

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE: Bachelor of Arts | Minor

### *“The universe is made of stories, not atoms.”* – Muriel Rukeyser

Creighton’s Department of English provides a pathway to English studies overall that you can use to your benefit in a range of ways. It offers courses in British, American, and global literature, creative writing, rhetoric and linguistics, as well literature of other cultures. Committed and inspirational faculty members encourage and enable you to read from a wide range of critical perspectives and help foster your writing, communication, creative, and analytical skills.

Graduates with Creighton’s B.A. in English regularly go to law and medical school. In fact, surveys show that law and medical schools prefer English majors to many others. In addition, they go to graduate school in English studies and creative writing, and begin fulfilling careers in primary and secondary school teaching, journalism, publishing, public relations, and any other field that requires strong skills in communication, analysis, and creativity. Majoring in English at Creighton will give you a detailed understanding of literature and culture, a broad awareness of human issues and an approach to work and human interactions based on the Jesuit values of social justice and commitment to service.

A minor in English studies is a wonderful complement to many majors in the sciences and humanities. Your English studies courses are flexible and give you a strong training in essential academic and professional skills, including critical analysis, creativity, and writing.

#### WHAT YOU’LL LEARN

English major programs provide graduates with:

- Critical thinking and writing skills
- The values of creativity and innovation, and an ethical background necessary for becoming active, productive, and successful members of society
- A detailed understanding of human cultures and values
- A tolerant and respectful attitude toward others
- An approach to work and human interactions based on love, kindness, and commitment to service to the human community

#### EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Scholarly editing experience at The Henry James Center
- Literary editing experience with *Shadows* and *Blue River* magazines, and the Creighton University Press
- Internships with area publishers, film production companies, theater companies, museums, art centers, community centers, and more

#### CAREER OUTLOOK

A B.A. in English is an excellent preparation for graduate work in the humanities, literature, creative writing, linguistics, and rhetoric and composition. Creighton English majors have a solid foundation for the pursuit of successful careers and leadership roles in many professional fields, including law, medicine, administration, research, education, writing, business, public and foreign service, and many others.

#### CAREER OUTCOMES

##### Employment Opportunities

Our English graduates can be found in almost everyfield:

- Primary and secondary education
- Journalism
- Publishing
- Public Relations
- Law
- Medicine
- Government
- Non-Profits
- Industry
- and many more

In fact, you’ll find English majors in any profession that require any combination of reading, understanding, analyzing, creating, and communicating.

##### Graduate Studies

English graduates pursue a variety of postgraduate programs:

- M5-10% go into graduate studies
- 10-15% go to law school
- 10-15% enter other professional schools such as medicine or dentistry

The measure of the English major is who our students become. Thus the English program seeks to form majors with the critical thinking, writing, and communication skills that will enable them to offer complex solutions to the challenging problems of our world, and to stand out as leaders and thinkers in a diverse global community. To that end, Creighton English offers a flexible core that allows students to engage with complex, diverse, and rigorous practices of reading and writing. The major has one required gateway course and three upper-level courses, each taught in rotation by every regular faculty member of the department. The gateway course introduces students to key concepts and methodologies in English studies. The upper level major core courses develop proficiency in reading and writing and engage with the intersections of English studies and justice in the real world. The specific content of these core courses is designed by the individual instructor teaching the course, because we believe that students learn best when teachers are teaching with their expertise and their passion.

All majors take five required courses, and then an additional 21 credits of ENG courses, at least 18 credits of which must be at the 300 level or above. One 200-level ENG literature course can count toward the English elective credits.

**ENG 200 Introduction to English Studies 3 credits**

ENG 200 is the foundational gateway course that is a prerequisite for the three upper-level Sources and Methods of the major courses. It introduces students to methods and skills in English studies. P: Contemporary Composition

**ENG 330 Sources and Methods of Writing 3 credits**

ENG 330 focuses on the concepts, skills and discursive practices associated with effective writing in at least one of the three English sub-disciplines: creative writing, literary studies, and composition and rhetoric. As part of this course, students will receive and provide feedback from each other on their writing and have opportunity to incorporate the feedback in revision, developing their skill in assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing practices. P: ENG 200.

**ENG 331 Sources and Methods of Reading 3 credits**

Students will engage in methods of understanding or interpreting how a text works. A text is understood to work when its form and its function interact to direct, constrain or multiply meanings. This course introduces students to different methodologies relevant to the discipline of English studies of the course that explain how reading enables the critical interpretation or understanding of texts. Those methodologies situate texts' meanings in different ways. P: ENG 200.

**ENG 332 Sources and Methods of Justice 3 credits**

All professors, in spite of the cliché, are in contact with the world," says Peter Hans Kolvenbach, S.J. Students in ENG 332 will analyze the role of English studies in the discipline of the course as it is in contact with the world. Specifically, students will be asked to critically engage with the moral dimensions of reading and writing; students will explore and explain how writing and reading illuminates humans' search for truth, demonstrates or challenges us to grow in solidarity, and/or demonstrates ways in which we can take responsibility for the complex realities of the world. Students' projects in the course will demonstrate this critical engagement with the moral dimensions of reading and/or writing by demonstrating how texts can contribute to positive solutions for social inequality, or particular solutions to social justice issues. This course demonstrates our department's preferential option for an understanding of English studies that engages questions of society, justice, and the world. P: ENG 200, Ethics course, Critical Issues course.

**ENG 499 Senior Project 3 credits**

This course is designed for senior English majors to provide a capstone for work in the major and specialization (if any). Student's will work on their own project - a senior thesis or creative writing project, as appropriate to the student's individual course of study. The project will be directed by a faculty supervisor. Along with the final project, students will also submit a reflective essay examining how their project serves as a culmination to their course of study within the major. P: Contemporary Composition course; Oral Communication course; Sr. stdg; ENG major; or IC.

*The English Department also offers a Certificate in Creative Writing. Please contact Dr. Brent Spencer (BrentSpencer@creighton.edu) for more information.*

*There is also a Medical Humanities pathway in the English major. If you are interested in medicine and narrative, please contact Dr. Matthew Reznicek (MatthewReznicek@creighton.edu) or Dr. Brooke Kowalke (BrookeKowalke@creighton.edu) for more information.*

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

### Shadows

SHADOWS is Creighton's award-winning student-run literary magazine. The student staff chooses prose, poetry, and art submissions from Creighton undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff. The most powerful pieces are selected for publication. SHADOWS is the oldest student publication on Creighton's campus.

### Sigma Tau Delta

Sigma Tau Delta is an international collegiate honor society for students of English at four-year colleges and universities. It presently has over 850 chapters in the United States and abroad. Sigma Tau Delta's central purpose is to confer distinction for high achievement in English language, literature, and writing, and the organization is dedicated to fostering literacy and all aspects of the discipline of English. The members are an active group of service-oriented students with a wide variety of interests.

### Blue River

Blue River is a nationally distributed literary magazine edited and produced by the students in the MFA program in creative writing.