

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## MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Academic Program Director: Franz Potter; (714) 429-5410; fpotter@nu.edu

The Master of Arts in English program provides a comprehensive program of graduate study in English, including core courses in literature and a rich array of electives covering the large area of academic study under the umbrella term English. The program is ideal for teachers who desire a content MA beyond the credential. It is also excellent preparation for doctoral studies in English, teaching in the two-year college, or other careers requiring a high degree of literacy.

The program's core requirements include five seminars – theory, research, and three core literature courses: a literary period course, a major author course, and a theme course. Students have the opportunity to select their course content from a variety of available topics. For example, for the major author seminar, we offer courses in Chaucer, Shakespeare, Austen, Dickens, Whitman, T.S. Eliot, Steinbeck, Hemingway, and James Baldwin, among others. Students are allowed four elective courses. Those wanting a deeper study of English or American literature can select additional seminars in literary periods, major authors, or themes as their electives.

Courses in creative writing, rhetoric, and film studies are also offered as electives for students with interests in those areas. In the MA English program, we study film as literature, and we share a rich selection of film studies courses with the MA Film Studies program.

Students wanting one of the optional specializations in either Rhetoric or Gothic Studies should refer to the catalog description of those specializations.

The curriculum covers major approaches to literature, including theoretical, historical, comparative, thematic, multicultural, and genre studies. The program provides students with the critical vocabulary, tools, and research ability to produce literary scholarship of professional quality and to participate in the ongoing scholarly discussions of issues in the field of literary study. In their capstone project, students write a scholarly paper to the standards of a scholarly journal of their choice, and a number of our graduates have succeeded in publishing their capstone projects.

**Note:** The program includes a number of variable-content courses under the same course number. Variable content course topics will be found in SOAR and will also appear on student transcripts. For example, our ENG 620A and ENG 620B offerings include seminars in Medieval English literature, 17th-Century English Poetry, English Romanticism, Victorian Literature, American Romanticism, Literary Realism, Modernism, Harlem Renaissance, Lost Generation, Greatest Generation, Beat Generation, and Postmodernism, among others. Variable content courses can be taken more than once, with different content, to fulfill degree requirements.

### Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Research and apply relevant criticism in sustained analyses and interpretations of specific works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.
- Evaluate the relevance and validity of different theoretical approaches (e.g., historicist, biographical, etc.) to the understanding of specific works of literature.
- Engage in informed critical discussion, both oral and written, of theoretical issues pertaining to the study of literature.
- Engage in informed critical discussion, both oral and written, of the works and criticism of a specific literary period or movement.
- Participate in rigorous critiques of the scholarly works of others.
- Revise and expand a scholarly paper to submit for publication in a scholarly or literary journal.

### Degree Requirements

To receive the Master of Arts in English, students must complete at least 45 quarter units. A total of 4.5 quarter units of graduate credit may be granted for equivalent graduate work completed at another institution, as it applies to this degree and provided the units were not used in earning another advanced degree. Students should refer to the General Catalog section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding admission and evaluation.

### Core Requirements

(6 courses; 27 quarter units)

ENG 599 Intro to Grad English Studies  
ENG 600 Seminar in Literary Theory  
ENG 620A Literary Period or Movement I

#### OR

ENG 620B Literary Period or Movement II  
ENG 680A Seminar in a Theme I

#### OR

ENG 680B Seminar in a Theme II  
ENG 690A Major Author Seminar I

#### OR

ENG 690B Major Author Seminar II  
ENG 699\* English Capstone Course

#### OR

ENG 697\* Capstone Project in Rhetoric  
*Prerequisite: ENG 655, ENG 656, ENG 657, and ENG 668 or ENG 680A Pictures that Speak*

A total of five core courses and four electives, as described in the Degree Requirements for the Program, must be completed before enrolling in the Capstone course.

### Elective Requirements

(4 courses; 18 quarter units)

Select from the following list of courses:

ENG 610 Multicultural Literature  
ENG 620A Literary Period or Movement I

#### OR

ENG 620B Literary Period or Movement II  
MCW 630 Seminar in Fiction  
ENG 640 Seminar in Poetry  
MCW 645 Seminar in Poetry  
MCW 650 Seminar in Creative Nonfiction  
ENG 655 Composition Pedagogy  
ENG 656 History of Rhetoric  
ENG 657 Modern Rhetoric  
ENG 665 Film Theory  
ENG 666 Silent Film  
ENG 667 American Film History  
ENG 668 Film Genre Studies  
ENG 669 World Film  
ENG 670 Comparative Literary Studies  
ENG 690A Major Author Seminar I

#### OR

ENG 690B Major Author Seminar II  
ENG 680A Seminar in a Theme I  
ENG 680B Seminar in a Theme II  
ENG 685 American Directors  
ENG 686 International Directors

### Specialization in Gothic Studies

Academic Program Director: Franz Potter; (714) 429-5410; fpotter@nu.edu

The Master of Arts in English with a Specialization in Gothic Studies provides a balanced and comprehensive program of graduate study in literature as well as a rigorous examination of the historical, theoretical, and critical reception of the Gothic, from its origins in the eighteenth century through to a range of contemporary works in both literature and film. The program is appropriate for students seeking preparation for doctoral study or college-level teaching in English and related fields, or general cultural enrichment.

### Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Research relevant criticism in sustained analyses and interpretations of specific works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.
- Evaluate the relevance and validity of different theoretical approaches (e.g., historicist, biographical, etc.) to the understanding of specific texts.
- Compare informed critical discussions of theoretical issues pertaining to textual analysis.
- Synthesize current theory and practice in the study of Gothic literature.
- Evaluate the complexities of canon formation.
- Assess informed critical discussions, both oral and written, the works and criticism of the Gothic literary period and movement.

### Specialization Requirements

(4 courses; 18 quarter units)

ENG 620A Literary Period or Movement I: Dark Romanticism  
ENG 620B Literary Period or Movement II: American Gothic  
ENG 640 Seminar in Poetry: Graveyard Poetry  
ENG 668 Film Genre Studies: Horror Films

- ENG 680A Seminar in a Theme I: Vampires or Gothic Literature  
ENG 680B Seminar in a Theme II: Gothic Prisons or Romantic Spaces or Female Gothic  
ENG 690A Major Author Seminar I: Ann Radcliffe  
ENG 690B Major Author Seminar II: E. A. Poe

### Specialization in Rhetoric

Academic Program Director: Christine Photinos; (858) 642-8349; [cphotinos@nu.edu](mailto:cphotinos@nu.edu)

The Master of Arts in English with a Specialization in Rhetoric provides a program of graduate study in literature as well as a wide range of cultural production, from classical oration to contemporary cinema, with particular attention paid to how language and image are used to produce various effects and meanings. Students study literary texts and other cultural artifacts across a variety of media forms, developing readings that are grounded in contextual understanding. They complete course work in literary studies, classical and modern rhetoric, composition pedagogy, media studies, and film studies. The prescribed curriculum contains several variable-topic courses, allowing students to pursue broad program goals in topic areas matched to their individual interests. The program is appropriate for students seeking preparation for doctoral study or college-level teaching in English and related fields, or general cultural enrichment.

### Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Produce sustained textual analyses and interpretations that are informed by relevant published criticism.
- Evaluate the relevance and validity of different theoretical approaches to the understanding of specific texts.
- Produce rigorous critiques of the scholarly works of others.
- Interrogate and synthesize key theories and practices within Composition Studies.
- Analyze how language and image are used to produce various effects and meanings across a variety of media forms.
- Produce a work of rhetorical criticism suitable for publication in a scholarly journal.

### Specialization Requirements

(4 courses; 18 quarter units)

Students must select **four (4)** of the **five (5)** courses listed below:

- ENG 656 History of Rhetoric  
ENG 657 Modern Rhetoric  
ENG 655 Composition Pedagogy  
ENG 668 Film Genre Studies  
ENG 680A Seminar in a Theme I  
*Topic: Pictures that Speak*