English

Overview

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 programs in Film Studies; Medieval Studies; and Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

Normative time to complete the program is six years. The first two years are devoted to fulfilling the course and language requirements. The third year is spent preparing for and taking the PhD oral qualifying examination. The fourth through sixth years are devoted to researching and writing the prospectus and dissertation.

Graduate Program

English (http://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/english/): PhD

English

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

ENGLISH 200 Problems in the Study of Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022
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: Fall 2022, Spring 2019, Spring 2007
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: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023
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 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2018
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: Spring 2024, Fall 2021, Spring 2019
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 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2020
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 2024, Fall 2022, Spring 2022
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 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2020
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: Fall 2022, Spring 2019, 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: 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: Fall 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2020
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: Spring 2023, Fall 2019, 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: 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: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023
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: Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Spring 2021
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 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022
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 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022
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 [-]