

ENGLISH - LITERATURE MAJOR CONCENTRATION (B.A.) (36 CREDITS)

Offered by: English (Faculty of Arts)

Degree: Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Arts and Science

Program credit weight: 36

Program Description

The Literature option provides a grounding in the basic texts and methods of the discipline as well as wide acquaintance with substantial areas of the field.

For the most up-to-date information on Department requirements and detailed course descriptions, please see the English Department Handbook at <http://www.mcgill.ca/english/>.

Degree Requirements — B.A. students

To be eligible for a B.A. degree, a student must fulfil all Faculty and program requirements as indicated in Degree Requirements for the Faculty of Arts.

We recommend that students consult an Arts OASIS advisor for degree planning.

Degree Requirements — B.A. & Sc. students

This program is offered as part of a Bachelor of Arts & Science (B.A. & Sc.) degree.

To graduate, students must satisfy both their program requirements and their degree requirements.

- The program requirements (i.e., the specific courses that make up this program) are listed under the Course Tab (above).
- The degree requirements—including the mandatory Foundation program, appropriate degree structure, and any additional components—are outlined on the Degree Requirements page.

Students are responsible for ensuring that this program fits within the overall structure of their degree and that all degree requirements are met. Consult the Degree Planning Guide on the SOUSA website for additional guidance.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

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Required Courses (9 credits)

These courses should be taken in the first two terms of the program.

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 202	Departmental Survey of English Literature 1.	3
ENGL 203	Departmental Survey of English Literature 2.	3
ENGL 311	Poetics.	3

Complementary Courses (27 credits)

27 credits selected as described below.

Note on Topics Courses: The Department of English offers courses which change topic from academic year to academic year. Depending on the topic in a specific year, these courses may count toward different program requirements. At the time they register for a topics course, students should confirm with their program adviser the program requirement it fulfils for that academic year.

Canadian Literature

3 credits from a list of Canadian Literature courses:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 228	Canadian Literature 1.	3
ENGL 229	Canadian Literature 2.	3
ENGL 327	Canadian Prose Fiction 1.	3
ENGL 328	Development of Canadian Poetry 1.	3
ENGL 333	Development of Canadian Poetry 2.	3
ENGL 409	Studies in a Canadian Author.	3
ENGL 410	Theme or Movement Canadian Literature.	3
ENGL 411	Studies in Canadian Fiction.	3

Theory or Criticism

3 credits from a list of courses on Theory or Criticism:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 317	Theory of English Studies 1.	3
ENGL 318	Theory of English Studies 2.	3
ENGL 319	Theory of English Studies 3.	3
ENGL 322	Theories of the Text.	3
ENGL 346	Materiality and Sociology of Text.	3
ENGL 352	Theories of Difference.	3

Areas of English Literature

6 credits, 3 credits each from two of the following areas: Backgrounds of English Literature, Old English, Medieval, Renaissance:

Backgrounds of English Literature

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 347	Great Writings of Europe 1.	3
ENGL 348	Great Writings of Europe 2.	3
ENGL 349	English Literature and Folklore 1.	3

Old English

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 342	Introduction to Old English.	3
ENGL 349	English Literature and Folklore 1.	3
ENGL 452	Studies in Old English.	3

Medieval

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 337	Theme or Genre in Medieval Literature.	3
ENGL 349	English Literature and Folklore 1.	3
ENGL 356	Middle English.	3
ENGL 357	Chaucer .	3
ENGL 456	Middle English.	3

Renaissance

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 305	Renaissance English Literature 1.	3
ENGL 307	Renaissance English Literature 2.	3
ENGL 308	English Renaissance Drama 1.	3
ENGL 315	Shakespeare.	3
ENGL 316	Milton.	3
ENGL 349	English Literature and Folklore 1.	3
ENGL 400	Earlier English Renaissance.	3
ENGL 401	Studies in the 17th Century.	3
ENGL 416	Studies in Shakespeare.	3

Areas of English Literature

6 credits, 3 credits each from two of the following areas: Restoration, 18th Century, Romantic, Victorian, 19th Century American:

Restoration

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 302	Restoration and 18th C. English Literature 1.	3
ENGL 303		3
ENGL 444	Studies in Women Authors.	3

18 Century

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 301	Earlier 18th Century Novel.	3
ENGL 302	Restoration and 18th C. English Literature 1.	3
ENGL 303		3
ENGL 304	Later Eighteenth Century Novel.	3
ENGL 403	Studies in the 18th Century.	3
ENGL 444	Studies in Women Authors.	3

Romantic

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 331	Literature Romantic Period 1.	3
ENGL 332	Literature Romantic Period 2.	3
ENGL 405	Studies in 19th Century Literature 2.	3
ENGL 444	Studies in Women Authors.	3

Victorian

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 329	English Novel: 19th Century 1.	3
ENGL 330	English Novel: 19th Century 2.	3
ENGL 334	Victorian Poetry.	3
ENGL 404	Studies in 19th Century Literature 1.	3
ENGL 405	Studies in 19th Century Literature 2.	3
ENGL 444	Studies in Women Authors.	3

19th Century American

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 326	19th Century American Prose.	3
ENGL 422	Studies in 19th Century American Literature.	3
ENGL 444	Studies in Women Authors.	3

Areas of English Literature

3 credits from one of the following areas: Early 20th Century, Modernist, Post-modernist, Contemporary:

Early 20th Century

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 361	Poetry of the 20th Century 1.	3
ENGL 414	Studies in 20th Century Literature 1.	3
ENGL 444	Studies in Women Authors.	3

Modernist

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 335	The 20th Century Novel 1.	3
ENGL 361	Poetry of the 20th Century 1.	3
ENGL 414	Studies in 20th Century Literature 1.	3
ENGL 418	A Major Modernist Writer.	3
ENGL 444	Studies in Women Authors.	3

Post-modernist

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 320	Postcolonial Literature.	3
ENGL 443	Contemporary Women's Fiction.	3
ENGL 444	Studies in Women Authors.	3

Contemporary

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits			
ENGL 320	Postcolonial Literature.	3	ENGL 416	Studies in Shakespeare.	3
ENGL 333	Development of Canadian Poetry 2.	3	ENGL 417	A Major English Poet.	3
ENGL 336	The 20th Century Novel 2.	3	ENGL 418	A Major Modernist Writer.	3
ENGL 362		3			
ENGL 407	The 20th Century.	3			
ENGL 408	The 20th Century.	3			
ENGL 419	Studies in 20th Century Literature.	3			
ENGL 443	Contemporary Women's Fiction.	3			
ENGL 444	Studies in Women Authors.	3			

Additional Literature

6 additional credits from ENGL offerings in Literature which includes all the courses specifically listed in the Literature categories above and the courses listed below. Any ENGL course not on these Literature lists, such as courses in Cultural Studies, may not count toward the Major Concentration in English - Literature.

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 199	FYS: Form and Representation.	3
ENGL 204	English Literature and the Bible.	3
ENGL 237	Introduction to Study of a Literary Form.	3
ENGL 297	Special Topics of Literary Study.	3
ENGL 343	Literature and Science 1.	3
ENGL 345	Literature and Society.	3
ENGL 354	Sexuality and Representation.	3
ENGL 364	Creative Writing.	3
ENGL 385	Topics in Literature and Film.	3
ENGL 394	Popular Literary Forms.	3
ENGL 421	African Literature.	3
ENGL 424	Irish Literature.	3
ENGL 437	Studies in Literary Form.	3
ENGL 438	Studies in Literary Form.	3
ENGL 440	First Nations and Inuit Literature and Media.	3
ENGL 447	Crosscurrents/English Literature and European Literature 1.	3
ENGL 460	Studies in Literary Theory.	3
ENGL 461	Studies in Literary Theory 2.	3

Major Author

3 credits on a Major Author must be included in the 27 complementary course credits.

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ENGL 315	Shakespeare.	3
ENGL 316	Milton.	3
ENGL 357	Chaucer .	3
ENGL 409	Studies in a Canadian Author.	3