

# The Master of Arts in AMERICAN & ENGLISH LITERATURE

The specialization in American and English literature requires 30 to 36 semester hours for completion of the Master of Arts degree. (Students admitted without having fulfilled the foreign language requirement must also complete at least two years in the same foreign language to complete the MA program.)

*Note: in total, no more than 9 credit hours from 400-level courses can count toward the Literature MA specialization.*

## REQUIRED COURSES (18 hours):

\_\_\_ ENG 501: Modern Literary Studies (taken in the first available term)

\_\_\_ ENG 502: Modern Literary Theory

One course (either 400 or 500 level) selected from **four** of the following six periods:

_____ Medieval	_____ 19th Century British
_____ Renaissance (1500-1660)	_____ Colonial and/or 19th Century American
_____ 18th Century (1660-1800)	_____ 20th Century American and/or British

## ELECTIVES (12 to 18 hours):

Courses may be elected in literature, creative writing, composition, and/or linguistics. Elective hours may also include credit for ENG 598: Thesis or ENG 599: Preparatory Reading/English and American Literature. Students may, with the written approval of their advisor and of the Director of Graduate Studies, choose ONE elective from another SIUE Department; use the [Graduate Student Request Form](#) to obtain approval prior to registration.

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## EXIT REQUIREMENTS:

This program requires the student, in consultation with a Graduate Literature Specialization advisor, to select one of three exit options and to choose an examining committee comprised of three faculty members.

### (1) Thesis plan (30 hours)

Enroll in ENG 599: Thesis and submit an acceptable thesis in any area of the field, including women's studies. In this plan, the candidate must pass a one-hour oral examination on the thesis and related topics.

### (2) Three-paper plan (30 hours)

Enroll in ENG 598: Preparatory Reading/English and American Literature and prepare three 20-page papers based on a reading list established in consultation with the candidate's committee.

### (3) Oral examination plan (36 hours)

Complete an additional 6 hours of course work at the 500-level within the discipline and prepare for an oral examination on a reading list developed on a field selected by the candidate from within one of the six periods designated in the "Required Courses" section above or two contiguous periods, a genre, major authors, or women's studies. The field (and the reading list) must be approved by the examining committee in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies.

Students are reminded to file for Graduation Check at the beginning of the semester in which they plan to graduate.