



2 March 2018

Dear Junior English Major:

Congratulations on your success so far as an 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 your 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 4, 2018**. Applications can be e-mailed to Jeff Cooper at jeffrey.cooper@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; we will add you to the Honors Colloquium after your admission to the 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 one 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 2018-2019 are as follows:

Fall 2018:

ENGL 3654 African American Literature

Marzia Milazzo
MWF 11:10-12:00

This course will examine African American literature from the 19th century until the present, paying particular attention to the historical reality of slavery and its ongoing repercussions in our time. Opening with Frederick Douglass' Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, we will consider how African American writers have probed questions of freedom, bondage, and equality, challenging the norms and ideological foundations upon which the United States rests as a nation. Readings will include works by Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, Nella Larsen, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Hortense Spillers, Audre Lorde, Malcolm X, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Angela Davis, and Tupac Shakur.

ENGL 3720 Literature, Science, and Technology: The History of Digital versus Indexical

Jonathan Lamb
TR 9:30-10:50

This course will chart a division in the theory of knowledge that is still with us. It began to be acute with the arrival of the New Science when empiricism collided with variations of Platonism. The neo-Platonics did not view knowledge as an acquirement that perfected us, rather as a timeless truth that we recollected; and for demonstrable truths they turned to mathematics and geometry. Empiricists believed that all we knew arrived through the senses, imperfect because of sin, but improvable by machines; and for proof they turned to experiment. Where has this debate got us? Texts include: Selections from Plato, The Republic; Descartes, Meditations; Bacon, The Advancement of Learning; Hooke Micrographia; Margaret Cavendish, Observations on the Experimental Philosophy and The Blazing World; Addison Spectator papers 411-421, 'On the Pleasures of Imagination'; Humphrey Davy, O Excellent Air-Bag; Mike Jay, The Influencing Machine.

Spring 2019 (tentative):

ENGL 2318 World Literature, Classical

Lynn Enterline

ENGL 3894 Major Figures: Fanny Burney and Jane Austen

Scott Juengel

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 jeffrey.cooper@vanderbilt.edu, or deliver to Benson Hall 314.

English and Secondary Education double 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 4, 2018.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Campus Address: _____

Date: _____ Expected Graduation: _____

English Major Adviser: _____ Program: _____
(Literary Studies, 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.

	Course	Instructor	Semester	Grade Earned
Honors Seminars:				
Other English Courses:				

Should you need additional space, please feel free to attach pages to answer the following questions.

(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?

After submitting your application, you should receive an e-mail acknowledging its receipt within approximately 48 hours.