

## Master of Arts in English

The Master of Arts (MA) program in English equips graduate students with the knowledge and skills necessary both to the outstanding teacher and to the well prepared candidate for further graduate study. The graduate committee of the department accordingly requires its master's candidates to follow a course of advanced study that leads to a comprehensive knowledge of English and American literature. Candidates are also given training in the principles of literary criticism and in the use of bibliographic tools so that they will have a general competence in criticism and research.

### Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the general requirements of the Graduate School, with the additional requirements that they have a 3.0 grade point average in their previous English courses. The coordinator of graduate studies in English will then evaluate the applicant's transcript, prescribing additional undergraduate hours for those who have fewer than 24 credit hours in English and American literature or in other work acceptable to the Department of English. Courses in freshman composition, grammar, teaching methods, journalism, speech, etc., may not be included in the required 24 hours. Exceptions may be made for outstanding students who have majored in related fields.

In addition to Graduate School application materials, applicants to the MA English program should submit a 500 word statement of purpose explaining their goals or reasons for pursuing an MA in English as well as their skills, accomplishments, or experiences that suggest they will be able to succeed in the program.

Applicants who are non-native speakers of English must score at least 600 (paper based test), 100 (internet based test) on the TOEFL examination OR a minimum overall band score of 7.5 on the IELTS examination before being admitted to the degree program in English.

All students are advised by the graduate coordinator to establish a graduate plan of study consistent with the student's interests and vocational needs.

### Degree Requirements

There are three options leading to the Master of Arts degree in English: Plan A, which emphasizes literature, composition, and pedagogy, is especially designed for teachers; Plan B, which requires the student to submit a master's thesis, places more emphasis on research, scholarly writing, and the independent study of literature; and Plan C, which emphasizes comprehensive and cohesive study of literature, is designed for students who wish to pursue advanced study of literature through coursework.

*Plan A* requires the completion of 11 courses for a total of 33 credit hours distributed as follows: ENGL 700, Introduction to Graduate Study in English; two major author(s), genre, or special topics classes; two courses from British Literature before 1900; one course in American literature before WWI; one course in 20th/21st century studies—British, American, or Anglophone; one course in composition theory and pedagogy; and three elective classes in linguistics, literature, or methods of teaching English. A master's thesis is not required, but students must take a comprehensive examination guided by a standard suggested reading list.

*Plan B* requires the completion of 10 courses for a total of 30 credit hours distributed as follows: ENGL 700, Introduction to Graduate Study in English; two major author(s), genre, or special topics classes; two courses from British Literature before 1900; one course in American literature before WWI; one course in 20th/ 21st century studies—British, American, or Anglophone; two elective classes in linguistics, literature, or methods of teaching English; and a master's thesis (ENGL 890). A maximum of 3 hours of ENGL 890 can be applied toward the degree. Plan B also requires a written comprehensive examination and an oral thesis defense.

*Plan C* requires the completion of 11 courses for a total of 33 credit hours distributed as follows: ENGL 700, Introduction to Graduate Study in English; two major author(s), genre, or special topics classes; two courses from British

Literature before 1900; one course in American literature before WWI; one course in 20th/21st century studies—British, American, or Anglophone; and four elective classes in literature chosen in consultation with the graduate coordinator. A master's thesis is not required, but students must take a comprehensive examination guided by a standard suggested reading list.

Regents' rules require that at least seven courses counted toward the MA be at or above the 700 level. With graduate coordinator approval, one elective may be taken in another department or college, such as the College of Education.

### **Financial Aid**

The program awards several graduate teaching assistantships every year. Graduate teaching assistants typically teach two sections of composition-six hours per week of teaching plus office hours. The assistantships provide a stipend and one hundred percent tuition waiver. Application deadlines for teaching assistant positions are October 1 for Spring, and February 10 for Fall. Applications received after these dates will still be considered, but for full consideration, meeting the stated deadlines is strongly encouraged.

Other financial aid may be available through the graduate school or through the department in the form of occasional competitive scholarships and awards.

### **Faculty**

**Tina Bennett-Kastor**, PhD, University of Southern California, 1978. Linguistics, Language & Composition

**Christopher K. Brooks**, PhD, Purdue University, 1987. Eighteenth Century, Film

**Sinkwan Cheng**, PhD, SUNY Buffalo, 1995, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature, Comparative Literature

**Francis Connor**, PhD University of Virginia, 2010. Early Modern British Literature and Print Culture

**Darren DeFrain**, PhD, Western Michigan University, 2000. Chairperson; Creative Writing

**Kimberly Engber**, PhD, The City University of New York, 2003. American Literature

**Jean Griffith**, PhD, Texas A & M University, 2003. American Literature

**Mary Waters**, PhD, University of California at Davis, 2001. Graduate Coordinator; 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature, Poetry & Fiction

**Donald Wineke**, (emeritus) PhD, Indiana University, 1971. Shakespeare, Drama

**William Woods**, PhD, Indiana University, 1975. Classics, Medieval Literature, Chaucer

**Peter Zoller**, PhD, Claremont Graduate School, 1970. 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature

### **For More Information:**

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### **Apply On-Line**

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