This major offers a broad range of courses in English, American, and Anglophone literature of all periods and genres, and in related areas such as creative and expository writing, literature and visual arts, ethnic literature and cultural studies, the history of the English language and of literary criticism, and literary and cultural theory. Instructors assign extensive reading and writing in order to help students become perceptive readers, critical thinkers, and strong writers — skills that are their own lasting rewards and that also help prepare students for several areas of graduate study and for a number of professional and creative pursuits.

Opportunities for Students

- **Honors Program**: Departmental Honors are awarded at graduation to seniors who complete a thesis on their own independent literary research. This competitive program attracts our very best students.

- **Maymester**: Spend part of your summer studying poetry while in Paris or Native-American culture while living on a reservation through this Innovative program.

- **Prizes and Research**: Students often receive cash awards for literary studies, poetry, and fiction entries as well as financial support for independent literary research beyond the classroom.

- **Small classes**: Classes average fewer than twenty students to encourage active discussion.

Notable Courses

- **ENGL 409: History of the English Language** — Instruction in the major grammatical systems of the English language, with particular emphasis on their relevance to language activities in the elementary classroom.

- **ENGL 422: English Literature of the 17th Century** — Selected studies of prose and poetry in the age of Bacon, Donne, Jonson, Herbert, Browne, Marvell, and Milton.

- **ENGL 430: Shakespeare** — Major history plays, comedies, and tragedies.

- **ENGL 481: Narrative Forms in Literature and Film** — Critical approaches to narrative form in literature and film; readings and films from several genres and periods, emphasis on gender, ethnic, and cultural studies.
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Requirements

Introductory Requirements
- ENGL 261: English Literature to 1800
- ENGL 262: English Literature since 1800
- ENGL 263: American Literature

Upper Division Requirements*
- Two (2) courses in literature written before 1800
- One (1) course in 19th-century literature
- One (1) course in American literature
- Two (2) elective courses
- ENGL 491: Senior Seminar in Literary Studies

Upper Division Courses**
- ENGL 420: English Literature of the Middle Ages (1100-1500)
- ENGL 421: English Literature of the 16th Century
- ENGL 425: English Literature of the Victorian Age (1832-1890)
- ENGL 440: American Literature to 1865
- ENGL 441: American Literature, 1865 to 1920
- ENGL 442: American Literature, 1920 to the Present
- ENGL 456: Contemporary Poetry
- ENGL 466: The 19th Century English Novel
- ENGL 467: The Modern Novel
- ENGL 469: Women in English Literature before 1800
- ENGL 473: Literature and Society
- ENGL 480: Modern Literary Criticism — Theory and Practice

*This information is offered as a partial overview only. For additional information, including all major requirements, please consult the USC Catalogue or http://dornsife.usc.edu/engl. Updated as of August 2015.

**This does not represent all options in this category. For a complete list, please consult the USC Catalogue.