

## Description of English Major Concentrations

A concentration consists of any three courses (9 credits total) in one area of English studies, at least one of which must be 4000+ level. Students must earn a concentration to complete the major; they may earn multiple concentrations or take remaining credits as electives.

Note: Courses taken to fulfill the major's historical distribution requirement can count for a concentration. ENGL 1000 and 1010W do not count towards the major or a concentration.

### 1. Literature

Students concentrating in Literature can study the range of writing in English from its medieval origins to its global present while learning skills for critical interpretation of texts and cultural artifacts. Literature courses include a variety of subject matter, from *Beowulf* and Shakespeare to the African Diaspora and postcolonial literatures, as well as critical theory.

### 2. Creative Writing

The Creative Writing concentration offers students the opportunity to practice a literary art form (fiction, poetry, and/or creative nonfiction) with the guidance of published writers. Courses involve a wide variety of activities, such as reporting on literary magazines, journaling, experimenting with formal structures, author visits, peer editing, workshopping, and revision. Students work to develop technical skills specific to each genre and enter into aesthetic conversations with the literary community.

### 3. Rhetoric, Writing, and Media

Students concentrating in Rhetoric, Writing, and Media acquire a sense of the social and cultural contexts that shape writing, language practices, and digital media production and analysis. Classes provide opportunities to write in new genres, introduce different ways of approaching the process of writing, explore the history of film genres and cinematic languages, and offer training in media theory and storytelling.

### 4. Language and Linguistics

The Language and Linguistics concentration provides a new perspective on something we normally take for granted: language. Courses in this area investigate the English language by considering its contemporary structure and historical development as well as the broader principles that shape English and all languages.

### 5. Design your own (e.g., Gender and Sexuality, the English Novel, Renaissance literature, Social Justice, etc.)

Designing a concentration enables students to pursue their own interests or demonstrate specific skills to future employers or graduate programs. Students may propose a concentration of their own devising by selecting any three English courses, at least one of which must be at the 4000+ level, and presenting their rationale for approval either to the Academic Advisor, Mary Moore, or to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.