

English

The Berkeley English Department offers a wide-ranging PhD program, engaging in all historical periods of British and American literature, Anglophone literature, and critical and cultural theory. The program aims to assure that students gain a broad knowledge of literature in English as well as the highly-developed skills in scholarship and criticism necessary to do solid and innovative work in their chosen specialized fields.

Please note that the department does not offer a master's degree program or a degree program in Creative Writing. Students can, however, petition for an MA in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing upon completion of the PhD course requirements (one of which must be a graduate writing workshop) and submission of a body of creative work.

Students interested in combining a PhD in English with studies in another discipline may pursue Designated Emphases or Concurrent Degrees in a number of different fields

Admission to the University

Minimum Requirements for Admission

The following minimum requirements apply to all graduate programs and will be verified by the Graduate Division:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A grade point average of B or better (3.0);
3. If the applicant has completed a basic degree from a country or political entity (e.g., Quebec) where English is not the official language, adequate proficiency in English to do graduate work, as evidenced by a TOEFL score of at least 90 on the iBT test, 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 on a 9-point scale (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Sufficient undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

Applicants Who Already Hold a Graduate Degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees not as vocational training certificates, but as evidence of broad training in research methods, independent study, and articulation of learning. Therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to pursue new subject matter at an advanced level without the need to enroll in a related or similar graduate program.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master's or professional master's degree only if the additional degree is in a distinctly different field.

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program that requires a master's degree to be earned at Berkeley as a prerequisite (even though the applicant already has a master's degree from another institution in the same or a closely allied field of study) will be permitted to undertake the second master's degree, despite the overlap in field.

The Graduate Division will admit students for a second doctoral degree only if they meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicants with doctoral degrees may be admitted for an additional doctoral degree only if that degree program is in a general area of knowledge distinctly different from the field in which they earned their

original degree. For example, a physics PhD could be admitted to a doctoral degree program in music or history; however, a student with a doctoral degree in mathematics would not be permitted to add a PhD in statistics.

2. Applicants who hold the PhD degree may be admitted to a professional doctorate or professional master's degree program if there is no duplication of training involved.

Applicants may apply only to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

Required Documents for Applications

1. **Transcripts:** Applicants may upload *unofficial* transcripts with your application for the departmental initial review. *If the applicant is admitted*, then *official* transcripts of all college-level work will be required. Official transcripts must be in sealed envelopes as issued by the school(s) attended. If you have attended Berkeley, upload your unofficial transcript with your application for the departmental initial review. *If you are admitted*, an official transcript with evidence of degree conferral *will not* be required.
2. **Letters of recommendation:** Applicants may request online letters of recommendation through the online application system. Hard copies of recommendation letters must be sent directly to the program, not the Graduate Division.
3. **Evidence of English language proficiency:** All applicants who have completed a basic degree from a country or political entity in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This applies to institutions from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, most European countries, and Quebec (Canada). However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a US university may submit an official transcript from the US university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement:
 - courses in English as a Second Language,
 - courses conducted in a language other than English,
 - courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and
 - courses of a non-academic nature.

If applicants have previously been denied admission to Berkeley on the basis of their English language proficiency, they must submit new test scores that meet the current minimum from one of the standardized tests. Official TOEFL score reports must be sent directly from Educational Test Services (ETS). The institution code for Berkeley is 4833. Official IELTS score reports must be sent electronically from the testing center to University of California, Berkeley, Graduate Division, Sproul Hall, Rm 318 MC 5900, Berkeley, CA 94720. TOEFL and IELTS score reports are only valid for two years.

Where to Apply

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Curriculum

The general goal of the first two years of the program is to assure that the student has a broad and varied knowledge of the fields of British and American literature in their historical dimensions, and also is familiar with a wide range of literary forms, critical approaches, and scholarly methods. A coherent demonstration of this knowledge is the aim of the course requirement, the breadth requirement, and the system of regular advising and evaluation of student work. At the end of the two-year period, the student's record is reviewed in its entirety in order to ascertain whether he or she is able and ready to proceed to the qualifying examination and the more specialized phase of PhD study.

Students will complete twelve graduate-level courses, and remove all incomplete grades, before taking the qualifying examination. A required thirteenth course in reading and composition pedagogy may be taken later. See pages 2-4 of the Graduate Study in English handbook (https://duj2o5ed0668j.cloudfront.net/assets/ckeditor_assets/attachment_files/000/000/613/2020-21-Graduate-Handbook-2-11-21-EDITS.pdf), PDF for further details. The distribution of the 12 courses is as follows:

ENGLISH 200 Problems in the Study of Literature [4]

Medieval through 16th-Century (British)

17th- through 18th-Century (British and/or American)

19th-Century (British, American and/or Anglophone)

20th-Century (British, American and/or Anglophone)

A course organized in terms other than chronological coverage (special problems, theory, minority discourse, etc.)

Electives: Six courses

English

Expand all course descriptions [+]Collapse all course descriptions [-]

ENGLISH 200 Problems in the Study of Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

Approaches to literary study, including textual analysis, scholarly methodology and bibliography, critical theory and practice.

Problems in the Study of Literature: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to students in the English Ph.D. program

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Problems in the Study of Literature: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 201A Topics in the Structure of the English Language 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2007, Fall 2002

Studies in the structure of the English language, varying by semester. Possible topics include phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, either separately or in relation to literature, culture, and society.

Topics in the Structure of the English Language: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Topics in the Structure of the English Language: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 201B Topics in the History of the English Language 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2009

Topics in the History of the English Language: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Topics in the History of the English Language: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 203 Graduate Readings 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021

Graduate lecture courses surveying broad areas and periods of literary history, and directing students in wide reading. Offerings vary from semester to semester. Students should consult the department's "Announcement of Classes" for offerings well before the beginning of the semester.

Graduate Readings: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open to advanced undergraduates, with the consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Readings: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 205A Old English 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2013, Fall 2011, Fall 2009

Old English: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open to undergraduates with the consent of the instructor

Credit Restrictions: Offered for 4 units in fall and in spring, 3 units in summer.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Old English: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 205B Old English 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2014

Old English: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open to undergraduates with the consent of the instructor

Credit Restrictions: Offered for 4 units in fall and in spring, 3 units in summer.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Old English: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 211 Chaucer 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2017, Fall 2014

Discussion of Chaucer's major works.

Chaucer: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Chaucer: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 212 Readings in Middle English 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2016, Spring 2012

Rapid reading of selections in Middle English, from the twelfth century through the fifteenth.

Readings in Middle English: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Readings in Middle English: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 217 Shakespeare 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2016, Fall 2014

Discussion of selected works of Shakespeare.

Shakespeare: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Shakespeare: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 218 Milton 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2019, Fall 2012

Discussion of Milton's major works.

Milton: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Milton: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 243A Fiction Writing Workshop 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2018

A writing workshop in fiction for graduate students.

Fiction Writing Workshop: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor, normally based on prior writings submitted

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Fiction Writing Workshop: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 243B Poetry Writing Workshop 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2020, Spring 2020

A writing workshop in poetry for graduate students.

Poetry Writing Workshop: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor, normally based on prior writings submitted

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Poetry Writing Workshop: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 243N Prose Nonfiction Writing Workshop 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2020, Spring 2019

A writing workshop in prose nonfiction for graduate students.

Prose Nonfiction Writing Workshop: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor, normally based on prior writings submitted

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Prose Nonfiction Writing Workshop: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 246C Graduate Proseminars: Renaissance: Sixteenth century (excluding, or at least not prominently featuring, Skakespeare) 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017, Fall 2014

Proseminars in the major chronological fields of English and American literature providing graduate instruction in scholarly and critical approaches appropriate to each field.

Graduate Proseminars: Renaissance: Sixteenth century (excluding, or at least not prominently featuring, Skakespeare): Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Proseminars: Renaissance: Sixteenth century (excluding, or at least not prominently featuring, Skakespeare): Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 246D Graduate Proseminars: Renaissance: Seventeenth century through Milton 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2017, Spring 2015

Proseminars in the major chronological fields of English and American literature providing graduate instruction in scholarly and critical approaches appropriate to each field.

Graduate Proseminars: Renaissance: Seventeenth century through Milton: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Proseminars: Renaissance: Seventeenth century through Milton: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 246E Graduate Proseminars: Restoration and early 18th century 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Fall 2010, Fall 2008

Proseminars in the major chronological fields of English and American literature providing graduate instruction in scholarly and critical approaches appropriate to each field.

Graduate Proseminars: Restoration and early 18th century: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Proseminars: Restoration and early 18th century: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 246F Graduate Proseminars: Later 18th century 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2019, Spring 2016

Proseminars in the major chronological fields of English and American literature providing graduate instruction in scholarly and critical approaches appropriate to each field.

Graduate Proseminars: Later 18th century: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Proseminars: Later 18th century: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 246G Graduate Proseminars: Romantic 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2017, Spring 2015

Proseminars in the major chronological fields of English and American literature providing graduate instruction in scholarly and critical approaches appropriate to each field.

Graduate Proseminars: Romantic: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Proseminars: Romantic: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 246H Graduate Proseminars: Victorian 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2017
Proseminars in the major chronological fields of English and American literature providing graduate instruction in scholarly and critical approaches appropriate to each field.

Graduate Proseminars: Victorian: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Proseminars: Victorian: [Read Less](#) [-]

ENGLISH 246I Graduate Proseminars: American to 1855 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Fall 2012, Fall 2011
Proseminars in the major chronological fields of English and American literature providing graduate instruction in scholarly and critical approaches appropriate to each field.

Graduate Proseminars: American to 1855: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Proseminars: American to 1855: [Read Less](#) [-]

ENGLISH 246J Graduate Proseminars: American 1855 to 1900 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2014, Spring 2011
Proseminars in the major chronological fields of English and American literature providing graduate instruction in scholarly and critical approaches appropriate to each field.

Graduate Proseminars: American 1855 to 1900: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Proseminars: American 1855 to 1900: [Read Less](#) [-]

ENGLISH 246K Graduate Proseminars: Literature in English 1900 to 1945 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2014, Spring 2013
Proseminars in the major chronological fields of English and American literature providing graduate instruction in scholarly and critical approaches appropriate to each field.

Graduate Proseminars: Literature in English 1900 to 1945: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Proseminars: Literature in English 1900 to 1945: [Read Less](#) [-]

ENGLISH 246L Graduate Proseminars: Literature in English 1945 to Present 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2014, Fall 2007
Proseminars in the major chronological fields of English and American literature providing graduate instruction in scholarly and critical approaches appropriate to each field.

Graduate Proseminars: Literature in English 1945 to Present: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Graduate Proseminars: Literature in English 1945 to Present: [Read Less](#) [-]

ENGLISH 250 Research Seminars 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021
Required of all Ph.D. students. Advanced study in various fields, leading to a substantial piece of writing. Offerings vary from semester to semester. Students should consult the department's "Announcement of Classes" for offerings well before the beginning of the semester.

Research Seminars: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Research Seminars: [Read Less](#) [-]

ENGLISH 298 Special Studies 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2016

Directed research. Open to qualified graduate students wishing to pursue special topics. If taken to satisfy degree requirements, must be taken for four units and a letter grade.

Special Studies: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-12 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Special Studies: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 299 Special Study 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021

Normally reserved for students directly engaged upon the doctoral dissertation.

Special Study: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-30 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 2-23 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Special Study: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH N299 Special Study 1 - 6 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2012 10 Week Session, Summer 2010 10 Week Session, Summer 2009 10 Week Session

Primarily for students engaged in preliminary exploration of a restricted field, involving research and the writing of a report. May not be substituted for available seminars.

Special Study: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-5 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Special Study: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 375 The Teaching of Composition and Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

Discussion of course aims, instructional methods, grading standards, and special problems in the teaching of composition and literature, with practice in handling sample essays. When given for graduate student instructors in the English R1A-R1B Program or the English 45 series, the course will include class visitation.

The Teaching of Composition and Literature: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Formerly known as: English 302

The Teaching of Composition and Literature: Read Less [-]

ENGLISH 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Individual study in consultation with the major field adviser, intended to provide an opportunity for qualified students to prepare themselves for the various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D. May not be used for unit or residence requirements for the doctoral degree.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: [Read More \[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: English/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: [Read Less \[-\]](#)