REQUIRED COURSES

There are 10 required courses to complete the English major, including four core courses—Literary Interpretation, British Literature I and II, and American Literature I—that should ideally be completed within your first two years. Literary Interpretation can be taken at the same time as any of the other three core courses.

CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR

NYU offers a degree in both English and American Literature and Dramatic Literature. The English major offers courses in literary theory, history, and culture, while the Dramatic Literature major focuses on theater and drama and their relationship to the literary field. Though the course requirements do vary between majors, many courses that satisfy requirements for both are cross-listed on Albert.

Your first required course in the major is **Literary Interpretation**, which serves as an introduction to the critical thinking and writing skills you will use throughout your time at NYU.

**British Literature I** is a survey course of literature beginning with the Anglo-Saxon epic poem, through Milton. Authors often include Chaucer, John Donne, and Shakespeare.

**British Literature II** covers major works of British literature from the Restoration (1660) to the early 20th century. You’ll likely be reading Daniel Defoe, George Eliot, William Wordsworth, Virginia Woolf, and Samuel Beckett.

**American Literature I** provides a survey of American literature beginning in 17th century colonial America and ending in the late 19th century around the Civil War era, featuring authors like Harriet Beecher Stowe, Herman Melville, Walt Whitman, and Emily Dickinson.

You’ll also take a course in **critical theory**. You have some options here, since you can satisfy this requirement with any one of several classes, like Major Texts in Critical Theory, Theory of Drama, Queer Literature, or Theory in Deconstruction. Take a look at the course descriptions in the department bulletin and pick the one that speaks to you.

Then there’s a **senior seminar** (course numbers in the 900s) typically taken in your junior or senior year because the four core courses are prerequisites for it. These courses generally vary widely in topic, so there’s plenty of opportunity to tailor your studies to suit your particular interests. Past seminars have included 20th Century Lit: Imagining Post-War America and Medieval Women’s Writing.

A number of different classes also satisfy the **required course in literature before 1800**, including Shakespeare I or II, Dante’s Divine Comedy, Renaissance Drama, and the 18th Century Novel.

Note that Creative Writing courses cannot be counted toward the English major or minor. However, the department requirements do leave plenty of room to take a creative writing course alongside your English classes if it interests you!