MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH (M.A.)

Purpose

The Master of Arts in English is a 36-hour, graduate-level degree in English language and literature, practical in its reading and writing about a broad spectrum of texts in English, theoretical in its observation of texts through the diverse critical lenses of current literary theory, philosophical in its investigation of the meaning of literary texts in the human experience, professional in its preparation for further work in the academic disciplines as well as to a wide variety of professional disciplines to which a studied understanding of the human experience is valuable. The purpose of the program is to equip students, within a Christian, biblical worldview, to pursue further studies in English language arts at the doctoral level, as well as to prepare for careers related to the field. The M.A. in English will provide students with the opportunity to study the texts of literature in English and the western tradition, the critical tradition pertaining to these texts, and critical approaches to interpreting texts, as well as a background in research methods and the practice of writing and in the linguistic characteristics of English throughout its history, offered in advanced degree programs in English.

Program Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. Discuss English language and literature and critical theory in a manner appropriate to the field.
2. Produce in-depth research using appropriate scholarly methods and resources.
3. Write in a professional and scholarly manner.
4. Evaluate the relationships between literary works and their contexts.
5. Analyze literary texts, theory, and history through a Christian worldview.

Program Specific Admission Procedures

In addition to the general admission requirements, specific admission procedures to the M.A. in English are as follows:

1. Earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (e.g., SACSCOC, TRACS, ABHE, etc.)
2. Applicants should hold a 3.00 GPA for undergraduate study. Applicants close to the requirement may be considered for enrollment in the program on a cautionary basis but will not qualify for Graduate Assistantship positions.
3. Applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree, with the completion of at least 15-18 hours in upper-division English.
4. Applicants must submit a writing sample explaining why they wish to pursue an advanced degree in English.
5. Applicants must submit contact information for two professional recommendations.
6. An 8-10 page academic writing sample.
7. TOEFL (if applicable)

Transfer Credit

Students may transfer up to 18 credit hours from an accredited institution subject to department approval. In order to transfer credit, students must have earned the minimum grade of B-, and courses must have been completed within 10 years of the start date of the program. Credits from a prior degree on the same academic level earned through Liberty University are considered transfer credits.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to other regulations governing graduation as state in the Liberty University catalog, M.A. in English graduates must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete 36 total hours.
2. A maximum of 50% of the program hours may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level.
3. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00.
4. No more than two grades of C may be applied to the degree. (includes grades of C+ & C-).
5. No grades of D may be applied to the degree. (includes grades of D+ & D-).
6. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to “Course Repeat Policy” in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
7. Possess reading proficiency in a language other than English.
8. Complete the M.A. in English within five years.
9. Complete the thesis or non-thesis track within the M.A. in English.
10. Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date.

Program of Study

Delivery Format: Residential Only

- English (M.A.)

Career Opportunities

- Author
- College or secondary teacher
- Editor
- Journalist
- Publisher
- Public Relations worker

Courses

ENGL 501  Christian Poetics  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course assists the student in developing, through reading and discussion of salient critical texts, a distinctly Christian poetics: a set of principles by which the reader analyzes, interprets, and evaluates literature in a manner consistent with a Biblical worldview.

Offered: Resident
ENGL 503  Bibliography and Research  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course provides students with an introduction to graduate-level research and bibliography methods in the field of English. In addition, students will practice the primary forms of writing expected of graduate students.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 505  Advanced Literary Criticism  3 Credit Hour(s)
An inquiry into the nature and functions of Anglo-American literary criticism and theory. A review of ancient, early Modern, and 18- and 19th-Century figures as context for analysis and critique of a selected recent theorist.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 510  Studies in Ancient Literature/Classics  3 Credit Hour(s)
A study of the literature of the ancient Greek and Roman world, with the works studied each semester to be determined by the genre emphasized (epic, tragedy, comedy). The inquiry into the nature of this body of literature will revolve around an investigation of the poets’ peculiar visions and the limits of the genre studied, with reference the theories of Aristotle and Plato regarding the nature and purpose of poetry and civil life.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 511  Christian Authors  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course offers advanced study of selected authors, themes, or genres that either reflect or respond to Christian belief as well as analysis of the relationship of such texts to both Christian culture and the larger world.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 512  Seminar in British Authors  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course explores the works and contexts, both critical and historical, of a major British author. Authors studied might include Chaucer, Spenser, Fielding, Thackeray, or Joyce, among others.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 513  Linguistics  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course lays a foundation for studying and understanding not only English, but any language, primarily from the functional/typological approach, but also from the generative one. Principles will be learned via text analysis, breaking down a language into its basic constituents relative to its phonology, morphology, syntax and discourse.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 515  Studies in British Literature  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course offers a focused study of a specific time period, genre, or major figure in British literature.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 517  Old English Literature  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is an introduction to Old English language, literature, and culture. It will focus on an introduction to the language itself with a central view to reading the literature of the Anglo-Saxon world. The course will therefore also involve an introductory study of Anglo-Saxon culture and the history of the Anglo-Saxon peoples.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 520  Adolescent Literature  3 Credit Hour(s)
ENGL 521  Victorian Literature  3 Credit Hour(s)
ENGL 522  Modern Drama  3 Credit Hour(s)
ENGL 523  Shakespeare  3 Credit Hour(s)
A study of selected works from the Shakespearean canon, with the chief focus each semester determined by genre (tragedy, comedy, or history).
Offered: Resident

ENGL 529  Studies in American Literature  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course offers a focused study of a specific time period, genre, or major figure in American literature.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 532  Seminar in American Authors  3 Credit Hour(s)
An in-depth study of the life and literary works of one major American writer who made significant contributions to the canon of American literature.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 534  Literary Criticism  3 Credit Hour(s)

ENGL 539  Early American Literature  3 Credit Hour(s)

ENGL 540  The American Renaissance  3 Credit Hour(s)

ENGL 542  The American Novel  3 Credit Hour(s)

ENGL 543  Elizabethan Literature  3 Credit Hour(s)

ENGL 550  Nonfiction Writing  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course will survey various tools and techniques which assist in the writing of nonfiction works: essays, articles, memoirs, trade books, travelogues, biographies, etc. Exemplary nonfiction works will be reviewed. Attention will also be given to the roles of agents, editors, and publishers in the production of nonfiction literature. A significant portion of the course will be dedicated to the production of publishable works by the students.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 551  Poetry Writing  3 Credit Hour(s)
Integrating instruction, exercise, and feedback on work from the instructor and classmates, this course teaches students techniques in producing publishable poetry as well as in creating a variety of poetic forms.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 552  Fiction Writing  3 Credit Hour(s)
Integrating instruction, exercise, and feedback on work from the instructor and classmates, this course teaches students the craft of fiction writing with attention to setting, mood, theme, character, dialogue, plot, point of view, tone and style, description, technique, and publication.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 553  Chaucer  3 Credit Hour(s)

ENGL 562  Text Analysis  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is an in-depth examination and application of principles and practices of text analysis, both oral and written. Focus will be upon the full range of genres: narrative, procedural, hortatory, and expository discourse.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 563  17th Century English Literature  3 Credit Hour(s)

ENGL 570  Classical Rhetoric  3 Credit Hour(s)
A study of classical skills of argumentation and persuasion, focusing on theory and application.
Offered: Online

ENGL 582  18th Century English Literature  3 Credit Hour(s)

ENGL 595  Directed Research  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course will allow a student to work individually with a professor or to take an approved course outside of the English program for credit.
ENGL 597 Special Topics: South Asian Diasporic Fiction 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is a study of some of the world’s literary masterpieces from antiquity to the present with particular emphasis on religious texts, diverse literary traditions, and universal themes.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 600 Editing, Layout and Publishing 3 Credit Hour(s)
Provides students with a practical working knowledge of the fundamentals of editing, layout, and publishing for multiple contexts, modalities, and audiences.
Offered: Online

ENGL 601 Writing as Cultural Engagement 3 Credit Hour(s)
Theory and Practice of Writing as Cultural Engagement (3 hours)
Instruction, practice, and evaluation of writing for publication in various mediums (blogs, op-eds, popular journals, online news outlets, etc.) with an emphasis on diverse audiences, rhetorical strategies, and cultural contexts. Through assessing the procedures and principles that govern 21st century writings, students will examine the process of engaging various societal outlets and apply that knowledge towards cultural artifacts.
Offered: Online

ENGL 602 Methods and Materials of Research 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course provides students with an introduction to graduate-level research and bibliography methods. In addition, students will practice the primary forms of writing expected of graduate students.
Offered: Online

ENGL 603 Literary Theory and Practice 3 Credit Hour(s)
A study of the relationship between contemporary literary theory and critical practice, with emphasis on using a variety of critical approaches to analyze literary texts.
Offered: Online

ENGL 607 Composition Studies 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course introduces composition studies - its theory, research, scholarship and pedagogy - and the teaching of academic composition classes. Students will engage in both theoretical and practical approaches to teaching writing.
Offered: Resident and Online

ENGL 608 Modern Rhetoric 3 Credit Hour(s)
A study of contemporary rhetorical approaches, focusing on theory and application.
Offered: Online

ENGL 613 Contemporary and Postmodern Literature 3 Credit Hour(s)
A study of contemporary (post-World War II) fiction, poetry, and/or drama and of postmodern world literature. Readings include American, English, and world literature.
Offered: Resident

ENGL 621 Seminar: The Novel 3 Credit Hour(s)
Offered: Resident

ENGL 633 Advanced English Grammar 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is an advanced study of the full-range of English grammar, from phonology, morphology and syntax to discourse.
Offered: Online

ENGL 637 Studies in African-American Literature 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is a study of the periods and major genres of African-American Literature - poetry, prose, drama, vernacular tradition, essays, and non-fiction. Selected major works and authors are taken from all the periods of African-American literature to show the breadth and variety of African-American literary tradition.
Offered: Resident and Online

ENGL 654 Methods of Teaching Writing Across the Curriculum 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is a study of the theories, practices, and different scenarios of writing to learn, including pedagogy of using writing as a means of learning in the English classroom and within the disciplines.
Offered: Online

ENGL 656 Studies in World Literatures 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is a study of some of the world’s literary masterpieces from antiquity to the present with particular emphasis on religious texts, diverse literary traditions, and universal themes.
Offered: Resident and Online

ENGL 664 English as a World Language 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course analyzes the reasons for the rise of English language to a position of global dominance over other major world languages.
Offered: Online

ENGL 689 Thesis Proposal and Research 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is designed to help students complete their M.A. Thesis. It is expected that research for the thesis project will be relevant to the student’s study in the master’s program and will make an academic contribution to the research in English.
Offered: Resident and Online

ENGL 690 Thesis Defense 3 Credit Hour(s)
ENGL 690 - Thesis Defense (3 hours)
Offered: Resident and Online

ENGL 695 Directed Research 3 Credit Hour(s)
Offered: Resident

ENGL 697 English Seminar 3 Credit Hour(s)

ENGL 699 Thesis 3 Credit Hour(s)
Offered: Resident