Academic Programs

EDUC 448  STUDENT TEACHING SEMINAR (1)  Corequisite: EDUC 427, 447, SPED 437, HPE 467, or MUSC 460. This course will continue the student teachers’ study of best practices and engage in discussions and activities to help them acquire the professional values and practical strategies to make the successful transition from college student to student teacher to licensed professional teacher.

ENGLISH COURSES (ENGL)

ENGL 111  COMPOSITION I (3)  In this introduction to the writing process, students learn how to write, revise, and edit papers using a variety of expository forms to prepare for research and analytical writing done primarily in ENGL 112. The course includes a significant amount of reading related to writing, such as essays across the disciplines, classics, and modern literature. ENGL 111 and 112 must be completed as a sequence. That is, a student must take ENGL 111 until successful completion, and in the following semester, a student must take ENGL 112 until successfully completed.

ENGL 112  COMPOSITION II (3)  In this continued work on the writing process, students learn how to take command of an argument and support it effectively. Students learn to read and interpret texts containing language with multiple levels of meaning, develop techniques of writing research papers using argument and analysis (with multiple sources), and research topics efficiently and effectively using the full range of resources, tools, and methodologies.

ENGL 201  LITERATURE AND CULTURE I: MASTERPIECES FROM ANTIQUITY THROUGH THE RENAISSANCE (3)  Prerequisites: ENGL 111, 112. This introduction to the study of literature emphasizes the analysis of selected works from the period. The course includes a significant amount of writing related to the readings, including response essays, critical and creative papers, and tests.

ENGL 202  LITERATURE AND CULTURE II: WORKS FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO THE PRESENT (3)  Prerequisites: ENGL 111, 112. This introduction to the study of literature emphasizes the analysis of selected works from the period. The course includes a significant amount of writing related to the readings, including response essays, critical and creative papers, and tests.

ENGL 203  EXPOSITORY WRITING (3)  [Writing]  Prerequisite: ENGL 111. This course continues the development of the writer’s abilities to generate, edit, and refine written compositions through the study of professional and student expository prose. Particular attention is given to the improvement of composing methods and to the expansion of the writer’s range.

ENGL 205  INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING (3)  [Writing]  Prerequisite: ENGL 111. This course focuses primarily on the writing of poetry and fiction and creative nonfiction and includes study of student and professional texts.

ENGL 209  NATURE WRITING (3)  [Writing]  Prerequisite: ENGL 111. Students advance their writing skills and their understanding of the natural world by reading model texts and writing creatively in at least two genres (such as poetry, creative nonfiction, and fiction). Students explore an array of approaches for writing about nature and the environment, including detailed personal observations, and students analyze how nature writing presents complex relationships between the human and natural worlds. Field trips to nearby sites may be required.

ENGL 210  WRITING IN THE WORKPLACE (3)  [Writing]  Prerequisite: ENGL 111. Students in this course will engage core professional writing concepts, including audience analysis, research, document design, usability, and ethical composing practices. Students will produce works including feasibility reports, usability tests, and public relations documents. Individual and group projects are a feature of this course, as is directed service-learning interaction with community partners.

ENGL 220  INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY STUDIES (3)  [Theory]  Prerequisites: ENGL 111, 112. Using literary texts as a focal point, this course explores the nature and functions of literature, the basics of literary analysis, the three principal genres (poetry, fiction, drama), conventions of writing about literature, and methods and materials of research. The course is intended to be the first course in the English major and is required for all English majors.
ENGL 302  AMERICAN LITERATURE 1607-1865 (3) [B] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course is a study of major literary movements and writers from the time of the earliest settlers to the Civil War. Authors of the period may include Bradstreet, Franklin, Rowson, Sedgwick, Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, Stowe, and Dickinson.

ENGL 303  AMERICAN LITERATURE 1865-1950 (3) [C] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course is a study of major literary movements and writers from the end of the Civil War to the end of World War II. Authors of the period may include Alcott, Twain, Crane, Wharton, Cather, Dreiser, Chopin, Jewett, Steinbeck, and Faulkner.

ENGL 306  MEDIEVAL LITERATURE (3) [A] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course is a survey of the major English literary texts of the medieval period, 500-1500 A.D. The course explores the tensions between warfare and romance in secular and religious literature of the period, including Beowulf, Arthurian legend, mystery plays, Chaucerian poetry, and the courtly lyrics of the later Middle Ages. All Old and Early Middle English texts are read in translation.

ENGL 314  HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (3) [Teacher Licensure] Prerequisites: ENGL 111-112. This course surveys the development of the English language from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present day. Changes in the language are explored in connection with social and historical contexts in Great Britain. Course work includes study of Old and Middle English grammar and some translation of texts. This course also focuses on application of material to teaching in the secondary schools.

ENGL 315  ENGLISH GRAMMAR (3) [Teacher Licensure] Prerequisites: ENGL 111-112. Especially recommended for those planning to teach, this course meets Virginia State Department of Education certification requirements for the teaching of English. This course offers an introduction to the basic elements of the study of language, including phonology (sound patterns), morphology (word formation), syntax (sentence structure), semantics (vocabulary), and orthography (spelling). The course also explores ways of teaching grammar and its impact on writing, reading, and speaking.

ENGL 317  TEACHING WRITING (3) [Teacher Licensure] Prerequisite: ENGL 203, 205. Especially recommended for those planning to teach, this course meets Virginia State Department of Education certification requirements for the teaching of English. This course includes elements of teaching composition as well as teaching creative writing. The premise of the course is that to teach writing, one needs to write, and that from sensitivity to the processes of writing comes the ability to guide others. The course is process-oriented, moving from writing assignments to critiquing pedagogical techniques, and discussing and planning assignments for students.

ENGL 320  LITERARY CRITICISM (3) [Theory] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. Surveying a range of theoretical approaches, this course focuses on the application of theory to literature.

ENGL 323  MODERN MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE (3) [C] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. Using twentieth and twenty-first century writers from around the world such as Milan Kundera, Fae Myenne Ng, and Chinua Achebe, the course explores different cultures, the effects of culture on perspective, the historical self-concepts of various peoples, and other peoples' attitudes toward America.

ENGL 334  GENDER AND LITERATURE (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course focuses on representations of women and men, constructions of femininity and masculinity, and sexual politics. Major issues include constructions of gender, and intersections of gender with race, class, and nationality, and the role of reading and writing in processes of social change.

ENGL 337  AMERICAN MULTI-ETHNIC LITERATURE (3) [C] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. An examination of multi-ethnic literature by American authors in order to study and appreciate the collective construction of American identity by different cultural traditions.

ENGL 340  THORNTON WRITING SEMINAR (1-3) [Writing] [Specific title changes annually] Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. This course in writing is taught by the Thornton Writer-in-Residence. Enrollment is limited to specially selected students; prospective enrollees should apply to the Thornton Committee and be prepared to submit writing samples for admittance. The course is usually structured as a workshop and may be repeated for credit if the specific title and instructor are different.
ENGL 346  CREATIVE WRITING: NON-FICTION (3) [Writing]  Prerequisite: ENGL 205. This workshop deepens the student’s familiarity with the craft of creative nonfiction. Course content includes readings in literary nonfiction that demonstrate a range of formal and aesthetic styles, workshop discussion of student works-in-progress, and writing assignments culminating in a portfolio or series of completed works. Upon course completion, the student will have made satisfactory progress in writing a personal essay, memoir, portrait, travel essay, or other work of creative nonfiction. The student will demonstrate competence in the workshop peer review process.

ENGL 349  CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY (3) [Writing]  Prerequisite: ENGL 205. This workshop deepens the student’s familiarity with the craft of poetry. Students read model texts, write to practice a variety of poetic techniques and forms, and share their own work. Students complete a portfolio of revised poems.

ENGL 350  CREATIVE WRITING: FICTION (3) [Writing]  Prerequisite: ENGL 205. This workshop deepens the student’s familiarity with the craft of fiction. Students read model texts, write to practice a variety of fictional techniques, and share their own work. Students complete a portfolio that includes revised fiction.

ENGL 353  LITERATURE OF THE TUDOR DYNASTY (3) [A]  Prerequisite: ENGL 220. A survey of the literature in England during the turbulent reigns of the Tudor kings and queens, this course includes works shaped by Humanism, the Reformation, scientific empiricism, and an emerging independent British identity. Readings may include poetry, prose, and drama, and will explore developments in literary forms in a nation entering the early modern world.

ENGL 354  THE GOLDEN AGE (3) [A]  Prerequisite: ENGL 220. A survey of the literature of late-Tudor and Stuart England, beginning in the 1580’s and ending on the eve of the English Civil War, this course explores literature written during a time when public theatres, mass printing, and drastic changes in religious and political leadership changed the audience of English literature. The course will focus on the developments in poetry, prose, and drama of the period.

ENGL 355  INTERREGNUM, RESTORATION, AND REVOLUTION (3) [B]  Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course begins with readings from the often neglected period of the English Civil War and Interregnum, including non-canonical writings by religious radicals and Milton’s arguments about monarchical rule. Students will read literature responding to a variety of political upheavals, including the “Glorious Revolution” and the various Catholic “threats” to the throne. Readings include the major satire and comedy of the period as well as early novels.

ENGL 356  ENLIGHTENMENT, EXPANSION, AND EMPIRE (3) [B]  Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course concentrates on poetry, prose, drama, philosophy and periodical literature which reflects and creates British identity in this period of rapid social and economic change. Students will consider the development of the English novel and the rise of sentimentality. Readings include literature about slavery, abolition, and women’s rights as well as literature by poets of the laboring class.

ENGL 357  LITERATURE OF THE ROMANTIC PERIOD (3) [B]  Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course focuses on the principal writers of the Romantic Period in Britain such as Coleridge, Shelley, Byron, Wordsworth, Blake, and Keats, and on the essential elements of British Romanticism.

ENGL 358  LITERATURE OF THE VICTORIAN PERIOD (3) [B]  Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course examines the literature of the Victorian period through the works of such writers as Dickens, Eliot, Carlyle, Tennyson, Arnold, the Brownings, the Brontës, and Hardy, and may include transitional authors such as Shaw, Conrad, and Yeats.

ENGL 360  THE ENGLISH NOVEL (3) [B]  Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course allows students to study the development of the novel through the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries in England. The course considers the novel as a genre and narrative and thematic innovations in English novels through the different periods.

ENGL 365  MODERN POETRY (3) [C]  Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course focuses on poetry through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course considers poetry as a genre and examines the innovations in poetic conventions through different modern literary periods.
ENGL 366  SOUTHERN LITERATURE (3) [C] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. An overview and analysis of the seminal prose and poetry of the American South from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Writers under examination will include such figures as William Faulkner, the fugitive poets, Eudora Welty, Alice Walker, and Lee Smith.

ENGL 368  MODERN FICTION (3) [C] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course explores fiction through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course considers fiction as a genre and examines the narrative and thematic innovations in fiction through different modern literary periods.

ENGL 369  MODERN DRAMA (3) [C] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course examines drama through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course considers dramatic literature as a genre and examines innovations in the writing and staging of dramatic literature through different modern literary periods.

ENGL 371  CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE (3) [C] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. An examination of literature written in English from the second half of the twentieth century to the present.

ENGL 373  LITERATURE AND FILM OF VIETNAM (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course will concentrate on the literature, feature films, and documentaries generated by the Vietnam War. In addition to offering the “facts” surrounding the war, it will incorporate a variety of uncommon perspectives on that war - i.e. fiction and non-fiction written by women and by Vietnamese authors. Social/political commentary on the 60’s and 70’s and on the long-range effects of this Vietnam experience upon the American psyche will also be incorporated.

ENGL 377  STUDY ABROAD (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course provides students with the opportunity to study in foreign settings.

ENGL 397  INDEPENDENT STUDY IN ENGLISH (1-3) Prerequisites: Approval of faculty sponsor and school dean; junior or senior standing. This course provides students the opportunity to pursue individual study of topics not covered in other available courses. The area for investigation is developed in consultation with a faculty sponsor, and credit is dependent on the nature of the work. May be repeated for no more than six credits.

ENGL 398  SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENGLISH (1-3) [credit depends on topic] Prerequisite: A background of work in the discipline. This course will focus on an aspect of the discipline not otherwise covered by the regularly offered courses. The topic will vary according to professor and term; consequently, more than one may be taken by a student during his/her matriculation.

ENGL 399  INTERNSHIP IN ENGLISH (1-6) Prerequisites: Juniors or seniors with a 2.25 minimum GPA; approval of written proposal by internship coordinator and supervising faculty prior to registration. The internship program allows students practical experience in fields using their training as English majors. Interns may work in such settings as radio and television stations, advertising and public relations agencies, local industries and civic organizations, state and local governments, and individually designed situations. (See “Internships.”)

ENGL 402  SEMINAR IN FICTION (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This study of fiction as a genre emphasizes the process of reading and interpreting novels and short stories and the development of the genre.

ENGL 403  SEMINAR IN POETRY (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This study of poetry as a genre emphasizes the process of reading and interpreting poems and the means by which a poem creates its meaning.

ENGL 404  SEMINAR IN DRAMA (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This study of the genre of drama emphasizes the interpretation of the various types of plays from different periods as well as related dramatic criticism.

ENGL 405  MAJOR AUTHOR(S): PERIOD A (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 220. Content varies. The focus is typically on one or two major writers of the given time period. Classes are conducted as seminars.
ENGL 407 MAJOR AUTHOR(S): PERIOD B (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 220. Content varies. The focus is typically on one or two major writers of the given time period. Classes are conducted as seminars.

ENGL 408 MAJOR AUTHOR(S): PERIOD C (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 220. Content varies. The focus is typically on one or two major writers of the given time period. Classes are conducted as seminars.

ENGL 414 CHILDREN’S LITERATURE (3) Prerequisites: ENGL 111-112. This advanced course is designed for classroom teachers and librarians or administrators wishing to extend their knowledge of literature available for children and to understand the criteria for evaluating books. Emphasis is on integrating trade books with all aspects of the curriculum in the modern school. Note: This course does not count for credit for the English Major.

ENGL 417 CHAUCER (3) [A] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. This course introduces students to the range of works by the poet Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1343-1400), as well as the cultural context in which he lived. The course explores the poet’s longer narrative works, including the Canterbury Tales, and a sampling of his prose and short lyrics with emphasis on the impact of Chaucer’s writings on modern audiences. All texts are available in translation.

ENGL 420 SENIOR SEMINAR IN ENGLISH (3) [Theory] Prerequisite: ENGL 220. Focusing on literary texts, the course gives seniors a chance to use knowledge of literary history, form, and technique, as well as expertise in writing and interpretation, to read, analyze, discuss, and write about literature.

ENGL 421-422 SHAKESPEARE I, II (3, 3) [A] Prerequisites: ENGL 201 or 202 and ENGL 220. English 421 provides an in-depth study of the best known tragedies and most important English history plays by Shakespeare. Some attention is given to major critical approaches and background material. English 422 focuses on the romantic comedies, the problem plays, and the romances. References are made to plays studied in 421, but 421 is not a prerequisite.

ENGL 445 ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING: FICTION (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 350. Students advance their abilities to write and revise fiction by studying model texts, editing each other’s writing, and completing a portfolio of polished fiction. Students will refine their abilities in fictional techniques and choices, and topics may include a variety of fictional forms.

ENGL 446 ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING: NON-FICTION (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 346. This course focuses on writing and revising a portfolio or series of nonfiction works, with workshop discussion advancing concepts and practices of revision. In addition to writing, workshop discussion, and revision, course content will include outside reading that demonstrates a breadth of formal and aesthetic styles. The student will demonstrate competence in writing literary nonfiction in a range of forms that may include both traditional and innovative structures.

ENGL 447 ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY (3) Prerequisite: ENGL 349. Students advance their abilities to write and revise poetry by studying model poems and texts about poetry, editing each other’s writing, and completing a portfolio of polished work. Students refine their abilities in poetic technique and choices, and topics may include a variety of poetic forms, lyrical prose, translation, and creating a body of work such as a linked sequence or chapbook.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COURSES (ENVS)

ENVS 101-102 EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I, II (3, 3) Corequisite: ENVS 101L-102L. Three hours lecture. This course sequence offers an interdisciplinary introduction to the scientific study of the earth’s physical and biological systems with an emphasis on environmental changes and their implications.


ENVS 201 HISTORY OF EARTH AND LIFE (4) Prerequisites: ENVS 101/101L-102/102L. This course provides an overview of the Earth’s composition, structure, and the geologic processes that continually shape the planet. Special attention will be given to rocks, minerals, plate tectonics, and the history of