

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



## OKANAGAN SENATE SECRETARIAT

### Enrolment Services

### Senate and Curriculum Services

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**12 March 2008**

**Memo to: Okanagan Senate**

**From: Dr. Sharon McCoubrey, Admissions and Awards Committee**

**RE: Joint Report, Curriculum and Admissions and Awards Committees,  
New Program (approval)**

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*The Curriculum Committee and Admissions and Awards Committee jointly recommends the new Master of Arts in English program and its associated courses for Senates approval as enclosed.*



## UBC Curriculum Proposal Form Change to Course or Program

**Category: 1**

<b>Faculty:</b> Creative and Critical Studies <b>Department:</b> Critical Studies <b>Faculty Approval Date:</b> Dec 6, 2007 <b>Effective Session:</b> 2008W	<b>Date:</b> January 10, 2008 <b>Contact Person:</b> Dr. Jennifer Gustar <b>Phone:</b> 250-807-9384 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jennifer.gustar@ubc.ca">jennifer.gustar@ubc.ca</a>
<b>Proposed URL:</b> <a href="http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/proof/edit/index.cfm?tree=18,285,0,0">http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/proof/edit/index.cfm?tree=18,285,0,0</a>  <b>Proposed Calendar Entry:</b>  <b>ENGLISH</b>  <b>Program Overview</b> Degree offered: M.A.  The Master of Arts in English will deliver training in the theory, methods, and practice of Literary Studies in English. All M.A. students will be required to complete three core courses – ENGL 501, 502, and 503, addressing a range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to English, and the skills necessary to conduct textual research and other aspects of the profession. Additional training in the literature and culture of particular historical periods, genres, authors, national and international literatures will be available in any given year via unique graduate English courses offered at the discretion of the English Program (520 series).  <b>Admission Requirements</b> The M.A. degree program is governed by the regulations of UBC Okanagan's College of Graduate Studies, including its standards for admission of students.  Applicants to the M.A. in English program are expected to have a B.A. degree in English or at least a significant	<b>Present Calendar Entry:</b> n/a



concentration in Literary Studies as part of their baccalaureate degree. Their background must sufficiently prepare them for advanced work in English. Applicants are expected to have a standing of a B+ (76%) average or better in their third and fourth year classes or at least twelve credits in third and fourth year English classes with an A- (80%) or better average. For applicants for whom English is not a native language, minimum acceptable TOEFL scores are 580 (paper), 230 (computer), and 86 (internet).

At the discretion of the English Graduate Committee, a student who does not meet the minimal requirements, but who has a strong undergraduate record, may be allowed to take a qualifying term in the M.A. program. The student's admission will be assessed at the end of the qualifying term to ascertain whether the student can continue in the M.A. English program.

### **Program Requirements**

In addition to the general academic regulations for graduate students set out in this chapter, the minimum requirements for the M.A. are 30 credits as follows:

- ENGL 501, 502 and 503;
- Two of ENGL 521, 522, 523, 524, 525;
- Two additional courses, which may be chosen from ENGL 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, from select English 4th year courses (such as the English Honours Seminar or English courses cross-listed at the 400- and 500- level), or from other graduate programming in Creative and Critical Studies, such as Studies in Cultures and Texts.\* (The thesis student will complete only one of these course requirements rather than two.)

### **Type of Action:**

This entry adds an additional level to the Graduate Admissions indicating English specific requirements, excerpt below:

### **VII. Faculties, Schools, and Colleges**

#### **College of Graduate Studies > Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies > Admission Requirements**

**[12110]** In addition to fulfilling the regular requirements for admission to graduate studies, students seeking entry into the UBC Okanagan IGS program are required to develop a program plan in consultation with a potential supervisor. This plan will include both a program of study and research compatible with the research program and expertise of the supervisor.

**Rationale:** Individual programs have specific admissions requirements. This explanation of admission requirements is specific to the English student.



- Language requirement
- Graduate colloquium

Additional requirement for M.A. coursework: English 590: Independent Research Paper (9 credits).

Additional requirement for MA Thesis: English 599: Thesis (12 credits).

\*Note: Students may, at the discretion of their supervisor, enroll in up to two IGS graduate courses outside Creative and Critical Studies, if their research program would benefit from further interdisciplinary work.

### **Coursework Option**

The coursework student will complete 21 credits of coursework and an independent research paper of publishable quality (9 credits).

### **Thesis Option**

While a thesis-based MA is available, completion within one calendar year will require a highly-motivated student. To apply for the thesis MA, the student will submit a 2500-word proposal with complete bibliography by the first day of the fourth month of study (generally December 1<sup>st</sup> of the first term). Students completing an MA thesis will be required to take 18 credits of coursework and complete a thesis of 12 credits.

### **Contact Information**

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### **Type of Action:**

Creation of a New Graduate Program:  
Masters of Arts in English

**Rationale:**

The MA degree in English will provide students with the theoretical and practical tools involved in advanced literary studies in English. Graduates of the MA program will be prepared for a variety of professions that value strong communication skills and a facility in writing and textual analysis—such as education, journalism, professional writing, publishing, law, consulting, or marketing—or for PhD research. The MA will emphasize a breadth of knowledge in the form of course work, and also encourage students to produce original, publishable research. Our mission is to train students to be successful scholars, who are capable of contributing to important literary and cultural knowledge, both within our field and within the culture at-large, and of disseminating their skills and knowledge widely.

Over 20 Canadian universities offer MA degrees in English. Many of these programs have requirements very similar to those proposed here, with a particular emphasis on coursework and the creation of an article-length research paper. Our degree is unique in that it requires an interdisciplinary component; depending on the student's interest, that component can range from as few as 3 credits to as many as 9 credits. The MA is the required background for admission into the vast majority of PhD programs in English. Relevant employers will also recognize the MA in English.

We expect our program will be of interest to students seeking to further their skills in literary study, to continue on to the PhD, to update their skill-level (educators and professionals) and to prepare for professional work in publishing, writing, education, etc. Our uniqueness stems from



	<p>fostering interdisciplinary study; we believe this will make us a destination institution for students seeking a broader range of programming options; at the same time, we remain flexible enough to allow a more conventional path for those who desire a literary focus on English and its inherent inter-disciplinarity.</p> <p>Our program meets the mandate of the University of British Columbia Okanagan by fostering interdisciplinary work and providing educational opportunities locally and globally.</p>
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**Curriculum Proposal Form**  
**UBC OKANAGAN**  
**New or Change to Course or Program**

**Category: 1**

<b>Faculty:</b> Creative and Critical Studies <b>Unit/Dept.:</b> Critical Studies <b>Faculty Approval Date:</b> Dec 4, 2007 <b>Effective Session:</b> 2008W	<b>Date:</b> January 18, 2008 <b>Contact Person:</b> Jennifer Gustar <b>Phone:</b> 807-9384 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:Jennifer.gustar@ubc.ca">Jennifer.gustar@ubc.ca</a>
<p><b>Proposed Calendar Entries:</b></p> <p><b>English 501 (3): Methodologies: Critical Theory</b>          Exploring the interdisciplinary roots of Critical Theory in philosophy, linguistics, aesthetics, psychoanalysis, cultural studies, and feminism, this course examines the ways in which theory informs current practices of interpretation.</p> <p><b>ENGL 502 (3): Methodologies: Cultural Theory</b>          Interdisciplinary introduction to the field of cultural studies theory and the heterogeneous body of cultural and social texts, objects, and events that it critically frames and examines.</p> <p><b>ENGL 503 (3): Practices in the Profession of Literary Studies and Related Disciplines</b>          Introduction to the profession's expectations, practices, and responsibilities.</p> <p><b>ENGL 521 (3): Topics in Historical Periods and Movements</b></p>	<p><b>URL:</b>          n/a</p> <p><b>Present Calendar Entry:</b></p>



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**ENGL 522 (3): Topics in Genre Studies****ENGL 523 (3): Topics in National/International Literatures and Culture****ENGL 524 (3): Individual Author Studies****ENGL 525 (3): Studies in Diversity and Identity****ENGL 590 (9): Independent Research Paper**

Under the direction of a qualified supervisor, the student will propose and write a publishable, article-length research paper (7500 words) on a subject and body of texts of interest to the student. (Required for all M.A. Coursework students.)

**ENGL 599 (12) Masters Thesis**

Under the direction of a qualified supervisor, the student will propose and write a 15,000 to 20,000-word thesis of publishable quality, addressing a subject and body of texts of interest to the student and supervisor. (Required for all M.A. Thesis students.)

**Type of Action:**

New courses for the English MA

**Rationale:**

The four of the five 520 series courses are currently being taught as IGS Critical Studies in English courses. This action regularizes them to English courses for the M.A. Examples of course outlines are attached.

ENGL 503 is important for developing an understanding of professional expectations and practices necessary for graduate students to pursue an academic career in





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English or in related areas. It will contribute to MA students in English, Studies in Cultures and Texts (SCT) and Critical Studies in English (CSIE), enabling them to gain the skills necessary to be effective teaching assistants, researchers and scholars.

ENGL 521: Topics in Historical Periods and Movements fulfills an important part of the English MA by offering students intensive study of both historical and contemporary texts within context of their emergence and importance. It offers the opportunity for in-depth study of a period or movement, such as the Renaissance, Modernism, Victorian Period, etc.