







# Spring 2024 Tentative Course Schedule

January 16<sup>th</sup>-May 12<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*NEOMFA Students Only

	Critical Reading & Writing	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Miller
	English Literature I	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Ambrisco
	Shakespeare: Early Plays	TTh	12:15PM	1:30PM	Rhoades
	American Literature I	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Chura
	Black American Literature	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Chura
	World Literatures	MWF	10:45AM	11:35AM	Dukes
	World Literatures	Online	Online	Online	Ambrisco
	Women Writers	TTh	2:00PM	3:15PM	Rhoades
	Intro to Linguistics	MWF	9:40AM	10:30AM	Sarvis
	Advanced Poetry Writing	TTh	10:45AM	12:00PM	Biddinger
	Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing	MWF	12:55PM	1:45PM	Giffels
	Sem: Western Through Film and Fiction	Online	Online	Online	Theilin
	Writers on Writing	MWF	2:00PM	2:50PM	Giffels
	Theoretical Foundations and Principles of ESL	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
	Grammatical Structures of Modern English	Online	Online	Online	Zhang
	Sem: Poe & Hawthorne	MWF	11:50AM	12:40PM	Miller
	Unclass: Digital Projects in the Archives	TTh	3:30PM	4:45PM	Nunn
	Senior Seminar	W	5:20 AM	7:50PM	Chura
	Grant Writing	T	5:20PM	7:50PM	Nunn



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# Spring 2024 Course Descriptions

(Subject to change)

## 300 Critical Reading & Writing

3 credit hours

An introduction to English studies, focusing on critical methods for reading and writing about literature, with attention to research skills and uses of computer technology. *Satisfies the English major requirement.*

## 301 English Literature I

3 credit hours

Studies in English Literature from Old English to 1800, with emphasis upon specific representative works and upon the cultural and intellectual backgrounds which produced them.

Literature (Old to 1800) include both major and minor poetry, drama and prose.



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**389**

**Westerns Through Film and Literature**

**3 credit hours**

Students will study the Western genre as it developed in the 20th century on through the 21st century. We will examine the conventions of Western films and look at the genre's impact on popular culture. Students can expect to view classic movies with stars such as John Wayne, Clint



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**489/589 Poe & Hawthorne**

**3 credit hours**

In this literature seminar we will study writings by Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne in the context of the sensational popular literature of their time. There will be additional emphasis

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**689 Literature for Creative Writers**

**3 credit hours**

This is a friendly and welcoming MFA literature course for writers who are interested in developing a reading practice as part of their creative process. The course will have a manageable reading list of contemporary writing in several genres, with a focus on how texts can inspire writers in their own work. We will also spend time discussing how creative writing pedagogy can incorporate literature when teaching high school and college courses, as well as community workshops. Assignments will include creative responses to readings, a review of a recent book (of the student's choosing), and a final writing project. Literature for Creative Writers can be counted toward the NEOMFA literature requirement. *Limited to students in the NEOMFA program.* Book list: *Know the Mother* by Desiree Cooper, *The Loneliness Files* by Athena Dixon, *Whereabouts* by Jhumpa Lahiri, *Constellation Route* by Matthew Olzmann, and *Here in the Night* by Rebecca Turkewitz.

**690 Critical Approaches to Literature**

**3 credit hours**

This is an asynchronous online graduate-level course that centers on critical analysis, literary theory, and research to uncover meaning in canonical and non-canonical literary texts. This course is also part of The University of Akron's Graduate Certificate in English Dual Credit Preparation for high school teachers. We will read and analyze poetry, drama, fiction, and film using several critical lenses to illustrate depth, complexity, and meaning in diverse texts. By the end of the semester, you will gain an extensive knowledge of specific texts and theoretical approaches while learning to articulate and pursue your own interpretative strategies. Literary texts studied include Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*, and John Frankenheimer's 1962 version of *The Manchurian Candidate*.



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# **Minors in English**

## **Minor in English (330000M)**

18 hours of courses in the English Department with at least 6 of those hours at the 300/400 level.

## **Minor in Creative Writing (330007M)**

1. introductory creative writing courses (Min. Credits: 6) from:

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## Procedures for Minors

See the department advisor Prof. Lisa Rhoades for information and guidance.

Take the required courses. Then, when applying for graduation, fill out an application for minor(s) form and turn it in with your graduation application.

Your college record will document the minor(s) you have earned. Forms are available in the department.

## Other Notes

Students must achieve an overall GPA of at least 2.0 to earn the minor.

If a student desires a minor from the same department/school as their major, there is a college requirement for a minimum of nine (9) non-overlapping credits between the minor and the major, as well as between the minor and other minor programs in the department/school.

Courses ENGL 110, ENGL 111, ENGL 112, ENGL 250, ENGL 252, and ENGL 281 count toward any minor degree requirements.

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# Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies (330008C)

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator – [wz23@uakron.edu](mailto:wz23@uakron.edu)

Completion of five linguistically oriented courses is required as follows: the foundation course, two core courses and at least two elective courses. Three or more of the courses must be at the 300/400 level. (Subject to approval by the program director, other theoretically oriented linguistics courses may substitute for core courses.)

To obtain the certificate, the student must have at least two semesters of a second language. A student entering the program should discuss plans with the director.

(Required)

ENGL 371 Introduction to Linguistics \_\_\_\_

ENGL 466 Linguistics and Language Arts

(Minimum of two of the following)

ENGL 470 History of the English Language

ENGL 477 Sociolinguistics

ENGL 478 Grammatical Structures of English

PHIL 481 Philosophy of Language

SLPA 230 Language Science and Acquisition \_\_\_\_

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(Min. Credits: 3)

ENGL 470 History of the English Language

ENGL 477 Sociolinguistics

ENGL 487 Field Experience: Teaching Second Language Learners

SPAN 403 Advanced Grammar

EDCI 456 Scaffolding Language and Content to Second Language Learners

EDCI 485 Teaching Language Literacy to Second Language Learners

EDCI 487 Techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language

COMM 325 Intercultural Communication

SLPA 230 Language Science & Acquisition

SLPA 430 Aspects of Normal Language Development

\*Students should have successfully completed ENGL 371 or ENGL 466 prior to taking this course.

\*\*Choice to be decided in consultation with the program director.





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# Graduate Programs in English



## Admission Requirements

### M.A. Program

To be accepted into the M.A. program, the English Department requires that applicants have a B.A. in English, a minor in English, or other suitable course preparation.

To qualify for full admission, a student must meet the Graduate School requirement of a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 for four years or 3.0 over the last two years.

Complete the [online application through the Graduate School](#). Applicants must request that official transcripts of undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate work, be sent to the Graduate School. A nonrefundable application fee is also required. Applications should be received at least six weeks prior to registration, which may occur in the fall, spring, or summer terms.

To qualify for provisional admission, the Graduate School requires a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 over four years or 2.75 over the last two years. A student whose GPA falls below 2.75 or who lacks the B.A. in English may be granted deferred admission and given post-baccalaureate status, which is a probationary category.

### NEOMFA Program

Applicants to the NEOMFA in Creative Writing must be accepted by the Graduate School at The University of Akron or one of the other three participating universities. They must also submit three letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a writing portfolio. The portfolio will be reviewed by an admissions committee of members from all four universities. Applicants using The University of Akron as a "gateway" school for the MFA must additionally satisfy the requirements for the M.A. program listed above.

For those students admitted to the NEOMFA program, up to nine credits from previously uncompleted graduate degrees may be accepted for transfer credit. Of the nine elective credits, up to six may be from Advisor-approved courses not solely restricted to graduates.



## Financial Aid

### Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Graduate Teaching Assistantships in the Department of English are awarded on a competitive basis to MFA students. Applications for fall appointments will be accepted until February 1.

Students may renew twice, for a total of three years of support.

Along with the application form, applicants for assistantships must submit a clean copy of a writing sample in the form of a typed essay completed in a college course (5-10 pages), a letter of application, and two letters of recommendation. Scores from the Graduate Record Examination are not required. Please email all materials directly to the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Hillary Nunn, at [nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu).

The letter of application should address:

1. why you are interested in the position
2. what prepares you for the position both as far as your work history and academic preparation, and
3. how your experiences and interests would contribute to the program's academic atmosphere.



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## **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the graduate application and official transcripts, applicants must submit a statement of purpose

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# Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (NEOMFA) (330007MFA)

The University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, and Youngstown State University offer jointly the MFA in Creative Writing. This degree provides students with opportunities to develop their skills in writing fiction, poetry, drama, and creative nonfiction. The MFA is the terminal degree. Through extensive practice in workshops and craft and theory courses, students will develop their creative writing abilities while also studying literature and completing a relevant internship.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must be accepted by the Graduate School at The University of Akron or one of the other three participating universities. Applicants must also submit three letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a writing portfolio. The portfolio will be reviewed by an admissions committee of members from all four universities. Applications must be submitted by January 15.

The deadline for all assistantships in the Department of English is February 1.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete the following courses among the participating universities:

Writing Workshops	15 credits
Craft and Theory Courses	9 credits
Literature Courses	6 credits
Internship	3 credits
Thesis	6 credits
Electives	9 credits

A total of 48 credit hours is required for the MFA in Creative Writing.

Up to nine credits from previously uncompleted graduate degrees may be accepted for transfer credit in the NEOMFA program. Email David Giffels with questions at [dg36@uakron.edu](mailto:dg36@uakron.edu). More information is available at <https://neomfa.org/>

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# Graduate Certificate in Literature (330010GC)

Dr. Hillary Nunn, Coordinator - [nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)

To be eligible for the graduate certificate in literature, a person must be admitted to the University as a graduate student (with either full or provisional status). An eligible person interested in the program should contact the Certificate Coordinator.

## REQUIREMENTS

Of the four required courses (12 credits), two must be core courses, ENGL 690: Critical Approaches to Literature and ENGL 615: Shakespearean Drama\*; three of the four courses must be at the 600-level; and one must be in American literature.

\*unless the student has passed a comparable course with a grade of B or better.

Graduate students who are not enrolled in a University of Akron graduate degree program must apply for admission to the certificate program through the Graduate School. Students who are currently in a graduate program should contact the Certificate Coordinator to add certificate programs.

More information can be found at [the Graduate School Website](#).



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**Note: Each course listed here is 3 credit hours.**

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# Graduate Certificate in Composition (330002GC)

Dr. Lance Svehla, Coordinator - [ims3@uakron.edu](mailto:ims3@uakron.edu)

## REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the certificate in Composition, a person must be admitted to the University as a



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# **Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (330003GC)**

Dr. Wei Zhang, Coordinator - [wz23@uakron.edu](mailto:wz23@uakron.edu)

This program is intended for both native and non-native speakers of English who seek training in the teaching of English as a second language (ESL) and wish to obtain an initial qualification to teach ESL/EFL (English as a foreign language) in educational settings other than public schools in Ohio and other states or in countries outside the United States. For Ohio qualification in teaching ESL in the Ohio public school system, see the TESOL Endorsement requirements in the School of Education. The program is designed to introduce students to the central issues in the theory and practice of teaching English to non-native speakers through courses in modern and applied linguistics, in second language pedagogy and in related disciplines.

Students who do not have English as a native language must demonstrate adequate proficiency in English



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# Student Groups

## The Upstart Crows

Upstart Crows is a group of graduate and undergraduate students from many majors who are interested in literature and share a common love for the written word. The Upstart Crows hosts “open mic” poetry nights, travels to see plays performed in Akron and Cleveland, and engages in a variety of other intellectual and social activities throughout the year. New members from all majors are always welcome.

Contact Dr. Hillary Nunn ([nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)) for more information.

Stay up to date on events! Go to our Facebook page: [Upstart Crows UA](#)

## Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars (SAGES)

SAGES is a student organization open to all English graduate students that focuses on helping English graduate students of all tracks (Composition, Fine Arts, and Literature) develop professionally by providing members with tools to

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# Department Contacts

## UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Prof. Lisa Rhoades

[rhoades@uakron.edu](mailto:rhoades@uakron.edu)

(330) 972-8556

## NEOMFA ADVISING

Mr. David Giffels

[dg36@uakron.edu](mailto:dg36@uakron.edu)

(330) 972-6256

## MA & GRAD CERTIFICATE ADVISING

Dr. Hillary Nunn

[nunn@uakron.edu](mailto:nunn@uakron.edu)

(330) 972-7601

## Additional Contacts

*Department Chair*

(330) 972-6960

[marybid@uakron.edu](mailto:marybid@uakron.edu)

## English Department Program Codes

330000BA	English Major
330000M	Minor in English
330007M	Minor in Creative Writing
330009M	Minor in Popular Literature & Film
330011M	Minor in African American Lit & Lang
330000MAT	MA in English
330007MFA	Creative Writing - NEOMFA
330003C	Undergraduate Certificate in TESL
330008C	Undergraduate Certificate in Linguistic Studies
770008C	Undergraduate Certificate in Professional Communication
330002GC	Graduate Certificate in Composition
330003GC	Graduate Certificate in TESL
330010GC	Graduate Certificate in Literature

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# Additional Information



## English Department Website

<https://www.uakron.edu/english/>



## Mailing Address

The University of Akron  
Department of English  
Olin 301  
Akron, OH 44325-1906



## Phone

(330) 972-7470



## Social Media Pages

[UA Department of English Facebook](#)

[Upstart Crows Facebook](#)

[Department of English Instagram](#)



## LinkedIn

[English Dept U of A](#)