

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the Master of Arts in English is to provide students with graduate-level skills in analytical and critical thinking, research methodologies, and advanced writing, both scholarly and creative. Students achieve depth of preparation in their areas of literary or linguistics specialization as well as grounding in current critical theory and practice.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students in the Master of Arts in English program will successfully demonstrate the ability to:

1. Produce scholarship and interpretation of linguistic and or literary texts written in English;
2. Exhibit professional competence in research methods and critical theories;
3. Investigate diverse literary, linguistic or media genres, cultural expressions and rhetorical forms;
4. Construct, evaluate, and explain creative and/or scholarly literary works;
5. Achieve public recognition of expertise in publishing, teaching, or conferencing.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be admitted as a graduate student in the Master of Arts in English program, a student must have completed a B.A. in English, or its equivalent, with a 3.0 GPA in major coursework. The applicant must submit the standard application materials as indicated in this Graduate Bulletin.

Applicants who have earned undergraduate degrees in fields other than English, or who have been working professionally outside the university setting, are welcome

to apply. After a review of their academic preparation by the graduate English faculty, applicants will be required to complete any English or Linguistics courses, either before or during the M.A. program, that the M.A. Program Committee deems necessary for the applicant to successfully pursue graduate study in English.

Applicants must meet the criteria for enrollment as graduate students that are set out in this Graduate Bulletin. Students should also consult the Bulletin for requirements and procedures for application. In order to remain in good standing in the M.A. in English program, a student must attain and maintain a GPA of 3.00 for all graduate courses and any undergraduate courses taken as prerequisites.

The M.A. in English program offers two tracks of study: the Literature Track and the Linguistics Track. Both options require a minimum of 30 credits of 500- and 600- level course work.

TRACKS

TRADITIONAL THESIS FOR BOTH LITERATURE & LINGUISTICS TRACKS

The traditional thesis degree path requires at least 24 hours of coursework, 6 credits of thesis (EN695), and an oral defense of the thesis project. The traditional M.A. thesis represents the culminating effort of the degree program and should be at least 45 to 60 pages in length. A thesis project may evolve from course work, a seminar paper, or the professional and scholarly interests of a student. The thesis would be in literary, rhetorical, composition, or linguistic studies, and the student's thesis committee must approve the topic.

CREATIVE THESIS FOR LITERATURE TRACK

The creative thesis degree path requires at least 24 hours of coursework, 6 credits of thesis (EN695), and an oral defense of the thesis project. The creative thesis project represents the culminating effort of the degree program and should be at least 45 to 60 pages in length. This thesis can be a novella, book of poems, creative essays, non-fictional narrative, or dramatic/cinematic screenplay. The literary quality and scope of each project will be carefully evaluated through consultation with the student's graduate advisor and committee. The student's thesis committee must approve the topic.

NON-THESIS OPTIONS

The Master's of English program offers two, non-thesis options for degree completion. Both non-thesis options require 30 credits of coursework, to include 18 credits of 600-level EN or LN courses, plus the successful completion of one of the two non-thesis options below.

NON-THESIS OPTION ONE: CAPSTONE PORTFOLIO

Working closely with one English faculty member and the chair of the M.A. English degree program, a student will select three research papers to significantly revise for the capstone portfolio. The portfolio will include an

introductory essay offering a synthesis and assessment of the student's achievements in the selected pieces and their application to the student's current or future scholarship and career goals. Students will defend their final portfolio in an oral presentation open to Program faculty, the university, and island community.

NON-THESIS OPTION TWO: PUBLISHABLE MANUSCRIPT/ ARTICLE

Students choosing this option will write a publishable scholarly manuscript of 25-35 pages, then submit it to a specific peer-reviewed publications identified during the research process. The student's committee, after suggesting revisions to this manuscript, will prepare a short written exam based upon this article that, once completed, will lead to a public presentation of the candidate's research, findings, and conclusions.

PLAN OF STUDY, CANDIDACY AND THE THESIS COMMITTEE

During the first semester of enrollment, students, in consultation with a chosen advisor and the M.A. in English program chair, will decide on an appropriate plan of study. After the completion of 9-12 credits or 3-4 courses, they will qualify to enter their candidacy stage, which involves moving from coursework into the thesis process.

THE THESIS PROCESS

Students on both the Literature and Linguistics Tracks complete their work with a thesis. In addition to the traditional thesis, students on the Literature track may opt for a creative thesis. Students who follow the traditional option are those who desire to increase their mastery of a given content area and might be contemplating doctoral work in the future. Students who select the creative option might be preparing to teach creative writing in the schools, to work as editors and publishers, or will be writing for personal accomplishment.

ALLOCATING THESIS CREDITS AMONG SEMESTERS

The thesis process counts for 6 credits. Candidates, in consultation with their advisors, choose how to distribute these credits. The division recommends counting 2-3

credits/semester based on how long the thesis-writing period is projected to be.

Part 1 – Committee Selection. Part 1 of the thesis process commences with:

- 1.the selection of a committee chair, whose specialty coincides with the student’s research interest;
- 2.the establishment of a thesis committee;
- 3.and the completion of the Candidacy Application Form obtainable from the MA Program chair. To establish a thesis committee, the student should choose a graduate faculty member from the M.A. in English program to chair the committee. In consultation with that chair, she or he will form a committee of three to five PhDs. At least one of the members of the committee shall be from the University of Guam’s English and Applied Linguistics Division.

Part 2 – The Research Project. Part 2 involves:

- 1.the approval of a thesis proposal; and
- 2.the completion of a thesis research project.

Part 3 – The Defense. Part 3 marks the conclusion of the process with the successful oral defense of the thesis. The student together with her or his chair will decide on the format of the defense. One format, for instance, involves the student discussing her or his project in a well-organized twenty-minute presentation (about 8-9 double-spaced pages) followed by questions from the committee. It is important that students practice their presentation beforehand to ensure effective time management of their defense.

WRITING SUPPORT

Each semester, students are encouraged to sign up for the informal writing sessions that meet each week for three hours. Faculty facilitate some of these; others are student-driven.

FLEXIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE

The M.A. program in English caters to the needs of non-traditional students who may be working full or part-time. Classes will typically be scheduled later in the afternoon, evenings, and weekends. Finakpo’ courses may be offered.

FULL OR PART-TIME; DEGREE AND NON-DEGREE STUDENTS

Students may select full-time or part-time enrollment, according to their needs, financial situation, and work schedule. See the Graduate Office “Instructions to Applicant” for admission details.

GRADUATE WRITING SEMINAR

Master’s students will have the opportunity to develop their personal writing projects in the Graduate Writing Seminar (EN 620). The workshop structure will enable students from different walks of life to exchange valuable feedback. The topics to be studied include style and voice, narrative technique, characterization, organization of material, and audience analysis, and are suitable for writers looking toward future publication.

GRADUATE TEACHING INSTRUCTORS

The Master of Arts in English Graduate Teaching Instructor Program offers qualified graduate students the opportunity for hands-on training in teaching composition courses for our division. Before applying for a Graduate Teaching Instructor position, interested students must complete 9-12 graduate course hours in DEAL and achieve the status of degree candidate. Applicants must also successfully complete “EN-611: Seminar in Rhetoric and Composition” before applying to teach DEAL composition courses. They must also have completed or be concurrently enrolled in EN650: Teaching College Composition with Practicum. This 6-credit-hour course sequence may be counted towards the 9-12-credit-hour requirement for candidacy. Graduate Teaching Instructor positions offer English graduate students valuable university teacher training and experience that will benefit them in their future career goals.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- All M.A. students in English must complete 30 credit hours, including a 6-hour traditional or creative thesis, to receive the degree.
- All students are required to complete EN/LN 501, 680, and six credits of EN/LN-695: Thesis. Students may enroll in their thesis hours concurrently with their final course(s); or enroll in all six credit hours of

EN/LN-695 during one semester after receiving the approval of their thesis committee.

- Students preparing to teach must complete EN-611. Students wishing to teach as DEAL GSIs must complete EN-611 and have taken or be concurrently enrolled in EN-650 during the first semester of their GSI experience.
- In addition to the required courses, student must also complete 18 credits of electives, of which 6 credits must be taken at the 600-level.

LINGUISTICS TRACK (30 CREDIT HOURS)

Required Courses (6 credit hours)

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
EN501	GRADUATE RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION	3	FALL ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN680	CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY	3	SPRING ONLY/ AS REQUIRED

Elective Requirements (18 credit hours)

18 credit hours from the following, 6 of which credits must be taken at the 600-level

These courses may be taken more than once for credit provided that the topics are substantially different.

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
LN440G	TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
LN440B	TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: PRAGMATICS	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
LN500	APPLIED LINGUISTICS	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
LN502	HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE	3	SPRING ONLY/ EVEN YEARS
LN560	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLINGUISTICS	3	FALL ONLY/ ODD YEARS
LN680	CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY	3	SPRING ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN611	SEMINAR: RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION	3	FALL ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN620	GRADUATE WRITING SEMINAR	3	AS REQUIRED
EN640	SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE	3	SPRING ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN650	TEACHING COLLEGE COMPOSITION WITH PRACTICUM	3	AS REQUIRED
LN662	SECOND LANGUAGE TESTING AND EVALUATION	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
LN663	SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLINGUISTICS	3	SPRING ONLY/ EVEN YEARS
LN691	GRADUATE SEMINAR	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
EN699	INDEPENDENT READING	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

Thesis Course (6 credit hours)

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
LN695	THESIS	1 - 6	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

LITERATURE TRACK (30 CREDIT HOURS)

Required Courses (6 credit hours)

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
EN501	GRADUATE RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION	3	FALL ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN680	CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY	3	SPRING ONLY/ AS REQUIRED

Elective Requirements (18 credit hours)

18 credit hours from the following, 6 of which credits must be taken at the 600-level
 These courses may be taken more than once for credit provided that the topics are substantially different.

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
EN550	ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE	3	SPRING ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN560	LITERATURES IN ENGLISH	3	FALL ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN561	PACIFIC WOMEN WRITERS	3	SPRING ONLY/ ODD YEARS
EN570	LITERATURES IN TRANSLATION	3	FALL ONLY/ EVEN YEARS
EN573	MODERN JAPANESE NOVEL IN TRANSLATION	3	FALL ONLY/ ODD YEARS
EN580	LITERARY THEORY	3	SPRING ONLY/ ODD YEARS
EN611	SEMINAR: RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION	3	FALL ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN620	GRADUATE WRITING SEMINAR	3	AS REQUIRED
EN630	SEMINAR: BRITISH LITERATURE	3	FALL ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN640	SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE	3	SPRING ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN650	TEACHING COLLEGE COMPOSITION WITH PRACTICUM	3	AS REQUIRED
EN660	SEMINAR: LITERATURES IN ENGLISH	3	AS REQUIRED
EN670	WORLD LITERATURES	3	SPRING ONLY/ EVEN YEARS

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
	IN TRANSLATION		
EN675	SEMINAR IN POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE	3	AS REQUIRED
EN680	CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY	3	SPRING ONLY/ AS REQUIRED
EN691	GRADUATE SEMINAR	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
EN699	INDEPENDENT READING	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

Thesis Course (6 credit hours)

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
EN695	THESIS	1 - 6	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

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