

# Bachelor of Arts in English

0718



## WHAT DO STUDENTS LEARN?

When you major in English at Chatham, you will be immersed in the literary imagination through studying English, American, and world literature. You will also develop skills in writing and in literary analysis, as you learn about literary genres, historical periods, and theories. On campus, you will have the opportunity to write for the student newspaper, assist with the literary magazine, and join the English honor society. Additionally, you will be encouraged to take advantage of internship opportunities in order to acquire firsthand work experience directly related to your studies or career plans.

## WHAT DO GRADUATES GO ON TO DO?

English students are adept and critical thinkers, and powerful speakers and writers—skills that are highly valued in the workplace. With an English degree from Chatham, you can go into many professional or academic careers, ranging from book publishing to advertising, law, teaching secondary students and beyond. Our students have gone into fields such as editorial work, library science, technical writing, and higher education—including the professoriate.

You will engage with cultural texts, historical contexts, and literary theory to produce written arguments and oral presentations that critically analyze the relationships between text, content, and context. You will learn how authors imagine and express worlds and emotions while you hone your writing skills and acquire the art of close textual analysis. You will work closely with a dedicated faculty as you develop your capacity for sophisticated expression, preparing you for a variety of professional or academic careers.



## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- You will be encouraged to present your academic and creative work at professional conferences through Sigma Tau Delta, the International Honor Society, and other organizations, helping you develop your professional identity as you prepare to move on to employment or graduate work.
- Students of the English program are encouraged to join the Creative Writing Club, which offers support and advice to aspiring writers and connects you to upcoming literary events, readings, and contests.
- Secondary education certification in English is available through the Education Department.
- Small, intimate classes allow you to work directly with passionate faculty and fellow students who share your intellectual curiosity.
- All students complete a capstone seminar that channels the knowledge they've accumulated into a literary and theoretical paper under close faculty guidance. Chatham is one of the few universities across the country that offers such an independent and student-driven program.

## SAMPLE COURSES

### African-American Writers

This course provides an introduction to the African-American expressive tradition, including poetry, fiction, autobiography, song and folktales from the 18th century to the present. Examining writers such as Douglass, Chesnut, Brooks, Baldwin, Ellison, and Walker, this course works to delineate the critical and historical contours of the African-American literary tradition.

### Food and American Identity

This course examines literature in multiple genres (e.g. fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, graphic novel, film/television, and long-form journalism) through the theoretical lens of food studies to understand how writers use food as a cultural object to point to issues of identity including race, class, gender, sexuality, age, ability, and systems of belief.

### Bleak Houses: Shifting Landscapes of the English Novel

This course will cover the modern European novel through the thematic rubric of “love and lies.” This affords the opportunity to consider fiction not only as a medium of the novel but also as a discourse of self-expression, self-creation, and in the cases of some of our lying protagonists, self-destruction. Students will focus on characters’ constructions of “truth” and “lies” as these concepts are informed by characters’ emotional positions. At its most ambitious, this focus on the dynamic of intersubjectivity not only provides important insights into the literature we will read but also enhances students’ understanding of the interpersonal connections that drive worldviews and narratives.

► [www.chatham.edu/english/curriculum.cfm](http://www.chatham.edu/english/curriculum.cfm)

## INTERNSHIPS

Students have interned at a variety of settings, including organizations such as

- *Pittsburgh Magazine*
- U.S. Department of Justice
- McGraw-Hill Publishers
- WAMO Radio
- The White House
- Marvel Comics
- Thomas Merton Center
- City of Asylum
- Wardensville Main Street Initiative
- Youtube.com



“The English major at Chatham is a challenge to better understand and interpret the worlds we encounter in texts and in life. From Twain’s Mississippi River, Shakespeare’s Globe, and August Wilson’s Hill District, the English major widens the imagination while also offering the tools and vocabulary to critically engage with the texts that helped to shape our current realities.”

-JENNY SCHOLLAERT '15, *current Ph.D. candidate, University of Maryland*



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**[apply.chatham.edu](http://apply.chatham.edu)**

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### **LEARN MORE**

Chatham University  
Office of Admission  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15232

800-837-1290 or 412-365-1825  
[undergraduate@chatham.edu](mailto:undergraduate@chatham.edu)

*Read faculty bios, browse course descriptions, and  
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**[chatham.edu/english](http://chatham.edu/english)**