

Master of Arts in English

- *Literature Emphasis*
- *Creative Writing Emphasis*
- *Rhetoric and Composition Emphasis*

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FACULTY

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John Reilly

Molly Youngkin

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Lynell George

Evelyn McDonnell

Judy Park

Dermot Albert Ryan

Mission Statement

The Department of English at Loyola Marymount University offers a Master of Arts degree in English with a Literature Emphasis, a Master of Arts degree in English with a Creative Writing Emphasis, and a Master of Arts degree in English with a Rhetoric and Composition Emphasis. We are committed to the interdependence between literature and writing. We believe that the act of engaging the literary and rhetorical fields involves the production of literary, critical, or theoretical texts, and that broad-based reading in the tradition of literature provides the necessary foundation for more focused study and analysis. Therefore, we offer a Literature Emphasis, Creative Writing Emphasis, and Rhetoric and Composition Emphasis. This gives students an introduction to graduate scholarship within a range of possible critical, rhetorical, and creative modes, while offering the intellectual background and literary study which makes their course of study both theoretically and historically self-conscious. All emphases within the M.A. program address the needs of a diverse student population; those going on to doctoral programs in literature, literary theory, rhetoric, or creative writing; those pursuing literary or commercial writing careers; those teaching in high schools and community colleges.

Admission Requirements

- 1) The applicant for the degree of Master of Arts in English should have completed with a 3.0 (“B”) average a minimum of seven upper division undergraduate English courses. For applicants to the Literature Emphasis, at least six of these courses should be in literature, including one in Shakespeare. For applicants to the Creative Writing Emphasis, at least two of these courses should be in creative writing and at least four in literature, including one in Shakespeare. Applicants to the Rhetoric/Composition Emphasis should have undergraduate preparation in literature and theory, and/or creative, and/or professional writing courses. Any undergraduate preparation in Rhetoric or Composition, linguistics or peer tutoring/ writing lab experience is welcomed though not required. Any deficiency in grades or course work in undergraduate preparation will require that prerequisite courses at the undergraduate level be taken before work on the ten courses for the Master’s degree may be begun. No course at the 600 level may be taken before the prerequisites are completed. A 600-level course taken before the completion of the prerequisite may be counted toward neither the prerequisites nor the requirements for the Master’s degree.
- 2) Applicants must submit an application, \$50 application fee, and two letters of recommendation. Recommendations should be obtained from individuals who are in a position to comment on the applicant’s academic and personal suitability for pursuing graduate work in English.
- 3) Applicants should write an ambition statement (1½–2 pages) in which they indicate which emphasis (Literature, Creative Writing, Rhetoric/Composition) they wish to enter. Applicants should also discuss relevant prior experiences (i.e., academic, research work, creative writing, or other life experiences) and their career goals. This statement should be included with the basic application.
- 4) A 10–15 page writing sample is required of all applicants. Applicants to the Literature or Rhetoric/Composition Emphasis should submit a sample of their critical writing; applicants to the Creative Writing Emphasis should submit both a 10-15 page critical writing sample **AND** a sample of their best creative writing. The two combined samples may not exceed 30 pages total. Both writing samples should be combined into one document for upload to the application website.
- 5) The General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is a prerequisite requirement for all applicants. A score of 160 (600 on the previous GRE scale) or higher on the Verbal component of the test is highly recommended.
- 6) The deadline for the receipt of all materials is April 1.

Teaching Fellowships

Students applying for Teaching Fellowships are asked to include, along with their application materials, the following: a resume or c.v.; a letter of application for the Teaching Fellowship; and two letters of recommendation which specifically address their potential abilities as teachers of College Writing. These letters are in addition to letters submitted for admission to the M.A. program.

Rains Research Assistantships

Rains Research Assistantships are available to qualified graduate students by invitation of individual faculty members. These assistantships are paid at \$12 per hour for a maximum of 120 hours per academic year. Teaching Fellows are not eligible for Rains Research Assistantships due to federal government financial aid restrictions.

Graduate Assistantships/ Internships

A Graduate Assistantship and an internship with the W.H. Hannon Library’s Special Collections are also available. Students who qualify would work an average of 20 hours per week during the regular semesters. The rate of pay is about \$18 per hour.

Degree Requirements

Work for the degree of Master of Arts in English includes a minimum of 10 courses (30 semester hours) plus the Comprehensive Examination (0 semester hours). Courses selected must be approved by the Director of the Graduate English program. For the completion of the Master of Arts in English, all students are required to take Critical Methodology (in the first semester), Contemporary Critical Theory (in the first year) and a Major Writer Seminar. In addition, we strongly suggest that students take courses in as many of the following areas as possible: 1) Old English, Middle English, or Renaissance literature; 2) Restoration or 18th Century literature; 3) 19th Century or modern English literature; 4) American literature; and 5) a literary genre. Creative Writing students must take a Creative

Thesis course after completing the prerequisite Creative Writing Seminars. All students must take at least four courses at the 600 level. Courses in the 500 group which receive a grade of "B-" or less will not count toward the degree.

- **LITERATURE EMPHASIS (Ten Courses)**
 - Critical Methodology (1)
 - Contemporary Critical Theory (1)
 - Major Writer (1)
 - Literature and Theory Electives (5-7)
 - Creative Writing Seminar (0-2)

- **CREATIVE WRITING EMPHASIS (Ten Courses)**
 - Critical Methodology (1)
 - Contemporary Critical Theory (1)
 - Major Writer (1)
 - Creative Writing Seminar (3-4)
 - Literature and Theory Electives (2-3)
 - Creative Thesis (1)

(At least 2-3 of the elective courses should be in literature or cross-listed as literature.)

- **RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION EMPHASIS (Ten Courses)**
 - Critical Methodology (1)
 - Contemporary Critical Theory (1)
 - Major Writer (1)
 - Literature and Theory Electives (3)
 - Rhetoric and Composition Theory and Practice (3)
 - Linguistics or Reading Theory (1)

(At least 2 of the elective courses should be literature or cross-listed as literature.)

ENGL 691 Comprehensive Examination (0 sem. hrs.)

The Comprehensive Examination will be based on a reading list including major works in English and American literature, literary theory, and/or rhetorical theory.

The Comprehensive Examination will consist of a three-hour written examination, followed within two weeks by an oral examination.

Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the details of procedures that are described in the Graduate Handbook available from the Department website.

Foreign Language Requirement

Applicants for the degree of Master of Arts in English who wish a recommendation for doctoral work are encouraged to pass an examination designed to test their ability to translate materials pertaining to their field in either French, German, Spanish, or Latin.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the Master's Degree in English will:

- Master the terms and issues specific to the discipline and profession of literary studies.
- Understand the history and nature of the discipline and prepare for a future in academia or teaching.
- Master professional writing skills for tasks including book reviews, abstracts, short critical essays, and research projects.
- Have experience in giving presentations and making submissions for professional publications and/or conferences.
- Engage critically and deeply with a range of literatures and literary theories

Course Descriptions

Survey Courses

ENGL 502

The Arthurian Romance

3 Semester Hours

A study of Arthurian legend from Geoffrey of Monmouth to Sir Thomas Malory.

Fulfills pre-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 503

English Literature of the Middle Ages

3 Semester Hours

English literature, from the Normans to the Tudors.

Fulfills pre-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 504

Chaucer

3 Semester Hours

The works of Chaucer, particularly *The Canterbury Tales*.

Fulfills pre-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 511

Literature of the Renaissance

3 Semester Hours

English literature, exclusive of drama, from Thomas More to the death of Elizabeth I.

Fulfills pre-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 512

Seventeenth-Century Poetry

3 Semester Hours

English poetry in the Metaphysical and Cavalier traditions, including the works of Jonson, Donne, Herrick, Herbert, and Marvell.

Fulfills pre-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 513

Milton

3 Semester Hours

The poetry and selected prose of John Milton.

Fulfills pre-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 521

British Literature: 1660-1800

3 Semester Hours

Studies in British literature of the Restoration and eighteenth century, exclusive of the novel.

Fulfills pre-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 522

Eighteenth-Century English Novel

3 Semester Hours

The development of the English novel in its first century.

Fulfills pre-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 530

Studies in Romanticism

3 Semester Hours

Explore the key works, concepts, genres, and writers associated with Romanticism.

This course is repeatable for degree credit up to two times provided new course material is covered and a new subtitle has been designated.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 532

The Nineteenth-Century English Novel

3 Semester Hours

The development of the English novel from Austen to Hardy.

Fulfills post-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 533

Victorian Literature

3 Semester Hours

Selected works of major poets and prose writers of the period from 1832 to 1900.

Fulfills post-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 534

Literature of the Holocaust

3 Semester Hours

A study of the literature of the Holocaust including fiction, poetry, drama, and film.

Fulfills post-1800 or comparative/cultural literatures requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 541

British Fiction: 1900-1950

3 Semester Hours

A study of British novels and short fiction from 1900 to 1950.

Fulfills post-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 542

British Literature: 1950 to the Present

3 Semester Hours

A study of British novels, short fiction, and poems from 1950 to the present.

Fulfills post-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 543

British Poetry: 1900-1950

3 Semester Hours

A study of the poetry of Yeats, Eliot, Auden, Thomas, and other modernists.

Fulfills post-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 544

Modern Irish Literature

3 Semester Hours

A survey of Irish literature from 1900 to World War II.

Fulfills post-1800 or comparative/cultural literatures requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 545**Contemporary Irish Literature***3 Semester Hours*

A survey of Irish literature from the end of World War II to the present.

Fulfills post-1800 or comparative/cultural literatures requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 546**Irish Renaissance***3 Semester Hours*

A study of the period from the 1890s through the 1920s in Ireland focusing on the effort of Irish writers (and others) to preserve the rich legacy of Irish culture and carry it forward into the modern age.

Fulfills post-1800 or comparative/cultural literatures requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 547**Irish Short Story***3 Semester Hours*

A study of the short story in Ireland during the twentieth century.

Fulfills post-1800 or comparative/cultural literatures requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 551**Early American Literature and Ideas***3 Semester Hours*

A survey of representative fiction, poetry, and essays from the colonial, revolutionary, and early national periods.

Fulfills pre-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 552**American Renaissance***3 Semester Hours*

The study of American Transcendentalists and other writers from the American Renaissance period to the 19th century.

Fulfills post-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 553**American Realism and Naturalism***3 Semester Hours*

The study of such representative American fiction writers as Twain, James, and Crane.

Fulfills post-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 554**Modern American Fiction***3 Semester Hours*

The study of such representative novelists as Hemingway, Faulkner, Anderson, and Fitzgerald.

Fulfills post-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 555**American Fiction Since 1950***3 Semester Hours*

A study of American novels and short fiction from 1950 to the present.

Fulfills post-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 556**Modern American Poetry***3 Semester Hours*

The study of representative American poets from Whitman to the mid-twentieth century.

Fulfills post-1800 requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 558**Caribbean Literature***3 Semester Hours*

The study of representative writers from the English-speaking Caribbean, such as George Lamming, Jean Rhys, Sam Selvon, and Jamaica Kincaid.

Fulfills post-1800 or comparative/cultural literatures requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 559**Survey of Literary Criticism***3 Semester Hours*

The principles and practice of literary criticism from the ancient Greeks to World War II.

Fulfills theory requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 561**Contemporary Literary Criticism***3 Semester Hours*

The principles and practice of literary criticism from World War II to the present.

Fulfills theory requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 562**Contemporary Rhetorical Theory***3 Semester Hours*

Textual analysis and production based on contemporary rhetorical theory.

Fulfills theory or writing requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 563**Creative Writing Seminar***3 Semester Hours*

An intensive writing class in fiction, poetry, drama, creative non-fiction, or some combination of these genres.

This course is repeatable for degree credit up to two times, provided new course material is covered and a new subtitle has been designated.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

Prerequisites: One 400-level creative writing course in the appropriate genre.

ENGL 565**Theory of Teaching Writing and Literature***3 Semester Hours*

A course for current and future teachers of composition and literature designed to facilitate the application of theory to pedagogy.

Fulfills theory or writing requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 566**Metaphor: Theory and Practice***3 Semester Hours*

A course investigating metaphor theoretically and in the students' own writing.

Fulfills writing requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 567**Style in Writing***3 Semester Hours*

An examination of prose styles and theories of style to help students develop their own writing styles.

Fulfills theory or writing requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 569**Linguistics***3 Semester Hours*

An introduction to issues in linguistics, such as phonology, morphology, syntax, and sociolinguistics.

Fulfills theory requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 571**Writing the Novella: Workshop***3 Semester Hours*

Practice in writing extended narrative forms.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

Prerequisites: ENGL 411, 421, or 431.

ENGL 574**Rhetoric and Media***3 Semester Hours*

A study of persuasion and rhetorical strategies used by the media.

Fulfills theory, writing, or comparative/cultural literature requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 575**The Art of Rhetoric***3 Semester Hours*

A survey of rhetoric from the classical to the modern period.

Fulfills theory requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 580**Comparative Drama***3 Semester Hours*

An exploration of dramatic literature and criticism through the comparative study of stage plays, teleplays, films, and other performance texts.

Fulfills comparative/cultural literature requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 584**The Black Aesthetic***3 Semester Hours*

Study of theories of African American aesthetics.

Fulfills theory requirement.

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 598**Special Studies***1-3 Semester Hours*

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

ENGL 599**Independent Studies***1-3 Semester Hours*

Junior, senior, or graduate standing required.

Graduate Seminars**ENGL 600****Critical Methodology***3 Semester Hours*

Prolegomena to Graduate Studies in English (must be completed in the first semester).

ENGL 601**Seminar in a Literary Period***3 Semester Hours*

Intensive study of a formative era in the history of English Literatures.

ENGL 602**Seminar in a Genre***3 Semester Hours*

Exploration of one of the types or categories into which literary works are conventionally grouped.

ENGL 603**Seminar in a Major Writer***3 Semester Hours*

Intensive study of an influential writer.

ENGL 604**Seminar in Literary Theory***3 Semester Hours*

Exploration of theoretical approaches to literature and its production.

ENGL 605**Contemporary Critical Theory***3 Semester Hours*

Exploration of theoretical approaches to art, thought, and culture (must be completed in first year).

ENGL 606**Seminar in Rhetoric***3 Semester Hours*

Intensive study of the arts of persuasion.

ENGL 607**Seminar in Composition Theory***3 Semester Hours*

Exploration of theoretical approaches to the disciplines of Rhetoric and Composition.

ENGL 610**Seminar in Creative Writing***3 Semester Hours*

Intensive practicum in Creative Writing.

ENGL 691**Comprehensive Examination (M.A.)***0 Semester Hours*

Required of all graduate students: see M.A. Program description above, and consult Department website for updated information.

ENGL 693
Comprehensive Examination
(M.A.T.)

0 Semester Hours

As ENGL 691, but to be registered for by students undertaking joint studies through the School of Education.

ENGL 697
Creative Writing Thesis

3 Semester Hours

An extended creative work supervised by one of the department's Professors of Creative Writing; students must obtain the approval of a prospective supervisor before undertaking the course.

ENGL 698
Special Studies

1-3 Semester Hours

ENGL 699
Independent Studies

1-3 Semester Hours