ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Linsly-Chittenden Hall, 203.432.2233
http://english.yale.edu
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Chair
Jessica Brantley

Director of Graduate Studies
Jonathan Kramnick (106a LC, 203.432.2226)

Professors  Jessica Brantley, David Bromwich, Ardis Butterfield, Jill Campbell, Joe Cleary, Erica Edwards, Jacqueline Goldsby, Langdon Hammer, Margaret Homans, Cajetan Iheka, Jonathan Kramnick, Pericles Lewis, Stefanie Markovits, Feisal Mohamed, Stephanie Newell, Catherine Nicholson, John Durham Peters, Marc Robinson, Caleb Smith, Katie Trumpener, Shane Vogel, Michael Warner, Ruth Bernard Yeazell

Associate Professors  Ben Glaser, Juno Richards, Emily Thornbury, R. John Williams, Sunny Xiang

Assistant Professors  Anastasia Eccles, Marcel Elias, Jonathan Howard, Elleza Kelley, Naomi Levine, Joseph Miranda, Ernest Mitchell, Priyasha Mukhopadhyay, Joseph North, Nicole Sheriko, Lloyd Sy

FIELDS OF STUDY
Fields include English language and literature from Old English to the present, American literature, and Anglophone world literature.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE
In order to fulfill the basic requirements for the program, a student must:

1. Complete twelve courses—six courses with at least one grade of Honors and a maximum of one grade of Pass by July 15 following the first year; at least twelve courses with grades of Honors in at least four of these courses and not more than one Pass by July 15 following the second year. One of these twelve courses must be The Teaching of English (ENGL 9090). Courses selected must include one course in at least three out of four designated historical periods: medieval, early-modern, eighteenth- and/or nineteenth-century, twentieth- and/or twenty-first-century. Students are also encouraged to take at least one seminar that adds geographic, linguistic, cultural, and/or methodological breadth to their course of study. Two of these courses may be taken in other departments with the approval of the DGS.

2. Satisfy the language requirement by the end of the second year. Two languages appropriate to the student’s field of specialization, each to be demonstrated by (a) passing a translation exam administered by a Yale language department, at the conclusion of a GSAS Summer Language for Reading course, or (for languages not tested elsewhere at Yale) by the English department; (b) passing an advanced
literature course at Yale (graduate or upper-level undergraduates, with director of
graduate studies [DGS] approval); or (c) passing both ENGL 500 and ENGL 501.

3. Pass the oral examination before or as early as possible in the fifth term of
residence. The exam consists of questions on four topics, developed by the student
in consultation with examiners and subject to approval by the DGS.

4. Submit a dissertation prospectus, normally by January 15 of the third year.

5. Teach a minimum of two terms, since the English department considers teaching
an integral part of graduate education. In practice, most students teach between
four and six terms.


Upon completion of all predissertation requirements, including the prospectus,
students are admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. Admission to candidacy must take
place by the end of the third year of study.

COMBINED PH.D. PROGRAMS

English and African American Studies

The Department of English Language and Literature also offers, in conjunction with
the Department of African American Studies, a combined Ph.D. degree in English
Language and Literature and African American Studies. For further details, see African
American Studies.

English and Early Modern Studies

The Department of English Language and Literature also offers, in conjunction with
the Early Modern Studies Program, a combined Ph.D. in English Language and
Literature and Early Modern Studies. For further details, see Early Modern Studies.

English and Film and Media Studies

The Department of English Language and Literature also offers, in conjunction with
the Film and Media Studies Program, a combined Ph.D. degree in English Language
and Literature and Film and Media Studies. For further details, see Film and Media
Studies.

English and History of Art

The Department of English Language and Literature also offers, in conjunction with
the Department of the History of Art, a combined Ph.D. degree in English Language
and Literature and History of Art. The requirements are designed to emphasize the
interdisciplinarity of the combined degree program.

Coursework In years one and two, a student in the combined program will complete
sixteen courses: ten seminars in English, including The Teaching of English
(ENGL 9090) and one course in at least three out of four designated historical periods
(medieval, early modern, eighteenth- and/or nineteenth-century, twentieth- and/or
twenty-first century), and six in history of art, including HSAR 500 and one course
outside the student’s core area. Up to two cross-listed seminars may count toward the
number in both units, reducing the total number of courses to fourteen.
Languages  Two languages pertinent to the student’s field of study, to be determined and by agreement with the advisers and directors of graduate studies. Normally the language requirement will be satisfied by passing a translation exam administered by one of Yale’s language departments. One examination must be passed during the first year of study, the other by the end of the third year.

Qualifying Paper  History of Art requires a qualifying paper in the spring term of the second year. The paper must demonstrate original research, a logical conceptual structure, stylistic lucidity, and the ability to successfully complete a Ph.D. dissertation. The qualifying paper will be evaluated by two professors from History of Art and one professor from English.

Qualifying Examination  Written exam: addressing a question or questions having to do with a broad state-of-the-field or historiographic topic. Three hours, closed book, written by hand or on a non-networked computer. Oral exam: given one week after the written exam, covering four fields, including two in English (question periods of twenty minutes each, covering thirty texts each, representing three distinct fields of literary history) and three in history of art (twenty-five minutes each, fields to be agreed on in advance with advisers and DGS). Exam lists will be developed by the student in consultation with faculty examiners.

Teaching  Two years of teaching—one course per term in years three and four—are required: two in English and two in History of Art.

Prospectus  The dissertation prospectus must be approved by both English and History of Art. The colloquium will take place in the spring term of the third year of study. The committee will include at least one faculty member from each department. As is implied by its title, the colloquium is not an examination, but a meeting during which the student can present ideas to a faculty committee and receive advice from its members. The colloquium should be jointly chaired by the directors of graduate studies of both departments.

First Chapter Reading  Students will participate in a first chapter reading (also known as a first chapter conference) normally within a year of advancing to candidacy (spring term of year four). The dissertation committee, including faculty members from both departments, will discuss the progress of the student’s work in a seminar-style format.

Dissertation Defense  The hour-long defense is a serious intellectual conversation between the student and the committee. Present at the defense will be the student’s advisers, committee, and the directors of graduate studies in both English and History of Art; others may be invited to comment after the committee’s questioning is completed.

English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  The Department of English Language and Literature also offers, in conjunction with the Program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, a combined Ph.D. in English Language and Literature and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. For further details, see Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
MASTER’S DEGREES

M.Phil.  Students may declare their intention in the first or second term of the third year to complete an M.Phil. degree instead of the Ph.D. Students must first submit a research proposal and may request a teaching waiver for the term in which they complete the research project, typically in the second term of the third year or the first term of the fourth year. Permission to pursue the M.Phil. en route to the Ph.D., without additional research leave, may be granted by special permission of the DGS and the GSAS Dean’s Office.

M.A. (en route to the Ph.D.)  Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program may receive the M.A. upon completion of seven courses with at least one grade of Honors and a maximum of one grade of Pass, and the passing of one foreign language.

Terminal Master’s Degree Program  Students enrolled in the master’s degree program must complete either seven term courses or six term courses and a special project within the English department. (One or two of these courses may be taken in other departments with approval of the DGS.) There must be at least one grade of Honors, and there may not be more than one grade of Pass. Students must also demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language (as described under Special Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree, above).