B.A. in English

Learning Outcome

Students will:

- Be able to describe and analyze a wide and diverse range of literary works in English.
- Be able to identify and discuss conventions associated with the composition and interpretation of literature using a precise critical vocabulary.
- Be able to discuss the complex transaction between writer and reader or audience in literary works.
- Be able to explain the impact of culture, race, gender, sexuality, and class on the reading and writing of literature.
- Be able to write analytical essays presenting an argument about one or more literary works and supporting it with appropriate evidence.
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct research and to incorporate that research in their writing.
- Demonstrate the ability to express complex ideas in clear, accurate, and coherent prose.
- Gain an appreciation of the pleasure and beauty of literary works that they can carry with them beyond the degree.

Literary Studies Concentration Outcomes

- Be able to recognize and explain significant themes, stylistic features, and generic conventions associated with literary production in English in a range of historical periods.
- Be able to analyze and discuss (orally and in writing) the complex relationship between literature and its context, including aesthetic, intellectual, political, and social aspects of the historical period in which it was produced.

Creative Writing Concentration Outcomes

- Be able to produce original creative work that demonstrates imagination as well as an application of literary technique.
- Demonstrate a practical understanding of how literary texts are made.
- Demonstrate their ability to think critically about how writers combine the material of everyday life with more expansive questions concerning human existence.
- Demonstrate an understanding of some of the many standards by which literary work is judged and apply them to their own and others' writing.
- Demonstrate the ability to critique other writers' work and to revise their own writing.

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