

**OVERVIEW**

This program consists of courses in literature (defined to include film, media, folklore, and literary and cultural theory) with expanded requirements in theory and cultural studies. Students applying to the PhD program in Cultural Studies at George Mason who have not already earned an MA should pursue this concentration. Consult [culturalstudies.gmu.edu](http://culturalstudies.gmu.edu) for more information about the PhD program and associated MA degrees. There is a thesis option of at least six credits. As with all other MA in English programs, students must demonstrate that they have achieved an intermediate level of proficiency in a foreign language by the time they are finished with their degree program.

*Please note: Additional information on this concentration, courses, and graduate student policies is available in the MA in English Student Handbook.*

**PLANNING YOUR COURSE OF STUDY**

You must complete 30 credit hours of coursework in this program. Consult the schedule of classes each term to see which courses in literature are offered. Consult the University Catalog for a complete listing of English courses.

**RESEARCH COURSE 3 CREDIT HOURS**

ENGH 701: Literary Scholarship

**CULTURAL STUDIES COURSES 6 CREDIT HOURS**

ENGH 676: Introduction to Cultural Studies

CULT 802: Histories of Cultural Studies (prerequisite: ENGH 676 and 24 credit hours of the MA degree)

**LITERARY AND CULTURAL THEORY, MEDIA, AND FILM STUDIES COURSES 6 CREDIT HOURS**

Select two of the following courses:

ENGH 551: Literary Criticism (recommended for students who have had no prior theory)

ENGH 555: Introduction to Cinema Studies

ENGH 665: Texts and Global Contexts

ENGH 670: Visual Culture: Theories and Criticism

ENGH 675: Feminist Theory and Criticism

ENGH 685: Selected Topics, Movements, or Genres of Literature in English (depending on the topic)

ENGH 705: Literary Theory and Criticism (content varies; may be repeated by permission)

ENGH 740: Seminar in English/Cultural Studies

**LITERATURE COURSES 15 CREDIT HOURS**

ENGH 799, if taken

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Students must take 5 literature courses OR 3 literature courses and 6 credit hours of ENGH 799 (see thesis option below) for a total of 15 credit hours. Select from the array of offerings each semester, being sure to consult with your adviser, the graduate director, or the graduate programs manager if you have questions about whether a given course counts as a literature course. Some of these are special topics courses, which may be taught only once. Many courses are on a two year rotation, some on a one year rotation, though even in these the content may vary from semester to semester. Since the MA is meant to be a generalist degree, students considering applying to doctoral programs in English should be sure to choose courses treating a range of literary-historical periods, areas, and approaches.

*Please note: With advance permission of the graduate director, you may present up to six credit hours in coursework outside the department, if they reinforce the course of study.*

**THESIS OPTION 6 CREDIT HOURS - OPTIONAL**

In place of 6 credit hours of literature, students may opt to complete a six credit-hour thesis; consult your faculty adviser on whether this option is suitable for you. This option is recommended for students who have a special scholarly project they wish to develop.

**NON-COURSE REQUIREMENT: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

*Intermediate proficiency corresponds to Mason's coursework through the 202 or 210 level. Generally speaking, this level represents four consecutive semesters in a given language (e.g. French 101, 102, 201, and 202), although the number of courses varies depending on the university at which they were taken.*

Students may satisfy this requirement in one of the following ways:

- Confirm that your undergraduate (or continuing education) transcript includes courses corresponding to intermediate proficiency. If you completed your undergraduate studies at Mason, you have fulfilled the language requirement.
- Take a proficiency exam administered by the English department if your language proficiency is German, Russian, French, or Spanish. Contact the graduate programs manager to schedule an exam.
- Take a proficiency exam administered in the Modern and Classical Languages department if your proficiency is in a language other than German, Russian, French, or Spanish. Contact MCL to determine whether appropriate exams are administered.
- Take courses at Mason or elsewhere through the intermediate level. Make sure the intermediate level elsewhere corresponds to that at Mason.

Please contact the graduate programs manager soon after enrolling to determine how you will meet the language proficiency requirement. The graduate programs manager can be reached at 703.993.1180.

*Please note: Even if you complete your foreign language coursework at Mason, you must contact the graduate programs manager to complete the necessary paperwork.*