Discover Great Literary Works

In 2014, a new Master of English Studies was launched at the University of Sydney. This program gives you access to disciplinary expertise in English studies in a wider range of fields than any other university in Australia. These include medieval, early modern, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century, modern and contemporary, British, American and Australian literatures, as well as various aspects of cultural theory.

The Master of English Studies challenges students to reflect actively but quizzically on the nature, status and value of literature in the contemporary world. It focuses on four core critical approaches: critical reading, literary history, genre and English as a world literature. The program also offers electives in a wide range of subjects, including Creative Writing.

It’s an exciting time of change and growth for English Studies, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. In this new program we consider ways in which the study of literature in English works in a specifically Australian cultural context. Building on Australia’s long-established reputation in Cultural Studies, our new program also expands consideration of literary and cultural narratives across a broad transnational framework.

The Department of English

The Department of English at the University of Sydney is the largest in Australia. In the 2015 QS World University Rankings, the Department was rated the best in Australia, and the eighteenth best in the world.

The Master of English Studies provides an excellent foundation for research students, both from Australia and overseas, who wish to reconsider literature in English within a dynamically expanding global field, from the vantage point of Sydney’s vibrant urban environment. It will be of special interest not only to students who wish to specialize in Australian literature, but also to those keen to reframe literature in English from an antipodean, Asia-Pacific or global perspective.

Postgraduate coursework students have exclusive access to “The Quarter,” a new space specifically designed to support the teaching, learning and wellbeing needs of postgraduate coursework students.
English Studies 2016

This program is offered at Graduate Certificate (usually 6 months), Graduate Diploma (usually 12 months) and Master (usually 18 months) levels. Each unit of study is usually worth 6 credit points.

Candidates for the Graduate Certificate in English Studies must complete 24 credit points, including 12 credit points of core units of study and 12 credit points of elective units of study.

Candidates for the Graduate Diploma in English Studies must complete 48 credit points, including 24 credit points of core units of study and 24 credit points of elective units of study.

Candidates for the Master of English Studies must complete 72 credit points, including 24 credit points of core units of study, 42 credit points of elective units of study and 6 credit points of capstone unit of study.

Units of Study

Core units of study
- ENGL6100 Approaches to Literary History
- ENGL6101 Approaches to Genre
- ENGL6102 Approaches to Critical Reading
- ENGL6103 Approaches to Global English Literatures

Elective units of study
- ENGL6040 Introduction to Old English
- ENGL6041 Old English Texts
- ENGL6042 Old Norse
- ENGL6043 American Gothic
- ENGL6044 The Idea of the South
- ENGL6045 Sentiment and Sensation
- ENGL6046 Modern Australian Poetry and Poetics
- ENGL6047 Modern and Contemporary Drama
- ENGL6048 The 18th Century Novel: Theory & Example
- ENGL6049 History Writing in English, 1500-1900
- ENGL6050 Wooing Women in Middle English Romance
- ENGL6051 American Romance
- ENGL6052 Language and Subject
- ENGL6053 Reading Suburbia
- ENGL6054 Life and Literature in the Age of Chaucer
- ENGL6055 Creative Writing: Fiction Workshop*
- ENGL6056 Creative Writing: Poetry Workshop*
- ENGL6057 Creative Writing: Screenwriting Workshop*
- ENGL6058 Essay (English)*
- ENGL6059 Creative Writing: Supervised Project*
- ENGL6060 Critical Contexts for Creative Writing
- ENGL6061 Research Methods for Creative Writing
- ENGL6062 Literary Culture: Sydney
- ENGL6063 Writers at Work: Fiction
- ENGL6064 Major Movements in Contemporary Prose
- ENGL6065 Writers at Work: Poetry
- ENGL6066 Major Movements in Contemporary Poetry
- ENGL6067 Writers at Work: Screenwriters
- ENGL6068 Magazines and Australian Print Culture
- ENGL6069 Children’s Writers at Work
- ENGL6070 The Art of the Screenplay
- ENGL6071 Recovering Meaning: Novel into Film
- ENGL6072 Twentieth Century Confessional Writing
- ENGL6073 Literature and Desire
- ENGL6074 American Author, American Auteur
- ENGL6075 The Cold War
- ENGL6076 Literary Theory and Critical Practice
- ENGL6077 Magazines and Australian Print Culture
- ENGL6078 Shakespeare and Modernity
- ENGL6079 Creative Non-Fiction Workshop
- ENGL6080 Shakespeare and his Contemporaries
- ENGL6081 Australian Literature and the Canonical Imaginary
- ENGL6082 Henry James and the Art of Fiction
- FASS7001 Academic English for Postgraduates
- FASS7002 Academic Literacies for Postgraduates
- WRIT6000 Professional Writing
- WRIT6001 Professional Editing
- GCST6905 Gender in Cultural Theory
- ICLS6901 Literary Comparison: History and Methods

Capstone units of study
- ENGL6929 Dissertation Part 1*
- ENGL6930 Dissertation Part 2*
- ENGL6935 Research Essay*

Note: not every unit is offered every year. For a full list of 2016 units, go to:

* English Studies students who wish to enrol in these units require permission from the Degree Coordinator.

For more information
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