

# MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH LITERATURES

The MA Program in English Literatures prides itself on its intellectual rigor, diversity of subjects and approaches, and commitment to excellence in teaching. Course offerings balance traditional literary history with new work in such fields as postcolonial studies, food studies, digital literacies, environmental humanities, cultural studies, literature and psychology, narrative, lyric, and performance theories, and feminist studies. Students in the program have the flexibility to design and personalize their master's program to meet their diverse interests and provide opportunities for professionalization in the field.

The MA Program serves the needs of those whose goal is teaching in junior or community colleges or private high schools, pursuing a Ph.D., or advancing skills and knowledge in reading and writing about literature. Our graduates work as teachers in high schools and community colleges; enter the field of publishing; write for journals, magazines, and online publications; earn PhDs; enter law school; start their own businesses; and work for non-profits, foundations, and government agencies.

## Admission Requirements

Admission to the program is competitive. In order to be considered for the program, applicants should submit:

- University "Cal State Apply" application
- Department application for MA: English Literatures (available from the English Department website)
- A statement of purpose, detailing the applicant's intellectual interests, the basis of his or her engagement in the field, and professional goals
- An academic writing sample
- Transcripts from each college or university attended
- Two or more academic letters of recommendation

## Admission Categories

Once a student has been admitted to the graduate program in Literature, s/he may be given CLASSIFIED standing if (a) s/he has completed an undergraduate degree in English comparable to the undergraduate program at SF State, and (b) s/he has achieved a grade point average of at least 3.0 in the major. This CLASSIFIED graduate student is ready to take English 741, the seminar which functions as a "portal course" to further seminar work. Students admitted in one of the three categories described below may not take seminars in the range 741-790 until they have achieved CLASSIFIED status.

These are the three categories of CONDITIONAL CLASSIFIED status:

1. CC/SD (Conditional Classified/Subject Deficiency): Usually given to students who have an undergraduate major other than English (with a 3.0 or higher GPA), or a background showing substantial personal interest in literature. This applicant will be required to complete a specified number of upper-division courses in literature determined by the admissions committee. These courses may not be credited toward the 10-course M.A. program.

2. CC/P (Conditional Classified/GPA Deficiency): Usually given to students with an undergraduate English major GPA of 2.5–2.9 (without 9 or more units of graduate English courses taken with a GPA of 3.0 or higher). This applicant will be required to complete a specified number of courses (upper-division or possibly seminars) determined by the admissions committee with a GPA of 3.3 or higher. Once completed, these courses become part of the 10-course M.A. program.
3. CC/SD & P (Conditional Classified, with both Subject and GPA Deficiency): Usually given to students with a course record described in (1) above with a GPA of 2.5–2.9.

## English Literatures (M.A.) – 30 Units

### Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
ENG 741	Seminar: Literary Theory and Research Methods	3

### Literary History Course (3 units)

Code	Title	Units
------	-------	-------

Select one:

ENG 750	Seminar in Medieval English Literature
ENG 751	Seminar: Studies in 16th Century English Literature
ENG 752	Seminar: Studies in 17th Century English Literature
ENG 753	Seminar: Studies in 18th Century English Literature
ENG 754	Seminar: The Romantic Movement
ENG 755	Seminar: Studies in Victorian Literature
ENG 756	Seminar: 20th Century English Literature
ENG 758	Seminar: Southern African Literature in English
ENG 760	Seminar: Studies in American Literature 1600-1899
ENG 762	Seminar: Twentieth Century American Literature
ENG 763	Contemporary American Short Fiction
ENG 770	Seminar: The Novel
ENG 776	Studies in Caribbean Literature in English
ENG 780	Seminar: Individual Authors
ENG 782	Seminar: Chaucer
ENG 785	Seminar: Shakespeare
ENG 789	Milton

or a course approved by an advisor

### Literary Methods (3 units)

Code	Title	Units
------	-------	-------

Select one:

ENG 742	Seminar: Studies in Criticism
ENG 744	Seminar: Literature and Psychology
ENG 746	Seminar: Opera and Literature
ENG 748	Rhetoric, Politics, and Ethics of Deconstruction
ENG 790	Seminar: Selected Studies
ENG 800	Rhetoric for Composition Teachers

or a course approved by an advisor

### Graduate Literature Courses (12 units)

Code	Title	Units
------	-------	-------

Select four:

ENG 717	Projects in the Teaching of Literature
---------	--

<a href="#">ENG 742</a>	Seminar: Studies in Criticism
<a href="#">ENG 744</a>	Seminar: Literature and Psychology
<a href="#">ENG 746</a>	Seminar: Opera and Literature
<a href="#">ENG 748</a>	Rhetoric, Politics, and Ethics of Deconstruction
<a href="#">ENG 750</a>	Seminar in Medieval English Literature
<a href="#">ENG 751</a>	Seminar: Studies in 16th Century English Literature
<a href="#">ENG 752</a>	Seminar: Studies in 17th Century English Literature
<a href="#">ENG 753</a>	Seminar: Studies in 18th Century English Literature
<a href="#">ENG 754</a>	Seminar: The Romantic Movement
<a href="#">ENG 755</a>	Seminar: Studies in Victorian Literature
<a href="#">ENG 756</a>	Seminar: 20th Century English Literature
<a href="#">ENG 758</a>	Seminar: Southern African Literature in English
<a href="#">ENG 760</a>	Seminar: Studies in American Literature 1600-1899
<a href="#">ENG 762</a>	Seminar: Twentieth Century American Literature
<a href="#">ENG 763</a>	Contemporary American Short Fiction
<a href="#">ENG 770</a>	Seminar: The Novel
<a href="#">ENG 776</a>	Studies in Caribbean Literature in English
<a href="#">ENG 780</a>	Seminar: Individual Authors
<a href="#">ENG 782</a>	Seminar: Chaucer
<a href="#">ENG 785</a>	Seminar: Shakespeare
<a href="#">ENG 789</a>	Milton
<a href="#">ENG 790</a>	Seminar: Selected Studies
<a href="#">ENG 803</a>	Teaching Practicum: Literature
<a href="#">ENG 820</a>	The Constructed Body in Literature

or courses approved by an advisor

**Electives (6 units)**

Code	Title	Units
Select two:		6
<a href="#">ENG 501</a>	Age of Chaucer	
<a href="#">ENG 503</a>	Studies in Medieval Literature	
<a href="#">ENG 510</a>	The Age of Wit	
<a href="#">ENG 512</a>	18th-Century British Women Writers	
<a href="#">ENG 514</a>	Age of the Romantics	
<a href="#">ENG 516</a>	Age of the Victorians	
<a href="#">ENG 521</a>	Studies in 20th-Century English Literature	
<a href="#">ENG 524</a>	Contemporary American Short Story	
<a href="#">ENG 525</a>	Studies in American Literature	
<a href="#">ENG 526</a>	Age of the American Renaissance: 1830-1860	
<a href="#">ENG 527</a>	American Literature: 1860-1914	
<a href="#">ENG 528</a>	American Literature: 1914-1960	
<a href="#">ENG 533</a>	Holocaust and Literature	
<a href="#">ENG 535</a>	Literature and Ecology	
<a href="#">ENG 546</a>	20th Century American Jewish Women Writers	
<a href="#">ENG 550</a>	The Rise of the Novel	
<a href="#">ENG 552</a>	Modern British Novel	
<a href="#">ENG 553</a>	Classic American Novel	
<a href="#">ENG 554</a>	Modern American Novel	
<a href="#">ENG 555</a>	The Short Story	
<a href="#">ENG 558</a>	Early Twentieth Century Poetry in the United States	
<a href="#">ENG 559</a>	Middle and Late Twentieth Century Poetry in the United States	

<a href="#">ENG 570</a>	Medieval and Renaissance Drama
<a href="#">ENG 571</a>	Shakespeare's Rivals
<a href="#">ENG 573</a>	American Drama
<a href="#">ENG 574</a>	Modern British Drama
<a href="#">ENG 580</a>	Individual Authors
<a href="#">ENG 581</a>	Jane Austen
<a href="#">ENG 583</a>	Shakespeare: Representative Plays
<a href="#">ENG 584</a>	Shakespeare: Selected Plays
<a href="#">ENG 589</a>	Milton
<a href="#">ENG 600</a>	Theory of Literature
<a href="#">ENG 601</a>	Literature and Psychology
<a href="#">ENG 602</a>	Literature and Society
<a href="#">ENG 611</a>	Modern Criticism
<a href="#">ENG 612</a>	Serial Narrative
<a href="#">ENG 614</a>	Women in Literature: Authors and Characters
<a href="#">ENG 615</a>	Imagery, Metaphor, and Symbol
<a href="#">ENG 630</a>	Selected Studies
<a href="#">ENG 633</a>	Gay Love in Literature
<a href="#">ENG 636</a>	Greek and Roman Myth and Modern Literature
<a href="#">ENG 637</a>	
<a href="#">ENG 638</a>	Global Cities
<a href="#">ENG 640</a>	Global Texts and Practices
<a href="#">ENG 717</a>	Projects in the Teaching of Literature
<a href="#">ENG 742</a>	Seminar: Studies in Criticism
<a href="#">ENG 744</a>	Seminar: Literature and Psychology
<a href="#">ENG 746</a>	Seminar: Opera and Literature
<a href="#">ENG 748</a>	Rhetoric, Politics, and Ethics of Deconstruction
<a href="#">ENG 750</a>	Seminar in Medieval English Literature
<a href="#">ENG 751</a>	Seminar: Studies in 16th Century English Literature
<a href="#">ENG 752</a>	Seminar: Studies in 17th Century English Literature
<a href="#">ENG 753</a>	Seminar: Studies in 18th Century English Literature
<a href="#">ENG 754</a>	Seminar: The Romantic Movement
<a href="#">ENG 755</a>	Seminar: Studies in Victorian Literature
<a href="#">ENG 756</a>	Seminar: 20th Century English Literature
<a href="#">ENG 758</a>	Seminar: Southern African Literature in English
<a href="#">ENG 760</a>	Seminar: Studies in American Literature 1600-1899
<a href="#">ENG 762</a>	Seminar: Twentieth Century American Literature
<a href="#">ENG 763</a>	Contemporary American Short Fiction
<a href="#">ENG 770</a>	Seminar: The Novel
<a href="#">ENG 776</a>	Studies in Caribbean Literature in English
<a href="#">ENG 780</a>	Seminar: Individual Authors
<a href="#">ENG 782</a>	Seminar: Chaucer
<a href="#">ENG 785</a>	Seminar: Shakespeare
<a href="#">ENG 789</a>	Milton
<a href="#">ENG 790</a>	Seminar: Selected Studies
<a href="#">ENG 803</a>	Teaching Practicum: Literature
<a href="#">ENG 820</a>	The Constructed Body in Literature
<a href="#">ENG 899</a>	Independent Study

or courses approved by an advisor

**Culminating Experience (3 units)**

Code	Title	Units
Select one:		3
<a href="#">ENG 898</a>	Master's Thesis	
<a href="#">ENG 896</a> & <a href="#">896EXM</a>	Directed Readings in Preparation for the CE Examination and Culminating Experience Examination	

**Early Period Distribution Requirement**

As part of their 30-unit program requirements, students must take at least one course (3 units) in literature before 1800. The early period requirement may be met by courses that also fulfill the above listed subject requirements (for example, the early period course might also count as the "Literary History" required course, or it might count as an elective). Thus, the early period requirement is a distribution requirement, not a course requirement.

Note: Courses in grammar and composition pedagogy do NOT count towards the 30-unit MA. However, courses from other departments related to a student's particular field of interest—up to six units with approval of adviser—may be counted.

**Culminating Experience Requirements**

Students must choose **one** of the following options:

**Directed Readings in Preparation for the CE Examination ([ENG 896](#))**

Students pursuing this option will be examined on texts in two fields of the discipline based on departmental reading lists and the student's special area of interest. A list of the required readings for each historical field is kept on file in the Department of English. For each field, students will typically select 25 texts from a list of 30 primary texts, and 5 texts from a list of 10 works of criticism. The students' CE exam, then, will typically be based on a total of 50 primary texts and 10 works of criticism. In both fields, students will submit a 5 to 6-page written assignment, one for each field, or 10-12 pages total of writing. The CE culminates in a 90-minute oral examination. The exam will be conducted by two faculty members who will each examine the student in one of their two chosen fields.

Students selecting the written and oral examination option will enroll in **both** [ENG 896](#) Directed Readings in Preparation for the CE Examination (3 units) **and** [ENG 896EXM](#) Culminating Experience Examination (0 units).

To receive Credit for [ENG 896](#) and [ENG 896EXM](#), students must pass both the written and oral portions of the CE Examination.

**Master's Thesis ([ENG 898](#))**

The CE Thesis consists of three parts: the prospectus, the prospectus examination, and the thesis itself. Before undertaking these, students ready for [ENG 898](#) must discuss their idea(s) for the thesis with their adviser and/or the faculty members they would like to serve as readers. After the thesis committee has been established, the student must submit a prospectus to his or her committee members. The prospectus then becomes the basis for the oral prospectus exam, which is scheduled before a student begins writing the thesis. The prospectus is a written statement, usually including the controlling purpose of the thesis; the selection of literary sources; an overview of the relevant scholarship and criticism; and the value and interest of the study. The prospectus exam is a one-hour discussion of the prospectus conducted by the two thesis readers.