



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
WHITEWATER

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

ENGLISH- LITERATURE

MISSION STATEMENT

The English Literature Program exposes students to a wide spectrum of cultural, literary, and critical perspectives in English and other literatures. Literature majors learn:

- To think and write analytically and creatively, preparing them for the changing realities of the twenty-first century. When analyzing a text, literature majors first focus on details and then how those details fit into a larger pattern. This is the key endeavor of literary training.
- Persuasive, well-honed communication skills to create a paper that articulates an analysis. These steps mirror the central career skills that are in demand in today's economy. Employers want people who can analyze data, notice a pattern, and articulate why that pattern matters.
- Sharp research skills, including the ability to find, contextualize, and evaluate a variety of sources. Such skills prepare people for every field that requires a nimble and imaginative thinker, an accomplished writer, and a sophisticated reader of texts of all kinds.
- To develop a keen sensibility to the way cultural differences shape human perception, making literature majors able to navigate the complexities of the new global century with assurance and attentive understanding.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.

All English Majors will emerge from the program with the ability to:

- Read texts closely for nuances of language, content, and form
- Write effectively and produce clear and coherent prose demonstrating effective use of grammar and style

- Construct arguments and execute well-structured, thesis-driven interpretations based on textual evidence
- Conduct research
- Develop extended arguments that take account of existing scholarly conversations
- Analyze conventions
- Analyze texts using an understanding of generic conventions and literary devices
- Place literary traditions and situate major texts within the contexts of the literature of the British Isles and the United States
- Demonstrate awareness of English as a language, including its systematic structure, history, and uses

English Literature Majors will emerge from the program with the additional ability to:

- Apply literary criticism and complex frames for textual analysis (including literary theory and/or interdisciplinary approaches)
- Analyze multicultural literature, literary texts and trends representing diverse and global traditions, cultures, and histories
- Articulate literary value and literature's unique ability to represent human problems—ethical, affective, and philosophical
- Present research
- Disseminate arguments in written and/or oral form, as scholars do