The English MA program in the School of English and Theatre Studies is designed to provide students with an intensive introduction to graduate-level work in English studies, within a flexible program. Students can draw on the program's strengths in the following fields:

- Studies in Canadian Literatures
- Colonial, Postcolonial and Diasporic Studies
- Early Modern Studies
- Sexuality and Gender Studies
- Transnational Nineteenth-Century Studies.

Students can also pursue a wide range of research topics in consultation with faculty members actively engaged with the literatures of different historical periods and geographical locations, and with current debates in such areas as critical theory, cultural studies, gender studies, and queer theory.

Administrative Staff

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Graduate Faculty

This list may include Regular Graduate Faculty, Associated Graduate Faculty and/or Graduate Faculty from other universities.

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Sandra Singer
BA Trent, MA Queen's, PhD Cambridge - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

J.R. (Tim) Struthers
BA, MA, PhD Western Ontario - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Ann Wilson
BA, MA, PhD York - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty
MA Program

The English MA program in the School of English and Theatre Studies is designed to provide students with an intensive introduction to graduate-level work in English studies, within a flexible program. Students can draw on the program’s strengths in the following fields:

1. studies in Canadian literatures;
2. colonial, postcolonial and diasporic studies;
3. early modern studies;
4. sexuality and gender studies; and
5. transnational nineteenth-century studies.

Students can also pursue a wide range of research topics in consultation with faculty members actively engaged with the literatures of different historical periods and geographical locations, and with current debates in such areas as critical theory, cultural studies, gender studies, and queer theory.

Admission Requirements

The normal requirement for admission to the English MA program is the equivalent of an Honours degree in English studies from a recognized institution with at least 78% or higher in the last two years of study. Students with degrees with excellent academic records in other disciplines will also be considered. Successful applicants will be admitted in the Fall Semester, the Program’s only entry point. Program offices should be consulted for admission deadlines. If the applicant’s first degree was completed in a country where English is not the first language, English-language proficiency must be documented at the time of application.

Program Requirements

Students enrol in one of two study options:

1. course work and major research project, or
2. thesis.

Thesis

Students complete four courses (4 x 0.50 credit); plus a thesis of 20,000 to 25,000 words (80-100 pages).

Course Work and Major Research Project (MRP)

Students complete six courses (6 x 0.50 credit); plus ENGL*6803 Research Project.

Collaborative Specializations

The English program participates in the International Development Studies (IDS) collaborative specialization. Please consult the International Development Studies listing for a detailed description of the collaborative specialization including the special additional requirements for each of the participating departments.

Courses

The content of the courses listed will vary according to the research interests of the faculty involved in offering the course. Specific course descriptions for a particular offering of the course will be available from the Graduate Program Coordinator one year in advance of the course being offered.

ENGL*6002 Topics in the History of Criticism Unspecified [0.50]

This course deals with various aspects of the field of literary criticism, focusing on a specific problem or question each time it is offered. Topics may include the investigation of a specific critical debate - the debate between the Ancients and the Moderns, for instance - or the various ways in which a particular concept - such as didacticism or intentionality - has been treated or is being treated in literary studies.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6003 Problems of Literary Analysis Unspecified [0.50]

Variable in content and practical in orientation this course seeks to familiarize the student with particular critical techniques and approaches by applying specific examples of those approaches and methods to particular topics (e.g., cultural studies and renaissance literature, discourse analysis and the Victorian novel, computer-mediated analysis and the theatre of the absurd).

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6201 Topics in Canadian Literature Unspecified [0.50]

A course to be offered at least once every academic year. This course in Canadian Literature may focus on cross-genre study or on single genres such as poetry, biography, the short story, literary memoir and/or autobiography, and poetic prose. The focus may be on such topics as the literary and general cultural production of a time-period, an age group (such as children's literature), or a specific region (such as Atlantic Canada, the Prairies, or the West Coast), or may bring together texts from two or more categories to allow for a comparative study. Other possible topics include: post-modernism and the creation of an ex-centric Canadian canon; multiculturalism and the transcultural aesthetics of Canadian writing; the construction and reinvention of a national identity and literature; and literary history, influence, reception and critique.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6209 Topics in Colonial, Postcolonial and Diasporic Literature Unspecified [0.50]

A course to be offered at least once every academic year. A comparative study of postcolonial literatures in English. Topics may include a focus on a single area, such as India, the Caribbean, Africa, Australia, or New Zealand or may focus on the comparative study of some of these literatures, considering the construction of Third World, diasporic, or settler-invader colonies, or writing and reading practices in colonial, neo-colonial, and postcolonial environments.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6412 Topics in Medieval/Renaissance Literature Unspecified [0.50]

An examination of the literature of Britain in the medieval and/or early modern periods. Topics may focus on a single author, a specific genre, or relationships between the literary and the cultural.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6421 Topics in 18-Century and Romantic Literature Unspecified [0.50]

A examination of the literature of Britain between the 17th century and the latter part of the 18th century. Topics may focus on a single author, a specific genre, or relationships between the literary and the cultural.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph
ENGL*6431 Topics in 19-Century Literature Unspecified [0.50]
This course is a study of the literature of Britain, Canada, the United States, or another region from the late 18th century until the start of the First World War. Topics may focus on a single author, a specific genre, or a central critical question.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6441 Topics in Modern British Literature Unspecified [0.50]
A study of the literature of Britain in the twentieth century. This course includes a consideration of the interaction between literature and culture in the period - sometimes through the examination of a specific author, sometimes through the study of a particular genre or issue.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6451 Topics in American Literature Unspecified [0.50]
Topics may include a focus on a single region, such as the American West, on a single time period, such as the Civil War, on a specific genre, such as the novels of frontier women, or other issues in American literary studies.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6611 Topics in Women's Writing Unspecified [0.50]
In the past the course has dealt with Victorian women poets, with the place of women in the literature of the American West, and with other issues of interest to students of women's writing and the broader issues of feminist theory.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6621 Topics in Children's Literature Unspecified [0.50]
Past offerings have involved a focus on a specific author - such as Lucy Maud Montgomery - or on a specific kind of writing for or by children.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6641 Topics in Scottish Literature Unspecified [0.50]
Courses under this rubric are concerned with the various literatures produced by Scots both within and beyond the boundaries of Scotland. The course could involve the study of a specific genre, the investigation of a specific theme, or the examination of a particular author over the course of her/his career.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6691 Interdisciplinary Studies Unspecified [0.50]
Designed to provide the opportunity to explore alternative fields and modes of critical inquiry, this variable-content course will study the relationship between literary study and other forms of intellectual inquiry such as the relationship between literature and sociology, between critical theory and psychology, between literary history and historical fact.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6801 Reading Course I Unspecified [0.50]
An independent study course, the nature and content of which is agreed upon between the individual student and the person offering the course. Subject to the approval of the student’s advisory committee and the graduate program committee.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6802 Reading Course II Unspecified [0.50]
An independent study course, the nature and content of which is agreed upon between the individual student and the person offering the course. Subject to the approval of the student’s advisory committee and the graduate program committee.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6803 Research Project Unspecified [1.00]
An independent study course, the content of which is agreed upon between the individual student and the person offering the course. Subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee and the Graduate Program Committee. This course is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to conduct an extended research project that, while not as complex or as extensive as a thesis, still provides the student with training in research methodology.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6811 Special Topics in English Unspecified [0.50]
Depending on the research interests of the instructor, courses under this rubric explore topics in the study of literature that do not fall neatly under the rubrics above. In the past the course has dealt with literature and aging, and with issues in the field of popular culture.
Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph