

# ENGLISH: LITERATURE CONCENTRATION (BA)

## Program Description

Paying deep attention to how humans use language and cultural signs is an ethical and spiritual discipline, one that teaches intellectual humility even as it empowers us to transfigure the world. Our programs in creative writing, literature, and social justice foster each student’s capacity for empathetic understanding, imaginative insight, and compelling wordcraft. By exploring cultural productions (literature, film, technologies, social movements) of various peoples and time periods, our students learn how to wrestle—rigorously, inventively, and fearlessly—with complex human questions about race and class, gender and sexuality, faith and truth, and material Christian practices. By the time they graduate, students will have had extensive training in charitable critical thinking, analytical interpretation, persuasive argumentation, and intercultural competencies. These skills prepare students for a wide range of careers in areas such as publishing, marketing, and digital media; creative arts and entertainment; education and library science; law, medicine, or ministry; environmental studies; non-profits, social advocacy, and civil rights policy.

## English Major: Literature Concentration

The literature concentration of the English major gives students a deep dive into literary history, literature that engages cultural difference and systems of power, and literature that explores how genre conventions have changed over time. This concentration provides students with extensive practice in literary analysis and criticism, training them to imagine and question the multiple ways that texts exert their power on the world.

Both concentrations of the English major are well-suited for a wide variety of careers. The literature concentration is especially appropriate for students interested in teaching English or Language Arts at the middle school, high school or college level.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the English major, students should be able to

1. Interpret texts and cultural artifacts using “close reading,” a method of literary and cultural analysis that attends to a work’s genre, its linguistic and aesthetic features, and its effects on readers
2. Place literature and other media in a historical context, understanding how any text (and its criticism) is part of a “long conversation” over time and across space
3. Identify ways that texts can enforce, resist, or ameliorate problematic social systems of power
4. Articulate the value of literary ways of knowing, especially in regard to metaphor, ambiguity, irony, paradox, and mystery
5. Identify various literary and rhetorical strategies for putting Christian values in conversation with other religious and social perspectives
6. Produce analytical writing that asserts a clear and significant claim, marshals compelling evidence, charitably anticipates and addresses alternative interpretations, and responsibly integrates and cites researched sources
7. Articulate the value of recursive processes of drafting, revising, and sentence-level editing, whether in critical or creative writing

## Entering and Completing the Major

In order to earn a degree, you must complete at least one academic major. SPU encourages students to explore various academic paths, so if you change your mind about a major, or want to include an additional program, you are able to do so, as outlined below.

Note that the University encourages you to enter your chosen major(s) as soon as you have determined it and are eligible to join it, especially by the start of your junior year. Students who transfer as juniors and seniors should enter a major within their first two quarters at SPU.

- If this is your first quarter at SPU and you identified a major in this department as your first choice on your application for admission to the University, you have gained entry to the major. To change or add a major, follow these instructions (<https://spu.atlassian.net/l/cp/a3th1keb/>).
- If you are an SPU student with an SPU cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better, follow these instructions (<https://spu.atlassian.net/l/cp/a3th1keb/>) to enter a major in this department.
- The University requires a grade of C- or better in all classes that apply to a major; however, programs may require higher minimum grades in specific courses. You may repeat an SPU course only once for a higher grade.
- To advance in this program, meet with your faculty advisor regularly to discuss your grades, course progression, and other indicators of satisfactory academic progress. If your grades or other factors indicate that you may not be able to successfully complete the major or minor, your faculty advisor can work with you to explore options, which may include choosing a different major.
- You must complete the major requirements that are in effect in the SPU Undergraduate Catalog for the year you enter the major.

## English: Literature Concentration (BA)

63 Credits Minimum, Including 30 Upper Division (UD)

Code	Title	Credits
Core Requirements		
ENG 2225	Literary Interpretation	5
ENG 2251	English Literature: Beginnings through Milton	5
ENG 2252	English Literature: Restoration through Victorian	5
ENG 2253	American Literature: Beginnings to 1900	5
ENG 4445	Shakespeare	5
ENG 4899	Senior Capstone in English	5
Section Credits Required		30
Methods and Methodologies Core		
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 3150	The Sentence	
ENG 3180	Advanced Grammar	
ENG 3301	Advanced Expository Writing	
ENG 3302	Writing Across Cultures	
ENG 3310	Elements of Prosody	
ENG 3311	Elements of Narrative	
ENG 4601	History of English	
ENG 4685	Literary Theory	
ENG 4701	Teaching Writing:Theory and Practice	
Section Credits Required		3
Cultural Studies		

Select one of the following:	5
ENG 3331 Race Riots Uprisings	
ENG 3332 African American Literature	
ENG 3334 United States Multi-Ethnic Literature	
ENG 3339 United States Latinx Literature	
ENG 4451 Toni Morrison	
Select one of the following:	5
ENG 3380 African Literature	
ENG 3381 Middle East: Film and Story	
ENG 3382 South Africa: Stages of Protest and Democracy	
ENG 3383 Arab Spring: Gender, Islam, Democracy	
ENG 3384 US Imperialism in Asia Pacific Islands	
Section Credits Required	10
<b>Advanced Literary Studies</b>	
Select 20 credits of the following: <sup>1,2</sup>	20
ENG 3003 Literature and Medicine	
ENG 3004 Literature, Gender, and Sexuality	
ENG 3325 Film and Story	
ENG 3335 Celtic Literature and Culture	
ENG 3345 Medieval English Literature	
ENG 3346 English Renaissance Literature	
ENG 3347 Literature of Enlightenment and Revolution	
ENG 3348 Romantic Poetry and Fiction	
ENG 3351 Victorian Literature	
ENG 3386 The Eternal City in Art and Literature	
ENG 3710 19th Century American Literature	
ENG 3715 20th Century American Literature	
ENG 3840 Lewis and Tolkien	
ENG 4152 Modernist Literature	
ENG 4162 Postmodern Literature	
ENG 4440 Geoffrey Chaucer	
ENG 4442 John Milton	
ENG 4449 Jane Austen	
ENG 4450 Emily Dickinson	
ENG 4822 The Novel	
ENG 4823 The Poem	
ENG 4824 The Short Story	
ENG 4825 The Essay	
ENG 4950 Special Topics	
Section Credits Required	20
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>63</b>

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OK for Advanced Literary Studies if not used for Cultural Studies:

- ENG 3331 Race Riots Uprisings
- ENG 3332 African American Literature
- ENG 3334 United States Multi-Ethnic Literature
- ENG 3339 United States Latinx Literature
- ENG 3380 African Literature
- ENG 3381 Middle East: Film and Story
- ENG 3382 South Africa: Stages of Protest and Democracy
- ENG 3383 Arab Spring: Gender, Islam, Democracy
- ENG 4451 Toni Morrison

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ENG 2221 Good Poems/ENG 2223 Fantasy and Science Fiction/ENG 2234 Literature by Women/ENG 2248 International Fiction  
OK for Advanced Literary Studies (one only).

## Suggested Course Sequence

### Undecided Students

- If you're undecided whether you want to commit to the English major and/or the Literature Concentration, in your freshman year take an English course that also meets the Ways of Knowing/Humanities requirement. Good WK options are listed here:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Freshman Year Options for Undecided Students</b>		
ENG 1110	Literature and Faith <sup>1</sup>	5
ENG 2221	Good Poems	5
ENG 2223	Fantasy and Science Fiction	5
ENG 2234	Literature by Women	5
ENG 2248	International Fiction	5
ENG 3334	United States Multi-Ethnic Literature	5

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This course does not count toward the English major

### Committed Students

- If you're committed to the English major, plan to take the required 2000-level core courses in your freshman and sophomore years. Academically talented students may take them as first-quarter freshmen.
- All English majors are strongly encouraged to take ENG 2225 Literary Interpretation as soon as possible: the writing, research and interpretive skills covered in that course will help ensure success in all other ENG courses.
- Please note that all core courses for the major are offered in only one section per year.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>2000-Level Core Courses for English Major Literature Concentration</b>		
ENG 2225	Literary Interpretation	5
ENG 2251	English Literature: Beginnings through Milton	5
ENG 2252	English Literature: Restoration through Victorian	5
ENG 2253	American Literature: Beginnings to 1900	5

## Additional Notes

- Take your required and elective 3000- and 4000-level courses as a sophomore, junior, or senior.
- Note that ENG 4899 Senior Capstone in English, required of all English major seniors, is offered only once per year, typically in winter quarter.
- Curriculum Changes for 2025-26: To better meet students' academic needs and interests, the English and Cultural Studies department is working on curricular changes that will take effect in 2025-26. Your faculty advisors will provide you with plenty of guidance as we make this shift. Since the new curriculum features increased flexibility in the requirements, it should not affect students' time-to-degree (and it may actually shorten it in some cases).