

# English & Creative Writing

## at Centre College

---

**The casual is not  
Enough. The freshness of transformation is**

**The freshness of a world. It is our own,  
It is ourselves, the freshness of ourselves,  
And that necessity and that presentation**

**Are rubbings of a glass in which we peer.  
Of these beginnings, gay and green, propose  
The suitable amours. Time will write them down.**

—Wallace Stevens

### 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 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, Sena Jeter Naslund, Talvikki Ansel, Daniel Mueller, 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 report that their poems and stories are getting published.

### 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



**Ashley Dickens**  
Centre Class of 2008  
English Major

**“With the vast knowledge that the professors have, I feel as if I can learn literature from all angles. And visiting professors, guest speakers, class readings, and studying abroad are all opportunities which an English major at Centre can look forward to.”**

---

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

### Internships

An 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 Idea Farm, WSB-TV, and the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

### 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, as well as classes in 18th-century British, Romantic, and 19th-century American literature. She has also worked on the Walt Whitman Electronic Archive.

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 articles in his field and poetry in a number of literary journals.

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*. 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 1998 May Swenson Poetry Award, and her latest book, *Woman Reading to the Sea*, won the 2007 Barnard Women's Poetry Prize.



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

Philip White, program chair  
600 West Walnut Street  
Danville, Kentucky 40422  
(859) 238-5262  
philip.white@centre.edu

**English Web page**

[www.centre.edu/web/academic/majors/english.html](http://www.centre.edu/web/academic/majors/english.html)

**To communicate directly with a Centre student majoring in English, e-mail**

[jessie.clark@centre.edu](mailto:jessie.clark@centre.edu)

**For general information about Centre, contact**

Admission Office  
**1-800-423-6236**  
[admission@centre.edu](mailto:admission@centre.edu)  
[www.centre.edu](http://www.centre.edu)