February 22, 2017

Dear Junior English Major:

Congratulations on your success so far in the English major! We write to invite your application to the Honors Program. We urge you to discuss this option with your advisor, and consider it as an appropriate culmination to your excellent undergraduate career.

The Honors Program provides an opportunity to write a thesis during the senior year and to earn the designation “Honors in English” or “High Honors in English” on your diploma and transcript. More importantly, it provides the chance to explore a topic, whether critical or creative, in an in-depth way and to produce a memorable final thesis that is kept in bound form in the English Department and may be archived on the Vanderbilt Library Digital Archive. Whether you are considering graduate school or you simply want the experience of an intensive, exciting capstone project, we think you will find the Honors Program an exhilarating opportunity.

In order to be eligible for the Honors Program you must have a 3.4 GPA overall and a 3.5 GPA in the Major. The deadline for applying to the Honors Program is Wednesday, April 5, 2017. Applications can be e-mailed to Wendy Stone at w.stone@vanderbilt.edu; a copy of the application is attached, and it is also available on the department website. Please note that recommenders’ signatures are not required; just confirm with them their willingness to recommend you.

Students can register for Honors seminars during the usual registration period; registration for the Honors Colloquium can be added after admission to the Honors Program.

To graduate with Honors, a student must have completed two Honors seminars (in addition to the Colloquium and Thesis). Although most successful applicants will have taken at least one seminar by now, it is possible to take both during the senior year. If you are studying abroad, an intensive seminar from your program may be eligible to substitute for an Honors seminar, as could certain graduate courses. Please note that successful completion of the Honors Program involves 33 hours of English, in accordance with the college requirement that all Honors programs require an additional course beyond the major.

Some students elect to develop their Honors projects based on work already or concurrently begun in other courses. For double majors, the Honors Program can be an opportunity to combine your two fields of study into a single project.

Below is a list of English Honors seminars for next year. These courses, some of which meet major requirements, have enrollments restricted to fifteen students with at least a 3.4 GPA. The level of study, as well as the personal attention of the professor, makes for an excellent intellectual experience.
The courses offered as Honors seminars for 2017 - 2018 are as follows:

**Fall 2017:**

**ENGL 3640**  
Modern British and American Poetry  
Mark Jarman  
MWF 1:10-2:00  
This course will consider six Modern poets who left a lasting impression on the poetry of their own time and subsequently: W. B. Yeats, T. S. Eliot, H. D. (Hilda Doolittle), William Carlos Williams, Marianne Moore, and Wallace Stevens. In the first half of the 20th century, each of these poets created a unique style that embodied his or her personal vision of the poet and the modern world. Class will consist of an ongoing discussion of their poems and, where relevant, their prose. Two papers, regular homework, and a final.  

**ENGL 3894**  
Major Figures in Literature: Toni Morrison  
Hortense Spillers  
TR 11:00-12:15  
Toni Morrison, one of the world's foremost writers, nearly single-handedly shifted the emphasis in U.S. canonical writing to African-American and women creative intellectuals; making her debut c. 1969, with the magazine *RedBook*'s serialization of the novel, *The Bluest Eye*, Morrison would go on to dominate the world of letters for the next three decades, culminating with the publication of *Beloved* in the late 1980s and a Nobel prize for literature in 1993. Morrison has kept up a prolific outflow of work, including novels and critical essays, well into the new century. This course is devoted to a sustained examination of Morrison's major work and will include most of the novels, the play, *Emmett Till*, and the influential critical study, *Playing in the Dark*. This course is all Morrison all the time.

**Spring 2018 (tentative):**

**ENGL 2319**  
World Literature, Modern  
Julie Fesmire

**ENGL 3726**  
New Media  
Haerin Shin  
*This course also satisfies the Approach requirement.*

If you have any questions about the Honors Program, your eligibility, or the application process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best,

**Julie Fesmire**  
Director of Undergraduate Studies  
j.fesmire@vanderbilt.edu

**Teresa Goddu**  
Director of the English Honors Program  
teresa.a.goddu@vanderbilt.edu
HONORS IN ENGLISH APPLICATION
(for juniors only)

Please complete the entire application and e-mail it to w.stone@vanderbilt.edu.

English and Secondary Education majors who would like to consider the Honors Program should consult with the Department of English Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), Professor Julia Fesmire, j.fesmire@vanderbilt.edu. Additionally, you should NOT apply for the Honors Program if you are planning to do an internship your senior year.

Students should submit this application and their best writing sample (5-10 pages in length). Application deadline is Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

Name: __________________________ E-mail: __________________________

Campus Address: __________________________

Date: __________________________ Expected Graduation: __________________________

English Major Adviser: __________________________ Program: __________________________

(Literary, Creative Writing, or Individualized)

Second Major and Adviser: __________________________

(if applicable)

Please leave this section blank

Overall GPA: __________________________ English GPA: __________________________

Faculty Endorser #1: __________________________ Faculty Endorser #2: __________________________

Note: Applicants in the Creative Writing Program who wish to write a creative thesis must have at least one endorser from the Creative Writing faculty.

Please list below English courses already taken, including the instructor’s name, semester, as well as current courses. Applicants who are already enrolled in an Honors Seminar will receive preference.

Please leave “Grade Earned” column blank.

This information should not be transmitted via e-mail and is for the Department of English’s use only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Grade Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors Seminars:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other English Courses:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(1) Describe the reasons you wish to participate in the Honors in English Program. How does the Program fit in with your previous work and your future plans?

(2) Describe in a paragraph or two what you view as one of the most interesting arguments you have made in a paper (for any class, including non-English).

(3) Describe your writing process – either for a specific work or in general.

(4) Pretend you must choose a thesis topic right now. Describe it.

(5) What are your summer plans? Where can you be reached this summer?