

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Master of Arts in English

The Department of English at Texas Southern University prides itself in preparing students to excel in their knowledge and understanding of the areas of British, American, and African American Literature, and Literary Analysis and Theory. Students engage in intensive study and research towards a command of the broad and diverse range of literatures written and/or translated into English. Our graduates make meaningful personal discoveries throughout their studies: how ideas in literature influence their life-long pursuits and thinking.

Master of Arts (M.A.) students will immerse themselves in both rhetorical and contemporary theoretical approaches to literary texts. Through expert instruction, workshops, and graduate experiential opportunities, the Master of Arts in English prepares successful graduates for exemplary higher education entry teaching opportunities; communication (oral and written); leadership opportunities in arts, business, education, government, and legal pursuits; and entrance into prestigious Ph.D. programs in literature and rhetoric and composition.

Master of Arts in English -- Degree Plans

The English Department offers three options leading to the Master of Arts degree:

1. Track A – Masters of Arts degree (thesis option – 27 semester credit hours + 3 research hours for thesis) – in literature study with an emphasis in American, African American, or British literature.
2. Track B – Masters of Arts degree (non-thesis option - 30 semester credit hours for non-thesis) – with a generalist concentration in literary studies. With the approval of the Department Chair and the instructor, the student will devote three credits to a “Directed Reading and Research” course resulting in two or more longer papers.
3. Online Masters of Arts degree in English. Students electing this online option will follow the same Track A or Track B program noted above. Contact the Chair for more specific information.

Requirements of the Degree

- Thirty (30) hours of coursework

Conditional Admittance

- There is no conditional admittance to the Master of Arts in English Program at Texas Southern University.
- All requirements must be met before admittance to the Master of Arts Program (completed tests, fees paid, letters of recommendation submitted, et. al.)

Master of Arts in English -- Degree Plans

The English Department offers three options leading to the Master of Arts degree:

- M.A. with Thesis
- M.A. with Portfolio (non-thesis)
- M.A. Online with Thesis or Portfolio

The three degree paths for the M.A. degree are designed to prepare students for entry to the professional world or further graduate study.

- English Track A (Thesis Option), Master of Arts (<https://catalog.tsu.edu/graduate/schools-colleges/liberal-arts-behavioral-sciences/english/english-thesis-option-ma/>)
- English Track B (Non-Thesis Option), Master of Arts (<https://catalog.tsu.edu/graduate/schools-colleges/liberal-arts-behavioral-sciences/english/english-non-thesis-option-ma/>)

Courses

ENG 501 Grad Prof Writing (3 Credits)

WRITING GRADUATE (3) A course for students who have not achieved writing proficiencies appropriate for graduate work, including the master's thesis and doctoral dissertation (Prerequisite: graduate standing)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 502 Cornerstone Survey (3 Credits)

CORNERSTONE SEMINAR (3) An intense and comprehensive period-based survey of Western literature from the ancient through the modern and postmodern (Prerequisite: graduate standing)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 529 Studies in Lit Bio and Nonfict (3 Credits)

STUDIES IN LITERARY BIOGRAPHY AND NONFICTION (3) A study of the relationship of author and text in works of notable British and American writers (Prerequisite: graduate standing)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 530 African American Fiction (3 Credits)

AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION (3) An examination of the literary presentation of the passage from slavery to free personhood in selected texts of African American fiction, with a special concentration on rhetorical structure (Prerequisite: graduate standing)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 532 Afr & Afr Diaspora Literature (3 Credits)

AFRICAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORA LITERATURE (3) A study of selected poetry, fiction, and drama of Africa and the African Diaspora (Prerequisite: graduate standing)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 533 Methods Of Research (3 Credits)

METHODS OF RESEARCH (3) An introduction to techniques of independent graduate study, with emphasis on bibliographical studies and textual criticism (Prerequisite: graduate standing)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 534 Black Southern Writers (3 Credits)

In this course, students will examine the rhetorical strategies circumstances most prominently in the southern literary tradition. Students will investigate the historical circumstances (including slavery, Reconstructions, etc.) that have shaped—and been shaped by—southern literature. Topics to be addressed in this course include canon formation, negotiations between fiction and history, etc.

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 536 Seminar in Advan Tech Writing (3 Credits)

SEMINAR IN ADVANCED TECHNICAL WRITING (3) The second of two technical writing courses that offer focused instruction on writing skills appropriate to the technical demands of the modern workplace such as business, science, and government (Prerequisites: ENG 412 and the consent of both the department chair and the instructor)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 629 Seminar in American Literature (3 Credits)

SEMINAR IN AMERICAN LITERATURE (3) A special topics course focusing on American poetry, drama, and fiction. (Prerequisite: graduate standing)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 638 Survey of Lit Theory (3 Credits)

SURVEY OF LITERARY THEORY (3) An historical survey of theories of literary criticism from Aristotle to the present (Prerequisite: graduate standing)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 640 Chaucer Shakespeare and Milton (3 Credits)

SEMINAR IN CHAUCER, SHAKESPEARE AND MILTON (3) An intense study of major works of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton (Prerequisite: graduate standing)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 641 Seminar Creative Non-Fiction (3 Credits)

SEMINAR IN CREATIVE NONFICTION (3) A study of techniques of creative non-fiction prose, both as a genre and in historical context (Prerequisite: graduate standing)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 732 American Novel (3 Credits)

THE AMERICAN NOVEL (3) A study of selected American novelists in conjunction with modern critical theories (Prerequisite: completion of all required core courses)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 734 Seminar in Modern Poetry (3 Credits)

SEMINAR IN MODERN POETRY (3) An examination of the primary trends in modern poetry, devoting attention to the masterpieces in the canon and engaging students in a systematic study of the techniques and philosophical tendencies in these works (Prerequisite: completion of all required core courses)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 735 The British Novel (3 Credits)

THE BRITISH NOVEL (3) An intensive survey of the British novel from Defoe through the authors of contemporary British fiction (Prerequisite: completion of all required core courses)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 736 Studies British Liter to 1900 (3 Credits)

STUDIES IN BRITISH LITERATURE TO 1900 (3) A study of British poetry, drama, and prose from Shakespeare to the era of modernism (Prerequisite: completion of all required core courses)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 794 Utopia Dystopia (3 Credits)

This proposed course will engage students with utopian and dystopian literature from the ancient periods to the 21st century. Students will discover the pros and cons of past societies described in various literatures. Students will then be able to evaluate current social trends against a literary backdrop of social formation's..

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

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ENG 835 Directed Reading and Research (3 Credits)

DIRECTED READING AND RESEARCH (6) An individualized course for students wishing to work with a specific professor in a well-defined area of scholarship (Prerequisite: completion of all required core courses and the consent of both the department chair and the instructor)

College/School: Liberal Arts & Behavioral Scie

Department: Department of English

ENG 837 Thesis In Progress (3 Credits)

THESIS IN PROGRESS (6) The writing of the thesis under the supervision of a thesis advisor from the graduate faculty of the Department of English (Prerequisite: All preceding requirements for the Master of Arts in English)

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