English

Overview

Our English curriculum covers the globe and the centuries: everything from medieval Anglo-Saxon epics to 21st-century African novels. We sharpen minds and unleash imaginations. By reading a wide range of texts critically and imaginatively, you develop writing, thinking and speaking skills that will serve you throughout your life and in any line of work. Our courses examine works of literature and other media in their most important contexts: historical, cultural, linguistic, socio-political and philosophical. You also have the opportunity to study abroad in one of many countries, including England, Scotland, Ireland, India, Italy, Denmark and New Zealand, and we welcome double majors.

Special Opportunities

You may additionally choose to concentrate in creative writing or the study of race and ethnicity. We also offer a wide array of interdisciplinary courses that combine literature with environmental studies, film, gender and women's studies, history, linguistics, music, Slavic studies and other fields of interest. In recent years, students have had an opportunity to interact with outstanding visiting artists like Art Spiegelman, David Sedaris, Jhumpa Lahiri, Junot Díaz and Dinaw Mengestu.

After Connecticut College

As an English major, you have a wide range of career opportunities because the creative and analytical skills you acquire are transportable and adaptable. Our majors become physicians, choreographers and Hollywood show runners, as well as writers, teachers and lawyers. In graduate school, they go on to study everything from public health, international relations and business to creative writing, education and law. Whatever your interests, you gain an understanding of human culture and the skills that empower you to succeed in a competitive world.
Faculty

Courtney Baker, Associate Professor of English
B.A., Harvard University; Ph.D., Duke University
African-American studies; cultural studies; visual studies; film and new media studies; literary criticism; critical theory

Blanche Boyd, Roman and Tatiana Weller Professor of English; Writer-in-Residence
B.A., Pomona College; M.A., Stanford University
Feminist fiction; creative writing

Denis Ferhatovic, William Meredith Assistant Professor of English
B.A., University of Virginia; M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Yale University
Medieval literature; Old and Middle English poetry; word and image; postcolonial theory; translation

Janet Gezari, Lucretia L. Allyn Professor of English
B.A., Cornell University; M.Phil., Ph.D., Yale University
The English novel since Defoe; Victorian culture, poetry and fiction; contemporary fiction

Charles O. Hartman, Lucy Marsh Haskell ’19 Endowed Professor, Department of English; Poet-in-Residence; Co-Director of the Creative Writing Program
A.B., Harvard University; M.A., Ph.D., Washington University
Poetry writing; modern and contemporary poetry; prosody (metrics); music and poetry; computer arts

Sookyoung Lee, Mellon C3 Postdoctoral Fellow
B.A., Swarthmore; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Modernism, Bildungstoman

Michelle Neely, Assistant Professor of English
B.A., University of California, Berkeley; M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Irvine
American literature to 1900; animal studies; ecocriticism; food studies; African-American and Native American literatures; women's literature; literary and political theory

Marie Ostby, Visiting Assistant Professor of English
B.A., Yale University; Ph.D., University of Virginia
Middle Eastern literature in English; postcolonial and global studies; women's writing; migration and diaspora studies; new and digital media

Julie Rivkin, Professor of English
B.A., Ph.D., Yale University
American literature; gender studies and contemporary literature; literary theory; Henry James

Steven Shoemaker, Assistant Professor of English; Director of the Ruth Writing Center
B.S., University of Maryland; Ph.D., University of Virginia
20th-century American literature; writing and composition theory; intersections of literature, technology and science; literature and film; critical theory

Jeff Strabone, Assistant Professor of English
B.A., Dartmouth College; M.A., Northwestern University; M.Phil., Ph.D., New York University
18th-century British literature; romantic literature and culture; literary relations among England, Scotland, and Wales; African novels; race, nation, and empire

Lina Perkins Wilder, Associate Professor of English; Chair of the English Department
B.A., University of Rochester; B.M., Eastman School of Music; M.Phil., Ph.D., Yale University
Contemporary poetry; prosody (metrics); music and poetry; computer arts

Selected Courses

Songs; Writing the Short Story; African Novels; Thrills, Chills, and Tears: Black Genre Fiction; Race, Nation, and Empire in the Eighteenth Century; Love and Sex in the Middle Ages; Humans and Other Animals in 19th-Century American Literature; The Literature of Passing; Vladimir Nabokov: Mandarin, Magician, Ecrivain; Nomads, Shamas, and Mystics: Imagining Central Asia

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a private, highly selective liberal arts college with 1,900 students and more than 40 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as the option for students to self-design majors. The College offers a high level of intellectual challenge, a campus culture that supports students to tailor their educational experience to their own interests and goals, and a four-year career development program that teaches students how to translate a liberal arts degree into a first job or graduate school admission. Connecticut College is situated in the small New England seaport of New London.