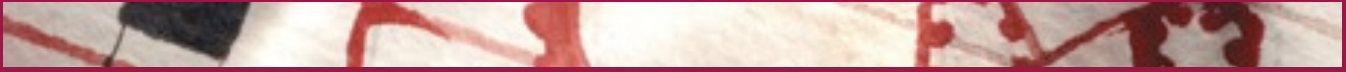


Minor in English @ CMU



Why Should You Pursue a Minor in English?

One of the most desired skills is an ability to think critically and write well. As Mark Bauerlein points out, “When it came time to identify the most common skill or knowledge cited by employers as needed in the post-downturn, globalized, 21st-century universe, what came up first was a basic, longstanding skill: “The ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing.” Eighty-nine percent of employers highlighted it; “critical thinking” and “analytical reasoning” came in second at 81 percent.”

By learning to write in a variety of modes, you will learn to adapt to different audiences and purposes. Employers will value your ability to solve problems and present ideas in effective language to a wide range of audiences. You will think critically, having learned to weigh evidence, identify assumptions, evaluate persuasive appeals, and recognize faulty reasoning. Employers want smart, flexible, and creative employees, all hallmarks of a student who studies English. Consider the possibilities...



DIY: Design Your Own Curriculum

Our minor is flexible. You need to take 18 credits, and you may choose from any of the department’s course offerings, as long as two courses are upper-division.

You can combine writing, reading, and theory courses in such a way that you acquire the skills and background you need.

Too much freedom? If so, then let us pack your lunch for you. Consider the concentrations on the other side.

Curriculum Pathways

If you don't want to create your own program, consider these "curriculum pathways" that allow you to focus on a particular set of skills and abilities. You are, however, still free to mix and match courses so long as you take the required numbers of hours.



Creative Writing

Opportunities abound as you hone your craft in poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction workshops. Consider the following courses: Creative Non-Fiction, Fiction, Crafting Fiction, Poetry, Art of the Essay, Literary Editing and Publishing, Seminar in Writing (but you'll need to complete two courses at the 300 level before you enroll in the Seminar).



Technical Writing

Our program helps you write for business, industry, science organizations, and many forms of professional writing. We're establishing internships so that you have real-world work experience.

Options include Report and Proposal Writing, Art of the Essay, Technical and Professional Writing, Roots of Modern Rhetoric, Literary Editing and Publishing.



Literature

By reading literary texts, you consider the fundamental questions writers have explored for millennia. And in the process of reading, interpreting, and evaluating complex literature, you learn to organize ideas, assert and defend claims, and research.

We encourage you to take a couple 200 level surveys and then any additional courses in literature that the department offers.



Critical Frameworks

You will benefit from courses that focus on ways of thinking, paradigms, and fundamental assumptions. The following courses all explore theories, theories of language, reading, gender, film, and social systems: Women in World Thought and Literature, Language Systems and Linguistic Diversity, Roots of Modern Rhetoric, Intro to Film Studies, Intro to Literary Theory, Ethnic Experiences in US Literature, History of English Language, Structure of English Language, Composition Theory and Practice, and Seminar in Literature.