

*Prof. Esther Joy T. Chua, Chairperson*

## Department Distinctives

The Department of English at The Master's College regards the study of language and literature as central to a Christian liberal arts education. It merits this centrality, in part, because of the very nature of the Christian faith: God chose to reveal His dealings with humans in a historical and literary way—the Word of God, a Word which employs literary forms and rhetorical strategies to engage its audience. It also merits a central position because literature contains traces of God's truth (e.g., truthfulness to the human experience), occupies a place in human culture receiving God's blessing, and often fulfills the qualifications of Philippians 4:8. We affirm that the noblest reasons for acquiring literacy are to read the Scriptures with understanding and sympathy; to articulate the truth of God clearly, attractively, and convincingly; and to be equipped to recognize truth expressed in many sources, discerning it from partial truth and error, testing all by the biblical standard.

Through the study of poetry, drama, fiction, essays, and critical theory, students in the English major can

- Begin to understand how God has unfolded history, as they explore literature that both illuminates the past and becomes itself part of the historical record.
- Acquire critical reading and thinking skills that enable them to develop biblically based discernment.
- Extend the range of their intellectual, moral, and spiritual vision as they explore works that deal with the great issues of life, death, purpose, and destiny.
- Grow as persons as they participate in the vicarious experience of literature and see life from a variety of viewpoints.
- Develop their abilities to write clearly, attractively, and perceptively and learn to converse in the marketplace of ideas.
- Prepare for advanced studies in English.

The Department of English offers a primarily traditional curriculum. The philosophy and practice of the faculty is to emphasize works of recognized and enduring merit in the canon of English, American, and world literature. At the same time, they remain receptive to the inclusion of new or neglected works that are compatible with the department's philosophy. Several courses examine critical theory, and faculty employ a variety of methodologies in literary analysis, while favoring a historical and exegetical approach. Students may choose to obtain

a major or a minor in English, or work toward qualifying for the California Single Subject Teaching Credential in English (additional requirements).

## Careers for the English Major

The English major is not a career-specific major, such as accounting. Instead, alert and competent graduates with an English major have acquired a habit of thought and a range of skills that open opportunities for careers in a diversity of fields: teaching, missions, journalism, publishing, insurance, law, paralegal work, banking, personnel management, public relations, and government service. With additional specific training, graduates in English can enter these and other occupations, careers, and vocations.

## California Single Subject Teaching Credential in English

Students desiring to obtain a California Single Subject Teaching Credential in English complete the English major under the direction of an English faculty advisor. Currently (2010) the California State Commission on Teacher Credentialing requires students to pass four assessment examinations (CSET series) as evidence of subject matter competence. Information about these examinations and other state requirements is available in the Department of English, the Department of Teacher Education, and at [http://www.cset.nesinc.com/cs\\_testguide\\_engopener.asp](http://www.cset.nesinc.com/cs_testguide_engopener.asp)

## Credit by Examination

Students may receive credit by examination as follows:

### Advanced Placement (AP)

- Credit for E110 English Composition (3 units), score of 3 or higher on exam in *Language and Composition* (or) exam in *Literature and Composition*.
- Credit for E120 Introduction to Literature (3 units) for test score of 3 or higher on exam in *Literature and Composition* (but not *Language and Composition*); counts as literature elective.

### College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

- Credit for E110 English Composition (3 units) for a score of 55 or above on *Examination in College Composition* (includes two CLEP-scored essays).
- Credit for E120 Introduction to Literature (3

units) for a score of 55 or above on exam in *Analyzing and Interpreting Literature*; counts as literature elective.

- Credit for E211 English Literature I (or) E212 English Literature II; three (3) units credit may be granted for a score of 55 or above on exam in *English Literature*; fulfills literature survey requirement.
- Credit for E231 American Literature I (or) E232 American Literature II; three (3) units credit may be granted for a score of 55 or above on exam in *American Literature*; fulfills literature survey requirement.

## ENGLISH COURSE REQUIREMENTS

*Each of the following:*

E211, 212	English Literature I, II.....	3, 3
E231, 232	American Literature I, II.....	3, 3
E364	History of the English Language.....	3
E435	Literary Criticism & Critical Theory.....	3
E436	Contemporary Critical Theory.....	3
E491	Senior Thesis & Capstone Portfolio .....	3

*Also one of the following:*

- E221 World Literature I (3)
- E222 World Literature II (3)

*Also two of the following period courses:*

- E313 Age of Romanticism (3)
  - E314 Victorian Age (3)
  - E416 Modern British Writers (3)
  - E425 Twentieth Century American Literature (3)
- English Majors taking E425 may waive E232*

*Also one the following:*

- E332 Advanced Composition (3)
- E353 Modern English Grammar (3)

*Also one of the following:*

- E333 Drama as Literature (3)
- E334 The Short Story (3)
- E335 The English Novel (3)
- E336 Poetry & Poetics (3)

*Also the following:*

One Lower Division English Elective.....	3*
Three Upper Division English Electives.....	9*

\* Six of these 12 units may be from the following **writing courses** offered in the Department of Communication: C334, C344, C351, C354, C362, C441, C471

*Total units required for the major in English..... 51*

### Minor in English

A minor in English is offered to students not majoring

in English, but who wish to pursue their interest in the English language and in imaginative literature. For a minor in English, the following courses are required:

E120	Introduction to Literature.....	3
<i>Four Courses (12 units) from the following:</i>		
E211, 212	English Literature, I, II (3,3)	
E221, 222	World Literature I, II (3,3)	
E231, 232	American Literature I, II (3,3)	
Three Upper Division English Electives.....		9
<i>Total units required for the minor in English.....</i>		<i>24</i>

## Course Offerings in English

### E110 English Composition (3)

Instruction and supervised practice in the techniques of effective written expression, with emphasis on analytical reading and writing of expository prose. Includes one or more researched and documented essays. (Fulfills the general education requirement for writing competency.)

### E120 Introduction to Literature (3)

An introduction to literary forms: short story, novel, poetry, drama. This course intends to foster an appreciation for the range of literature and to instruct students in close reading and analysis. Provides further instruction in expository writing through personal response to and analysis of the literature. (May be counted as a literature elective; does not fulfill the literature survey requirement.)

### E211, 212 English Literature I, II (3, 3)

A chronological survey of the development of English literature, with emphasis on the major writers; some attention to the parallel developments in history, language, religion, and culture. First semester: Anglo-Saxon period through the Neoclassical period. Second semester: Romantic period through contemporary period.

### E221, 222 World Literature I, II (3, 3)

A chronological and geo-politico-religious survey of the major literary works that contributed to the shaping of world history. This course examines selected literary works from three major regions from antiquity to the present: the Greco-Roman world and Europe, the Middle Eastern world and India, and the Far East (China and Japan). First semester: antiquity to the Renaissance. Second semester: the Renaissance to the present. (Non-English majors may fulfill the general education literature survey requirement with either E221 or E222).

**E231, 232 American Literature I, II (3, 3)**

A survey of the writings of famous American authors, this course emphasizes those who help students to understand the American heritage and the influences combining to shape American literature. First semester: 1607-1860, Puritans through Whitman and Dickinson. Second semester: 1860-1960, Twain through selected contemporary writers.

**E299 Studies in Classic Film (3)**

An introduction to film history, technique and theory, with an emphasis on genre conventions. Students will study approximately twelve feature-length and several shorter films, with particular attention to how the technical and artistic elements such as cinematography, plot and direction control meaning and worldview. The focus of the course is on developing a biblical-critical-analytical approach to film viewing, resulting in discernment of the philosophical foundations of individual works (Fulfills non-survey literature elective).

**E313 Age of Romanticism (3)**

A study of the poetry and prose of the major writers of the English Romantic Movement (1785-1830) with a view to understand their lives, work, and literary importance. Selected minor writers and one novel are also included.

**E314 Victorian Age (3)**

Major poets and prose writers of England's Victorian period (1830-1901). Emphasizes those writers whose work both created and responded to crucial issues during this transitional era. Several minor authors and at least three Victorian novels are included.

**E322 Children's Literature (3)**

A survey of the various types of literature for children. Requires extensive reading and evaluation of children's books (May be counted as a literature elective by English majors *only* when they are pursuing a secondary teaching credential).

**E332 Advanced Composition (3)**

An advanced writing course emphasizing theory and praxis of composition. Special attention given to the five canons of Classical Rhetoric (i.e., invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery) to develop conceptual depth in content, and to broaden and refine stylistic and organizational repertoire in expression. Involves extensive practice in writing (re-writing) and oral presentation of the work. (May not be counted as an elective to fulfill the general education literature requirement in English.)

**E333 Drama as Literature (3)**

Selected works of Western playwrights from ancient to modern. Concurrently, this genre course explores the history, nature, and types of drama, especially the tragic and comic traditions, as well as the rise of new forms.

**E334 The Short Story (3)**

A study of short fiction from masters of the short story genre. Explores the fictional elements, techniques, themes and interpretation of representative works from classic and contemporary authors. Includes attention to the historical development of the genre.

**E335 The English Novel (3)**

A historical study of the development of the English novel. Emphasis on critical reading and writing through a study of selected novels from the eighteenth century to the present.

**E336 Poetry & Poetics (3)**

A study of metrical and stanzaic conventions of poetry. Emphasis on close reading of a wide range of representative poems from an anthology.

**E353 Modern English Grammar (3)**

A detailed structural examination of Modern English at the level of the clause, sentence, and discourse. Explores the concept and vocabulary behind traditional grammar as well as contemporary linguistic theories. Involves extensive practice in text analysis. Strongly recommended for all students seeking to qualify for the California Single Subject Teaching Credential in English. (May not be counted as an elective to fulfill the general education English requirements.)

**E364 History of the English Language (3)**

A systematic survey of the major periods in the development of the English language: Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, and Modern English. Provides deeper understanding of the nature of language and language change. Incorporates discussion of contemporary linguistic (and sociolinguistic) theories.

**E374 Studies in Jane Austen (3)**

Reading and analysis of the major Austen canon: seven novels, focusing on the context of Austen's life and times, modes of reading, thematic implications, and issues raised by Austen criticism. Some attention to film adaptations of her fiction.

**E405 Shakespeare (3)**

Intensive reading of ten of Shakespeare's thirty-seven plays and viewing a film version of an eleventh; additional extensive readings from the Sonnets. Short lectures and discussions throughout the semester explore the cultural background of Elizabethan England on a wide range of topics. Two-thirds of class sessions revolve around student group performance. Substantial term paper project also required.

**E406 Milton (3)**

Reading of John Milton's major poetry and much of the prose. Includes substantial amount of contextual reading in Calvin, Luther, Erasmus, Arminius, Augustine, Pelagius, Origen, and other theological and non-theological writers from the ancient to the early modern world. Additional attention to the scriptural passages that Milton used as catalysts for his own writing.

**E415 Contemporary Literature (3)**

An intensive study of selected contemporary literary works from around the world. This course examines the current international trends in literature, with special attention given to the body of literature loosely labeled "postmodern." Students will become familiar with its concept, content, and style; further, they will develop, from a biblical perspective, a critical ability to respond to its cognitive and aesthetic challenges.

**E416 Modern British Writers (3)**

British fiction, drama, poetry, and prose from 1910 to the 1940s. Authors are selected from among the following: Hardy, Conrad, Joyce, The War Poets, Forster, Yeats, Eliot, Woolf, Orwell, Lawrence, Huxley, Mansfield, Greene, Auden, Lewis. Reading of whole works, together with identification and discussion of techniques, subject matters, themes, historical influences, and crux issues.

**E425 Twentieth Century American Writers (3)**

An in-depth study of influential 20th century American novelists, short story writers, and playwrights (exclusive of poetry). Students will read whole works by authors selected from among the following: Bellow, Carver, Cullen, Dos Passos, Ellison, Faulkner, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Hurston, Kerouac, Kingston, Mamet, Miller, Morrison, O'Connor, O'Neill, Porter, Steinbeck, Tan, Updike, Vonnegut, Walker, Welty, Williams, and Wolfe. Includes contextual readings to help identify and engage with significant historical and cultural trends and events. (English majors selecting E425 may waive E232 and select an additional elective.)

**E435 Literary Criticism & Critical Theory (3)**

An introduction to literary criticism and theoretical/conceptual systems from the Pre-Socratics and Plato to modern and emerging postmodern thinking. Readings in primary texts, with emphasis on developing a biblical-critical theory for approaching literature, philosophy, art, culture, and *theory itself*. This basic theoretical model will derive from the scriptural record regarding human wisdom and knowledge.

**E436 Contemporary Critical Theory (3)**

An examination of the main trends in the development of critical and cultural theories since the New Criticism, focusing on (French) poststructuralism, (German) hermeneutics and (American) -Pragmatism, as well as (post-)Marxism and (Lacanian and post-Lacanian) psychoanalysis. This course also looks at some major outgrowths of these approaches, namely, contemporary feminism, deconstruction, and (so called) postmodernism.

**E453 Psychoanalytic Criticism (3)**

An in-depth investigation and critique of the theory and praxis of psychoanalysis as it is applied to the study of literature and culture. Introduces students to the terminology and the concept of Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis, and biblically and critically examines their origin and development, and applications to the field of literary and cultural criticism (as well as to aesthetics and gender theory). Recommended for advanced English majors seeking to pursue graduate education (or others who seek graduate education in various disciplines within the humanities).

**E489 Directed Studies in Literature (1-3)**

Intensive study of a selected topic in literature under direction of a member of the English faculty. *Prerequisite: Open to English majors only with permission of the department chairperson.*

**E491 Senior Thesis & Capstone Portfolio (3)**

During the last two semesters before graduation, all English majors prepare an extensive research paper on a complex literary topic, question, or issue. Students also compile an academic portfolio of 4 papers representative of their scholarship, and a tabular listing of all authors and titles studied in the English major at TMC. After the students' nationally-normed Area Concentration Achievement Test in Literature in English (ACAT) scores are available, they are included in the portfolio.

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**E499 Seminar in Literature (3)**

Selected writer, group of writers, or area of study. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

