



"Majoring in English allows me to explore prevalent issues through the lens of eloquent, compelling authors. By engaging with these works, I have learned to interact with others in an articulate manner, empowering me to become a well-informed citizen throughout all areas of my life."

PRATHYU MATAM

Centre Class of 2017

English Major

Law Student, Loyola University

IT IS DIFFICULT
TO GET THE NEWS FROM POEMS
YET MEN DIE MISERABLY EVERY DAY
FOR LACK
OF WHAT IS FOUND THERE.
—WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS

THE ENGLISH PROGRAM AT CENTRE

With small classes and a caring, distinguished faculty, students in English learn to enter sympathetically into the worlds that writers create — from the harsh world of the Anglo-Saxon epic *Beowulf* to the haunted milieu of William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* and beyond.

Students in English learn to appreciate the artistry of poems, plays, novels and stories, to understand the play of themes and ideas in literature, and to be sensitive to the complex relationship between literature and the society it reflects.

CREATIVE WRITING AT CENTRE

Creative writing workshops at Centre are taught by faculty and visiting writers. Students from across the curriculum who are interested in writing may take one or two such classes, or even choose to minor in creative writing.

Every year, the College brings in nationally and internationally known poets and fiction writers to read from their own work, to teach or visit workshops, and to interact with students. Recent visiting writers include poet laureates and Pulitzer Prize winners like Paul Muldoon, Kevin Wilson, Billy Collins, Frank

X Walker, Francine J. Harris, Talvikki Ansel, Safiya Sinclair, Crystal Wilkinson, Bianca Briggs, Roxane Gay, Robert Hass, Heather McHugh, Roger Reeves, Wendell Berry, and Colson Whitehead. Student writers may submit their work to *Vantage Point*, a journal of campus writing edited and published by students several times a year, and they compete for two prizes in creative writing awarded annually by the program. A number of graduates have published poems, stories, and novels.

MAJORING IN ENGLISH

Students who wish to major or minor in English usually begin with surveys of British and American literature, which introduce them to methods of literary scholarship and give them a foundation in literary history. They then choose from an array of upper-level courses in all periods and genres (for example, *The Romance of Arthur*, *World Poetry*, *Romanticism*, *Crime in Literature*, or *Others and Outsiders*), as well as classes in creative writing and film. Junior and senior seminars offer an intimate, in-depth study of a particular literary topic from a variety of critical perspectives. Recent seminars have been on William Faulkner, Jane Austen, Herman Melville, Emily Dickinson, and Irish Literature. Several have included trips to literary sites around the country.

THE BENEFITS OF STUDYING ENGLISH

Most students who become majors simply enjoy reading, discussing, and writing about challenging and inspiring works of the imagination, but the skills students develop in studying English — the ability to think sensitively and creatively, to make and evaluate critical arguments, and to write clearly and convincingly — prepare students for a wide array of rewarding and profitable careers.

Not surprisingly, many Centre majors go on to graduate school in English or law. Several of these students have received prestigious fellowships such as the Rotary International and the Fulbright. Some graduates also teach elementary school or high school. Most majors, however, find jobs in business, journalism, and public service, areas where their ability to read complex prose and understand it, to research and analyze problems, and to explain the results of their investigations orally and in writing are highly prized. Recent Centre English majors have found jobs in such diverse fields as social work, sales and marketing, arts management, banking, insurance, corporate communications, investments, and desktop publishing.

INTERNSHIPS

An internship provides the opportunity to apply academic study to real-life situations. Internships have been available with such employers as varied as Host Communications, the Southeastern Theatre Conference, WSB-TV, and Tin House books.

FACULTY

HELEN EMMITT (A.B., Bryn Mawr; Ph.D., Berkeley), J. Rice Cowan Professor of English, teaches upper-level courses in 20th-century British and Irish literature. She has published articles on Ezra Pound, Margaret Drabble, George Eliot, and contemporary Irish poetry.

JOHN KINKADE (B.A., Centre; M.A., Ph.D., Texas), Associate Professor of English, teaches 18th-century British literature, British Romanticism, and crime literature. His research interests include Samuel Johnson, the essay, and the history of self-help books.

MARK LUCAS (B.A., Centre; M.A., Ph.D., North Carolina), Jobson professor of English, teaches upper-level courses in American literature with an emphasis on Southern literature. He has published a book on Andrew Lytle.

DANIEL MANHEIM (B.A., Amherst; M.A., M. Phil., Ph.D., Columbia), Stodghill Professor of English, teaches upper-level courses in American literature. His scholarly interests include Emily Dickinson and environmental literature. He is the editor of the Emily Dickinson International Society Bulletin.

AZITA OSANLOO (B.A., Oberlin College; M.F.A., University of Montana; Ph.D., Florida State University), Assistant Professor, teaches courses in prose fiction and creative non-fiction. Special interests include translation and adaptation studies, as well as 20th-century Persian literature.

STACEY PEEBLES (B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Texas), NEH Associate Professor of English, Director of Film Studies, teaches film studies and contemporary American literature. She is editor of *The Cormac McCarthy Journal* and has published a book on representation of the American soldier's experience in Iraq and

edited a collection of essays on violence and literature. Her most recent book is *Cormac McCarthy and Performance: Page, Stage, Screen*.

MARK RASMUSSEN (B.A., M.A., Harvard; M.A., Ph.D., Johns Hopkins), Luellen Professor of English, teaches upper-level courses in medieval and Renaissance literature and critical theory. He has published essays on a variety of medieval and Renaissance topics, as well as two edited collections.

PHILIP WHITE (B.A., M.A., Brigham Young; Ph.D., Massachusetts), Professor of English, teaches courses in Shakespeare and renaissance literature. He has published scholarly work in his field, as well as a book of poems, *The Clearing*. His translations of classical Chinese poetry have won the Willis Barnstone award.

LISA WILLIAMS (B.A., Belmont; M.A., Cincinnati; M.F.A., Virginia), Professor of English, Director of the Creative Writing Program, teaches courses in creative writing, and in poetry of all periods. Williams was awarded the Rome Prize in Literature by the American Academy of Arts and Letters; her first book of poems, *The Hammered Dulcimer* won the May Swenson Poetry Award, and her latest book, *Woman Reading to the Sea*, won the Barnard Women Poets Prize. Her most recent collection is *Gazelle in the House*. She serves as Series Editor of the University Press of Kentucky New Poetry and Prose Series.

VISIT CENTRE

The best way to judge Centre is to tour the campus, attend a class, talk to the professors and students, and spend the night in a residence hall. We invite you to visit and encourage you to contact the Admission Office if you have any questions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENGLISH PROGRAM AT CENTRE, CONTACT:

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ENGLISH WEB PAGE

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