

2009-2010 Literature Advising Sheet

Overview

This program consists of courses in literature (**defined to include film, media, folklore, and literary and cultural theory**) and a required course in research methods. At least three credits of a student's program must be devoted to a critical theory course. There is a thesis option of at least six credits. As with all the M.A. 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 programs.

- ◆ 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 course work 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.

Course work must be distributed as outlined below; courses can qualify in more than one area.

Research (3 credit hours required)

- ENGL 701: Research in English Studies

Theory (3 credit hours required)

One of the following:

ENGL 514: Theories of Comparative Literature

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

ENGL 675: Feminist Theory and Criticism

CULT 676: Introduction to Cultural Studies

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

Literature (24 credit hours required. Literature courses, as defined above, do not include pedagogical, writing, or professional development courses)

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Students must take 8 literature courses or 6 literature courses and 6 credit hours of ENGL 799 (see thesis option below) for a total of 24 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.

Note: With the advance permission of the Graduate Director, you may present up to six hours in coursework outside the department, if they reinforce the course of study.

Thesis Option (6 credit hours required)

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

Language Requirement

- Intermediate proficiency in a foreign language

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 are taken. (Mason students can meet the requirement by taking a three semester series with 6 hours of 110 and 3 hours of 210).

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 training at Mason, you have fulfilled the language requirement for the MA.
- Take a proficiency exam administered by the English Department if your language proficiency is German, Russian, French, or Spanish and you cannot confirm study via your transcript. Contact the graduate programs manager to schedule the 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 that 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 necessary paperwork.