

English & Creative Writing

at Centre College

**It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.
—William Carlos Williams**

English at Centre

English has long been one of the largest majors at Centre. Many non-majors also elect to take English classes for enrichment and enjoyment.

With small classes and a caring, distinguished faculty, students in English learn to enter sympathetically into the worlds that writers create—from the harsh world of the Anglo-Saxon epic *Beowulf* to the haunted milieu of William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* and beyond.

Students in English learn to appreciate the artistry of poems, plays, novels and stories, to understand the play of themes and ideas in literature, and to be sensitive to the complex relationship between literature and the society it reflects.

Creative Writing at Centre

Creative writing workshops at Centre are taught by faculty and visiting writers. Students from across the curriculum who are interested in writing may take one or two such classes, or even choose to minor in creative writing.

Every year, the College brings in nationally and internationally known poets and fiction writers to read from their own work, to teach or visit workshops, and to interact with students. Recent visiting writers include poet laureates and Pulitzer Prize winners like Paul Muldoon, Mark Strand, Billy Collins, Robert Hass, Robert Pinsky, Heather McHugh, Edward T. Jones, and Charles Wright, as well as writers such as Patrick Rosal, Ann Cummins, Jay Wright, Larissa Szporluk, Talvikki Ansel, Chris Bachelder, and Irish writers such as Medbh McGuckian and Ciaran Carson. Student writers may submit their work to *Vantage Point*, a journal of campus writing edited and published by students several times a year, and they compete for two prizes in creative writing awarded annually by the program. A number of graduates have gone on to published poems, stories, and novels.

Majoring in English

Students who wish to major or minor in English usually begin with surveys of British and American literature, which introduce them to methods of literary scholarship and give them a firm foundation in literary history. They then choose from an array of upper-level courses in all periods and genres (for example, The Romance of Arthur, World Poetry, Literature of the Depression, Irish Literature, or Changes to the Female Form), as well as classes in creative writing. Junior and senior seminars offer an intimate, in-depth study of a particular literary topic from a variety of critical and theoretical perspectives. Recent seminars have been on topics such as Faulkner, The Gothic, Emily Dickinson, Irish Literature, and Herman Melville, and several have included trips to literary sites around the country.

The Benefits of Studying English

Most students who become majors simply enjoy reading, discussing, and writing about challenging and inspiring works of the imagination, but the skills students develop in studying English—the ability to think sensitively and creatively, to make and evaluate critical arguments, and to write clearly and convincingly—prepare students for a wide array of rewarding and profitable careers.

Not surprisingly, many Centre majors go on to graduate school in English or law. Several of these students have received prestigious fellowships such as the Rotary International and the Fulbright. Some graduates also teach elementary school or high school. Most majors, however, find jobs in business, journalism, and public service, areas where their ability to read complex prose and understand it, to research and analyze problems, and to explain the results of their investigations orally and in writing are highly prized. Recent Centre English majors have found jobs



Chelsea Apple
Centre Class of 2011
English Major

"The English program at Centre is very personal. I feel like I really know all of my professors, and it's great to discuss literature with them both in and outside of class."

in such diverse fields as social work, sales and marketing, arts management, banking, insurance, investments, corporate communications, and desktop publishing.

Internships

In internship provides the opportunity to apply academic study to real life situations. Due to the broad scope of English, relevant internships have been available with such employers as varied as Host Communications, the Southeastern Theatre Conference, and WSB-TV.

The Faculty

HELEN EMMITT (A.B., Bryn Mawr; Ph.D., Berkeley), Professor, teaches upper-level courses in 20th-century British and Irish literature. She has published articles on Ezra Pound, George Eliot, Margaret Drabble, and contemporary Irish poetry.

JOHN KINKADE (B.A., Centre; M.A., Ph.D., Texas), Assistant Professor, teaches 18th-century British literature, British Romanticism, and crime literature. His research interests include Samuel Johnson, the essay, and the history of self-help books.

MARK LUCAS (B.A., Centre; M.A., Ph.D., North Carolina), Jobson Professor of English, teaches upper-level courses in American literature with an emphasis on Southern literature. He has published a book on Andrew Lytle.

DANIEL MANHEIM (B.A., Amherst; M.A., M. Phil., Ph.D., Columbia), Stodghill Professor of English, teaches upper-level courses in American literature. His scholarly interests include Emily Dickinson, Henry Adams, and literature of the urban environment, and he teaches all periods of U.S. literature.

HEATHER MORTON (A.B., Williams; M.A., Ph.D., Virginia), Assistant Professor, teaches the Victorian period. Her research focuses on periodical publication and genre in 19th-century Britain. She is completing a manuscript on the figure of the author and Victorian reading practices.

MARK RASMUSSEN (B.A., M.A., Harvard; M.A., Ph.D., Johns Hopkins), Professor of English, teaches upper-level courses in Medieval and Renaissance literature, Chaucer, and Shakespeare. He has published essays on Chaucer, Spenser, and the poetics of complaint, and has edited a collection of critical articles on Renaissance literature.

MILTON REIGELMAN (B.A., William and Mary; M.A., Pennsylvania; M.A., Ph.D., Iowa), Cowan Professor of English, teaches upper-level courses in American literature. He has twice been a Fulbright Senior Lecturer abroad; his book and scholarly activities deal primarily with American Literature and culture.

PHILIP WHITE (B.A., M.A., Brigham Young; Ph.D., University of Massachusetts-Amherst), Associate Professor, teaches upper-level courses in Shakespeare and Renaissance literature. In addition to his collection of poems, *The Clearing*, he has published scholarly in his field. Individual poems have won a Pushcart Prize and have appeared in such publications as *The New Republic*, *Slate*, and *Poetry*.

LISA WILLIAMS (B.A., Belmont; M.A., Cincinnati; M.F.A., Virginia), Associate Professor, teaches courses in creative writing, and in poetry of all periods. Her poems have appeared in many journals, as well as in the anthology, *American Poetry: Next Generation*, and *The Best American Poetry 2009*. Williams was awarded the Rome Prize in Literature by the American Academy of Arts and Letters; her first book of poems, *The Hammered Dulcimer* won the May Swenson Poetry Award, and her latest book, *Woman Reading to the Sea*, won the Barnard Women's Poetry Prize.

For additional faculty information, see the Centre Web site at www.centre.edu/web/academic/faculty/faculty.html

Visit Centre

The best way to judge Centre is to tour the campus, attend a class, talk to the professors and students, and spend the night in a residence hall. We invite you to visit and encourage you to contact the Admission Office if you have any questions.

**For further information about English at Centre,
write, call, or e-mail**

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English Web page
www.centre.edu/web/academic/majors/english.html

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