Master's Program in

ENGLISH

at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

2020-2021 Handbook
Dear Incoming English Graduate Students:

We welcome you to our Master of Arts in English Graduate Program! We are excited to have you join our community of learners, and we welcome the special knowledge and talents you bring to the group.

Our program prepares you to be great thinkers and writers, which will land you great jobs. We will train you in writing, literary studies and linguistics to give you a broad foundation, but you will be able to choose which area(s) you want to gain more experience in.

Our graduates go on to PhD and law programs, including Clemson and Syracuse University to name drop a few. They find jobs teaching at all levels (including oversees), but that’s not all we focus on. Our graduates become leaders who coordinate programs, create digital content, work as technical writers/editors, and on and on. Our program allows you to build on your skills and make yourself even more marketable.

This handbook will serve as a valuable resource during your time in the program as it contains procedures, policies and resources. You will want to refer to the handbook often to make sure you are aware of the requirements for the program.

Also keep up with our department website and Facebook page to find out more about our super faculty and activities. You will find helpful information there as well.

We look forward to working and learning with you during this important time in your life. Again, welcome to our learning community.

Sincerely,
Susan Garza, PhD
Coordinator
MA English Program
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Answers to frequently asked questions:

1. **How many students are accepted each year?**
   Since its inception in 1993, between 10 and 20 students have been accepted into the program each year.

2. **What is the normal course load?**
   A full-time course load defined by the University is 9 credit hours, or 3 courses, per long semester. (Less than a quarter of students in the program attend full time.) Because most of our students also work, we encourage them to take a maximum of 6 credit hours during a long semester. Taking more than 6 hours during a summer session requires approval of your advisor or the coordinator of the program.

3. **How long will it take me to complete my degree?**
   Usually it takes two school years, with one summer (for full-time progress) or two summers (taking 6 hours per long semester).

4. **How large are the seminars?**
   Core courses usually have 15-20 students, electives 10-15 students.

5. **What is the atmosphere of the department?**
   Here is how some current students and alumni describe it:
   - “Everybody in the English program has been very supportive.”
   - “The English faculty are an exception to the long tradition of departments that espouse an attitude toward students of ‘us versus them.’”
   - “The English faculty rarely treated me as only a student; they reinforced the idea that I and others in the program were to be future colleagues and we were treated as such.”
   - “I have enjoyed my classes and am very impressed by the openness and approachable nature of our faculty.”

6. **What are the program’s strengths?**
   Ask our alumni!
   - “The classes are small; graduates get individualized attention and receive many opportunities for experiment/advancement with research, teaching, grading, etc.”
   - “Students from traditionally marginalized backgrounds can come here and find tremendous support, financially, emotionally, academically.”
   - “Our English faculty maintain professional demeanors and high academic expectations and criteria while communicating with us on a very personal and human level. Not an easy trick to pull off.”
   - “I received excellent advising and mentoring from my graduate advisors… I was encouraged, supported, and always given the attention and time to discuss whatever issues I needed to address.”
7. **After finishing the MA, what are my options?**

Since the program’s inception in 1993, many of our graduates have come from (and returned to) primary and secondary schools in surrounding districts. Others have been accepted into doctoral programs, and many of those have become professors at other universities. Still others are working as community college faculty, as lawyers, and as professional writers in government service or other industry-related fields.
Program Mission, Outcomes, and Standards

Over the past several years, the English faculty has reexamined our founding principles as a way of redefining program goals and assessing the design, implementation, and success of our curriculum. The important principles that underpin the English graduate program are the following:

Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi – Mission Statement
Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi is an expanding, doctoral-granting institution committed to preparing graduates for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in the global community. We are dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, creative activity and service. Our supportive, multicultural learning community provides undergraduate and graduate students with a challenging educational experience. The university’s federal designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) provides a foundation for closing educational gaps, while its strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico and on the cultural border with Latin America provides a basis for gaining national and international prominence.

College of Liberal Arts – Mission Statement
• Our college values learning that results from purposeful relationships within vibrant and dynamic communities.
• Our college values learning that affects the whole individual through all aspects of our humanity (from the emotive to the rational).
• Our college values learning that produces responsible citizens who engage in the communities around them.
• Our college values learning that engages in research and produces scholarship which extends knowledge and, through this, our regional, national, and global reputations.

English Graduate Program – Mission Statement
The English MA Program offers all candidates the opportunity to grow intellectually and creatively through the advanced study of language, literature, and writing. The program offers a variety of opportunities designed to
• further students’ understanding and application of writing, composition theory, linguistics, literature, and literary theory;
• encourage awareness and application of transnational and/or border studies perspectives;
• develop accomplished teachers of English at the secondary and community college levels;
• prepare skilled professional/technical writers and writing trainers;
• provide students with the background and skills needed to pursue terminal degrees in English and American Studies.

The English MA faculty is committed to an integrated understanding of English as a field of study.
Student Learning Outcomes
At the end of the program, students will demonstrate:

• proficiency in critical reading, writing, and thinking at the graduate level;
• understanding and application of core knowledge, vocabulary, and concepts in the discipline;
• proficiency in scholarly methods of research and inquiry; and
• appropriate preparation for individual career paths within the profession.

Graduate Studies Standards
Faculty in the English MA Program assume that seminar members are good-faith graduate students. Bona fide graduate-school behavior is distinguished in at least four ways:

• Students read weekly assignments on time, completely, to the last page, and they come to the seminar with serious responses and a willingness to discuss.
• Students do not assume that an assignment is legitimate only if it will be “tested.” The work is done for its own sake.
• Students expect that they will attend 100% of the time, and make home arrangements so that this will happen. They don’t assume that there are a certain number of allowable “skips.”
• Students assume that open and equitable discussion and critique is the soul of a graduate seminar. Everybody participates. Students don’t put the burden on the teacher or on other students to originate or maintain discussion. They themselves take on the responsibility to keep some seminar members from dominating others, and they do it by offering their share of talk.

Academic Honesty
The English graduate program adheres to the Student Code of Conduct policy detailed in Academic Misconduct Cases #13.02.99.C3.01. English graduate students are expected to “conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty.” Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions, complicity, fabrication, falsification, and misrepresentation, in addition to “any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.” Plagiarism occurs when a student “intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly present[s] the work of another as one’s own without proper acknowledgement of the source, with the exception of information that is generally accepted as common knowledge.” If you are in doubt about what you’re doing, it is your responsibility to speak to your instructor before submitting the assignment. Violation of academic honesty may result in an automatic F for the course and dismissal from the program.
Degree Requirements

The candidate for the English MA degree must complete 36 graduate hours in English with a "B" average and must pass the Written Comprehensive Examination. Credit for no more than one "C" earned at this university may be applied to the degree.* Students choosing the thesis option will take 9 hours of core courses (see below), 6 hours in Writing Studies, 6 hours in Literary Studies, 9 hours of English electives, and 6 hours of ENGL 5395 (Thesis), 3 hours in one semester and 3 hours in the following semester. Students choosing the non-thesis option will take 9 hours of core courses, 6 hours in Writing Studies, 6 hours in Literary Studies, and 15 hours of English electives. A maximum of 3 credit hours of ENGL 5396 (Individual Study) may count towards the degree.

Part One: Core Requirements

All students must complete the following:

- ENGL 5301 – Theory and Practice 1 — Literary Studies
- ENGL 5303 – Theory and Practice 2 — Writing Studies
- One of the following Linguistics courses:
  - ENGL 5380 – Seminar in Sociolinguistics
  - ENGL 5381 – Introduction to Linguistics
  - ENGL 5385 – Seminar in Applied Linguistics

Part Two: Writing Studies and Literary Studies

All students must take 6 hours from the following list of Writing Studies courses:

- ENGL 5360 – Evaluation and Diagnosis of Writing
- ENGL 5361 – Basic Writing Theory and Pedagogy
- ENGL 5362 – Writing Across Digital Media
- ENGL 5363 – History of Rhetoric
- ENGL 5364 – Technical Writing Theory and Pedagogy
- ENGL 5365 – Community Literacy Theory and Pedagogy
- ENGL 5369 – Topics and Genres in Rhetoric and Composition
- ENGL 5376 – Professional Writing
- ENGL 5392 - Practicum for Composition Instructors
- ENGL 5380 – Seminar in Sociolinguistics (will count when topic is related to Writing Studies; graduate committee approval needed)
- ENGL 5385 – Seminar in Applied Linguistics (will count when topic is related to Writing Studies; graduate committee approval needed)

All students must take 6 hours from the following list of Literary Studies courses:

- ENGL 5340 – British Literature before 1600
  - ENGL 5342 – British Literature 1660 – 1830
- ENGL 5343 – British Literature 1900 – Present
- ENGL 5344 – British Literature 1830 – 1900 (continued on following page)
- ENGL 5346 – American Literature to 1865
- ENGL 5347 – American Literature 1865 – 1940
- ENGL 5348 – American Literature 1945 – Present
- ENGL 5349 – Topics and Genres in Literature

Part Three: Additional Courses for Elective Hours:

In addition to the 9 hours of core requirements, 6 hours in Writing Studies, and 6 hours in Literary Studies, students must complete 9 hours of electives (Thesis Option) or 15 hours of electives (Non-Thesis). Any of the courses listed above in Writing Studies and Literary Studies, as well as those listed below may be taken for elective credit hours:
- ENGL 5375 – Creative Writing
- ENGL 5667 – Coastal Bend Writing Project (6 sem. hrs. during Summer II session)
- ENGL 5380 – Seminar in Sociolinguistics
- ENGL 5381 – Introduction to Linguistics
- ENGL 5385 – Seminar in Applied Linguistics
- ENGL 5396 – Directed Individual Study

* With the approval of the English Graduate Committee, students may take 3 hours in a discipline outside of English as part of his/her elective hours.

Transfer of Credits

In addition to the University’s general policy on transfer of credit, the following regulations will apply to the MA in English program: Up to 9 semester hours of graduate-level study may be transferred from other regionally accredited institutions of higher education if appropriate to the degree. No course with a grade of less than a “B,” and no course that has counted toward the earning of another graduate degree, will be accepted as transfer credit. Credit that is more than seven years old at the time of graduation will not be counted toward the MA degree.

Exit Requirements

In addition to meeting the university requirement of a 3.0 GPA or greater, candidates for the MA in English must meet the following exit requirements:
1. Thesis-option students must defend the thesis in an oral examination; a majority of the thesis committee members must pass the thesis and its defense. Candidates will submit the thesis according to College of Graduate Studies procedures and submit an approved bound copy of the completed thesis to the English Graduate Coordinator. Prior to that submission, students will work with the School of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Advisor to ensure that their thesis meets the publishing requirements set forth by the university.
2. Students pursuing the non-thesis option must successfully satisfy the requirements of the Capstone contract.
3. Students pursuing the non-thesis option must pass the Written Comprehensive Exam in either Literary Studies or Writing Studies.
Thesis or Non-Thesis Options

Students may choose the Thesis Option or the Non-Thesis Option to serve as part of their exit requirement. The department recommends that students consult with their faculty mentor(s) to determine which choice will work best, given their career goals, time constraints and other concerns.

Thesis Option

The thesis option may be an appropriate choice for students depending on their long-term scholarly goals, writing skills, targeted doctoral programs, and plans for further specialization. Students considering a thesis should seek the help of the Graduate Coordinator or their faculty advisor (Exam Director) as early as possible in selecting appropriate course work. Students may apply to write a thesis after completing 18 hours of course work. Once accepted as a thesis candidate, students are expected to work closely with their committee in designing and executing the thesis. The 6 credit hours towards the thesis (ENGL 5395) must be taken in two separate and sequential semesters. An oral defense of the thesis will be scheduled at the end of the second semester or when the committee chair determines that the student is ready to defend.

Proposal for Thesis

Once students have received confirmation about pursuing the thesis track, they need to prepare a thesis proposal in consultation with the English Graduate Coordinator and the faculty member who has agreed to chair the thesis committee. If the proposal is not accepted by the 13th week of the semester previous to starting thesis hours, the student will be required to take a comprehensive exam as their exit requirement. All thesis students must complete two forms, which are available from the Graduate Coordinator: the Thesis Request Form and the Master’s Thesis Advisory Committee Appointment Form.

Research that involves working with human subjects (e.g., student writing) must be approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Students should work closely with their thesis committee chair to determine if this approval will be necessary and the steps involved in obtaining it. For more information about this process, students may also contact the College of Graduate Studies (361/825-2497) or visit http://research.tamucc.edu/compliance/irb_apply.html.

Thesis proposals should be submitted through the Graduate Coordinator to the English Graduate Committee at least one month before the beginning of the semester in which the student plans to begin the 5395 sequence (6 hours over the course of two semesters). Very often the proposal is negotiated; the Committee may ask for clarification or expansion of specific sections. Students must have received written approval of their proposal before the Academic Advisor can establish a section in which the student may register for thesis hours. If all revisions are completed in a timely fashion and approved by the committee, the student will be able to register on time, but please keep in mind that this process may cause the student to incur a late registration fee.
Over the course of two semesters of 5395 study, students will work closely with their thesis chair and two other committee members selected by the student to serve on the committee. This process of reading, discussing, and learning with respective faculty mentors should be an integral part of the thesis project. To maximize this experience, students should take advantage of the committee’s expertise—collaboration is the *raison d’etre* of your committee!

**Recommended Timeline for Thesis:**

1. Students should submit an initial draft to the thesis committee by the end of the first 5395 semester. This gives the committee ample time to read the draft carefully over the semester break.
2. Students doing research involving human subjects should expect to follow a different timeline. For theses requiring IRB approval, the student should work with her or his thesis director to develop an appropriate timeline.
3. Students should meet with members of the thesis committee in the first week of the second semester of study. They will have many recommendations for revision, from content to sources to organization to writing style. Students should not be alarmed by this. The more input the better at this stage (remember, when faculty read for each other we do the same thing). If committee members disagree, it is up to the chair to indicate what the student should do.
4. Make time for 1-2 more drafts through the second semester.
5. Students should work with the Graduate Coordinator and their thesis committee to select a defense date at least one month before the planned graduation date. The date should be *before finals week* to ensure the feasibility of graduation. Keep in mind that after the defense, students will need time to make any required revisions, obtain necessary signatures, and submit the thesis as a condition to be certified for graduation.
6. Once the defense is scheduled, students must complete the Defense Agreement Form available through the College of Graduate Studies or the Graduate Coordinator.

**Formatting Guidelines for Thesis:**

A copy of formatting requirements for the thesis is available from the College of Graduate Study. It is the student’s responsibility to get a copy of these guidelines and to adhere to them in preparing and submitting the thesis.
Non-Thesis Option

Students electing not to write a thesis will take 15 elective hours rather than the 9 required for the thesis option (see list of courses that satisfy elective requirement above, Part Two and Three); in addition, they will identify one course to serve as their Capstone course, which should be taken during the last year of study, ideally the semester before they take the Written Comprehensive Examination. The purpose of the Capstone course is to provide students with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of a particular topic relevant to English Studies through 1) content and skill building gained from the course material 2) independent research 3) review of past knowledge gained from former seminars to apply to their final project 4) public presentation of the final project.

Following are the steps necessary for successful completion of the Capstone course:

1) During the semester prior to the semester in which the course is being offered, students should identify potential courses to serve as Capstone. The following may not serve as capstone courses: ENGL 5392, ENGL 5396, ENGL 5667. ENGL 5375 may serve as a capstone course by special permission from the Graduate Committee.

2) Students should make an appointment with the faculty member scheduled to teach the identified course to discuss the syllabus and course content and how it might be tailored to fulfill the expectations of Capstone.

3) After receiving permission from the faculty of record to designate the course as Capstone, the student will complete the Capstone contract (available on the department website and from the Graduate Coordinator) and submit it for review to two faculty with relevant expertise. The approved Capstone contract should be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator by Week 13 of the long semester before the course is being offered.

4) Once the Graduate Coordinator has approved the contract, the student may register for the class and proceed to fulfill the requirements of the contract.

5) The student should submit the completed project to the Graduate Coordinator by the penultimate week of the semester. A faculty committee will then review the project according to the terms of the contract and the Capstone requirement.

PLEASE NOTE: THE CAPSTONE PROJECT DOES NOT COUNT FOR COURSE CREDIT HOURS. IT ONLY COUNTS AS AN EXIT REQUIREMENT!
Written Comprehensive Examinations

Students electing not to write a thesis are required to take a Comprehensive Examination. The Written Comprehensive Examination measures students’ ability to 1) read critically and independently, 2) perform in-depth scholarly review, 3) make links between texts, and 4) write argumentatively at a masters’ level. While students receive a solid foundation in both Writing Studies and Literary Studies, they will become more specialized in one of the two areas through independent reading and research in preparation for the comprehensive exam. Students will identify a faculty member to serve as their Exam Director after completing 12 – 18 hours of course work. With guidance from the Exam Director, students will create a reading list that they will be tested on during their last semester in the program. (See examples of “individualized reading lists” in the Appendices section of the Handbook). Non-thesis degree candidates must pass the Written Comprehensive Examination to receive their MA degree. Following is a description of the tasks involved to prepare for the examination in Literary Studies or Writing Studies:

Written Comprehensive Examination: Literary Studies

Part 1: Create an individualized reading list and rationale.

Under the direction of the designated Exam Director, the student will create a reading list of approximately 25 texts based on the parameters outlined below (examples of reading lists can be found in the Appendices section in the back of handbook) that demonstrate depth and breadth in a particular subfield of literary studies. This list and an accompanying 3-4 page rationale that explains the choice of texts and how they are related should be submitted for faculty review. The student will submit their list, rationale, and signed faculty approval form to the Graduate Coordinator no later than Week 13 of the semester preceding the semester in which the student plans to take the exam. Once the list and rationale have been approved, the student may continue reading and preparing for the second part of the exit exam. More detailed guidelines are available from the Graduate Coordinator.

Parameters for the reading list:

• Approximately 25 texts;
• No more than five texts can come from former course syllabi (including Capstone project or Thesis);
• Five texts must be theoretical/scholarly;
• List must include a variety of literary forms/genres from both pre-1800 and post-1800;
• List must be submitted in correct MLA format.

Part 2: Written exams

Examinations will be offered during the Fall and Spring semesters only, and are usually scheduled during the 10th week of classes. The exam director will develop two questions. The questions will be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator one week before the exam, and the exam committee will review and approve all questions in advance. Students will select one prompt and respond in essay form (no more than eight pages) on a take-home basis.
Written Comprehensive Examination: Writing Studies

Part 1: Create a portfolio of evidence with a reflective analytical essay

In ENGL 5303 Theory and Practice 2: Writing Studies, students will be introduced to the core concepts and research practices of Writing Studies. In every graduate writing studies course, reflective writing that connects that course to the broader field and the foundation provided by the theory and practice course will count for 10% of the grade. Students will also be encouraged to save their work from those courses as evidence of their learning. Those students who have decided to test in writing studies will be encouraged by these reflections to make connections among the writing studies courses, core concepts, and research practices.

At the end of the program, students will write one reflective, analytical, scholarly essay of at least four single-spaced pages that uses these course-based reflections and links to various pieces of evidence in their own writing/teaching during the program to demonstrate their breadth of understanding of the core concepts and history of the discipline. If students decide midstream to change exam areas, they will not have as many reflections to help them prepare, but it will not impact their grade for the portfolio.

Writing Studies portfolios will be due to the Graduate Coordinator four weeks before students take the Written Comprehensive Examination and will be read by a committee of writing studies specialists. Students must pass the portfolio section of the exam in order to take the Written Comprehensive Exam. Portfolio results will be provided to the student within one week after the portfolio has been submitted.

Part 2: Create an individualized exam reading list and annotated bibliography

After the student has completed between 12 – 18 hours, he/she will identify an Exam Director from the English graduate faculty to direct Part 2 and Part 3 of the exit assessment. With guidance by the Exam Director, the student will create a reading list of approximately 25 texts based on the parameters outlined below (see examples of reading lists in the Appendices section in the back of the handbook) that demonstrate focus in a subfield of writing studies. The student will create an annotated bibliography with an integrative, synthesizing introduction of these texts that explains why they were chosen and how they interrelate to explain the subfield. This bibliography and introduction will be approved by the exam director and two members of the faculty with relevant expertise. The approved bibliography, introduction, and approval form will be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator by the 13th week of the semester preceding the semester in which the student plans to take the exam. An example of this annotated bibliography assignment is available on the MA English website; we will use the CompPile Research Bibliographies as a model: http://comppile.org/wpa/bibliographies/index.php.

Once the annotated bibliography has been approved, the student will spend the remainder of his/her time in the program reviewing the materials in more depth, making connections between the texts, and preparing questions for the exit exam.
Parameters for the reading list:

- Approximately 25 texts;
- No more than five texts can come from former course syllabi (including Capstone Project and Thesis);
- Reading lists should pertain to a recognized subfield, not a highly specialized topic (e.g.; an appropriate focus might be “writing centers” but not “racism in writing centers”);
- Some historical sources, key figures in the subfield, and recent questions or publications should be represented;
- List must be submitted in correct APA or MLA form.

Part 3: Written exam

Students must pass the portfolio section of the exam in order to take the Written Comprehensive Exam. Examinations will be offered during the Fall and Spring semesters only, and are usually scheduled during the 10th week of classes. The exam director will develop two questions. The questions will be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator one week before the exam, and the exam committee will review and approve all questions in advance. Students will select one prompt and respond in essay form (no more than eight pages) on a take-home basis.
Exam Policies for Both Literary and Writing Studies

- Students must be registered for one course offered in the program during the semester in which they take the examination;
- Students will take the examination no earlier than the semester they expect to graduate, with the exception of August graduates, who will take the examinations in the spring;
- No collaboration is allowed during the weekend that students are writing the exam;
- Essays must be word-processed and in MLA format (APA is also acceptable for the Writing Studies Examination);
- The exam period begins Friday at noon and ends Monday at noon.

Grading of Exam

- The Exam Committee consists of Writing Studies, Literary Studies, and Linguistics specialists, who serve on a two-year basis.
- The essays are graded through a blind review process.
- The examinations are graded Pass with Distinction, Pass, or No Pass. See rubric used to evaluate student exams in Appendices section of handbook.
- The Chair of the Exam Committee notifies the candidates of their results via email.
- If a student fails to pass the exam, he/she may retake the failed exam(s) once during the next regularly scheduled exam cycle. Further retakes are permitted only through written application to the English Graduate Committee.

Appeal Process

A student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards, has not been granted equitable evaluation procedures, or has been failed unreasonably may appeal the exam outcome. In such situations, it is incumbent upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. The decision process in any appeal taken beyond the level of the Examination Committee may extend into the subsequent semester. The timetable and steps for the appeal process are described below.

Steps in the Exam Appeal Process:
Because disputes of this nature are often the result of misunderstanding, the student is encouraged first to discuss the matter with the chair of the Exam Committee. In those instances in which the student’s questions are not resolved at this level, the formal appeal process may be implemented by presenting a written grievance to the Exam Committee within fifteen calendar days of notification of the exam outcome. Within ten calendar days after receiving the written grievance, the Exam Committee will either sustain the original decision or make a change
and notify the student in writing or by e-mail regarding this action. If the Exam Committee does not act within this period or if the student is not satisfied by the Exam Committee’s action, the student has ten calendar days to appeal in writing to the next level. Subsequent steps in the appeal process will be first to the English Graduate Committee and then to the Chair of the Department, each of which will have ten calendar days to act. Any further appeals will be made in accordance with the procedures for student grade appeals.

**Advice for Students**

- Plan Ahead! You should begin meeting regularly with your Exam Director once he/she has been have identified him/her and your emphasis area. By the time your reading list and rationale have been approved by the Graduate Committee you should already be familiar with many of the texts on your list so that you can read/re-read and begin making connections between them from which to draw ideas and conclusions in the Written Comprehensive Exam.
- When you take the exam, read the prompt you decide to work with very carefully, noting any separate parts. The Exam Committee expects your essay to address all elements of the question.
- The Exam Committee is primarily looking for a well-argued, well-constructed essay that demonstrates your knowledge of each of the works on your list but also how they complicate as well as resolve issues and problems central to your exam emphasis. Try not to confuse quantity of facts with quality of essay in the heat of the moment. Never lose sight of the fact that a successful essay will have a clear thesis that is then supported and illustrated throughout the body of the work.
- Try to ensure that your own authorial voice is clearly heard and that you don’t allow your scholarly/theoretical sources to write too much of the essay for you. When you quote one of these sources, make sure you unpack it for your reading audience and link it back to the idea your are advancing. Quotations are great, but only in small doses. Be selective!
- You are not expected to work with texts that are not included on your list.
- Follow the instructions provided on the exam.
Advising

Upon entering the program, the Graduate Coordinator will serve as the students’ advisor and will be available to discuss courses, degree plans, thesis/non-thesis options, Capstone requirements, scholarships, the Comprehensive Exit Examination, and any other matters pertaining to the program. By the end of their first semester in the program, all students should choose their own faculty advisor in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator. This advisor will be students’ most immediate guide through the remainder of time spent in the program. To ensure that all graduate faculty have advisees and that no one faculty member is overloaded, we may ask students to select an alternative advisor, so it is best for students to have several in mind whose expertise will accommodate their personal/professional interests.
English Graduate Course Descriptions:

ENGL 5301 – Theory and Practice 1 – Literary Studies
3 sem. hrs.
Introduces students to techniques of research and scholarship in literary study through a survey of critical debates in literary theory. Offered in the Fall.

ENGL 5303 – Theory and Practice 2 – Writing Studies
3 sem. hrs.
Introduces students to techniques of research and scholarship in writing studies through a survey of critical debates in writing studies scholarship, with special attention to current research on composing and its pedagogical implications. Offered in the Spring.

ENGL 5340 — British Literature Before 1660
3 sem. hrs.
Examination of poetry, drama, or prose written before 1660. Sample topics: The Global Renaissance, Shakespeare, Early Drama, Early English Women’s Writing. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

ENGL 5342 — British Literature 1660 – 1830
3 sem. hrs.
Studies of major writers and texts of the British long eighteenth century (1660-1832). Primary focus is on the literary texts and cultural history of the period, with opportunities to bring in current literary theory and criticism. Sample topics: Gender and Sexuality in the Novel, Gothic Fiction, Travel Writing. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

ENGL 5343 – British Poetry and Fiction 1900 – Present
3 sem. hrs.
Exploration of one or more writers, genres, literary movements, issues, or ideologies of the 20th century. Includes writers from the British Isles and the Commonwealth. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

ENGL 5344 – British Literature 1830 – 1900
3 sem. hrs.
Studies of British fiction, poetry, and prose written between 1830 and 1900 and the social forces—domestic, economic, political, religious, scientific—that influenced and were influenced by these works. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

ENGL 5346 - American Literature to 1865
3 sem. hrs.
Readings in one or more writers, genres, literary movements, issues, or ideologies of the period. Sample topics: Transoceanic Americas; Literatures amid the Spanish Empire, American Print Cultures, Medicine and Early American Literature. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

ENGL 5347 – American Literature 1865-1945
3 sem. hrs.
Studies in one or more writers, genres, literary movements, issues, or ideologies of the period. Sample topics: The Lost Generation, Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance, Faulkner and the South. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

ENGL 5348 – American Literature 1945-Present
3 sem. hrs.
Exploration of one or more major writers, genres, literary movements, issues, or ideologies since World War II. Sample topics: Experimental Narrative, US.-Latin American Literature and Culture, The Postmodern Novel. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

ENGL 5349 – Topics and Genres in Literature
3 sem. hrs.
Studies in topics and genres that span more than one literary period and/or include works from both British and American literature. Sample topics: Crossing Borders, Crossing Nations, The City in Literature, Queer Theory. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

ENGL 5350 – Evaluation and Diagnosis of Writing
3 sem. hrs.
Study and practice in methods by which written texts are evaluated and the evaluation used for instructional purposes. Methods range from classroom techniques to formal assessment procedures (holistic, primary trait, portfolio, etc.).

ENGL 5361 – Basic Writing Theory and Pedagogy
3 sem. hrs.
Studies in the theory and pedagogy of the teaching of developmental writing. Focus centers on the political, sociolinguistic, and educational history and status of basic writers.

ENGL 5362 – Writing Across Digital Media
3 sem. hrs.
Studies in the theory and practice of electronic research, writing and editing. Includes topics that relate to academic scholarship and contemporary writing instruction within electronic settings.

ENGL 5363 – History of Rhetoric
3 sem. hrs.
Examination of classical and modern traditions in rhetoric and their application to written discourse. Topics focus on contributions of classical and modern rhetoricians, written literacy, and the institutionalization of written instruction.
ENGL 5364 – Technical Writing Theory and Pedagogy
3 sem. hrs.
Exploration of theories and practice in technical and professional writing, with emphasis on analyzing documents and their contexts.

ENGL 5365 – Community Literacy Theory and Pedagogy
3 sem. hrs.
Studies in the production of texts, with emphasis on the relation between textuality and social groups, and between textuality and cultural identities.

ENGL 5369 – Topics and Genres in Rhetoric and Composition
3 sem. hrs.
Exploration of specific issues and problems in rhetoric and composition studies. Sample topics: ethnographic research, gender and writing. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

ENGL 5375 – Creative Writing
3 sem. hrs.
A studio approach to writing fiction, non-fiction, and poetry with an emphasis on the elements and critical terminology of each genre.

ENGL 5376 – Professional Writing
3 sem. hrs.
Workshop on the genres and practices of professional writing and communication.

ENGL 5380 – Seminar in Sociolinguistics
3 sem. hrs.
Exploration of topics related to language in society, including but not limited to an introduction to sociolinguistics, language variation, discourse analysis, language planning and policy, multilingualism, and world Englishes. May be repeated when topics vary.

ENGL 5381 – Introduction to Linguistics
3 sem. hrs.
Introduces students to the nature and behavior of human language; covers topics in phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, neurolinguistics, and language acquisition.

ENGL 5385 – Seminar in Applied Linguistics
3 sem. hrs.
Exploration of topics broadly covered in the field of Applied Linguistics. Topics may include (but are not limited to) language assessment, grammar, second language writing, language and gender, corpus linguistics, and second language acquisition. May be repeated when topics vary.
ENGL 5395 (Required in Thesis Track) – Thesis
3 sem. hrs.
The thesis is a scholarly or critical project involving 6 credit hours (taken in two separate semesters) at the final stages of the graduate program. Prerequisite: approval of English Graduate Committee. Grade assigned will be “credit” (CR) or “no credit” (NC).

ENGL 5392 – Practicum for Composition Instructors
3 sem. hrs.
Practical training for English Teaching Assistants. A seminar in contemporary composition and rhetorical theory with practical applications for the First-Year classroom. Prerequisite: permission by instructor. Offered in Summer II.

ENGL 5396 – Directed Individual Study (DIS)
1 - 3 sem. hrs.
Independent study, reading or research with faculty direction and evaluation. To receive program credit for the MA in English, students must have completed the English core. Credit for this course is limited to 3 hours in any degree plan. Offered on application to and approval of the program coordinator.

ENGL 5667 – Coastal Bend Writing Project Summer Institute
6 sem. hrs.
Invitational Summer Institute of the Coastal Bend Writing Project, affiliated with the National Writing Project. Workshop for teachers pre-k through university level that: 1) studies theory and effective practices in writing pedagogy; and 2) focuses on improving participants’ writing and research skills with the goal of publication. Prerequisites: minimum of one year teaching experience; permission from the Director of the Coastal Bend Writing Project, Dr. Catherine Quick: catherine.quick@tamucc.edu.
Directed Individual Studies

Under special circumstances, students may request a Directed Individual Studies course (ENGL 5396). A student must identify a faculty member willing to offer a DIS. All DIS proposals must be approved by the English Graduate Committee by the end of the semester prior to the semester during which the student will register. Students should contact the Graduate Coordinator for the required DIS form.

Students will be asked to define their area or subject of study, outline objectives and Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), and detail the method of evaluation (what kinds of writing assignments will be produced). A working bibliography is required. The English Graduate Committee typically does not approve 3-hour DIS proposals when the content is covered in regularly scheduled seminars.

Students may apply one DIS (ENGL 5396) toward their graduate degree. (It will be counted in your elective section of the degree plan.)

Students who have completed their course work but do not pass the comprehensive examination have the option of enrolling in a 1-hour DIS (ENGL 5396, credit/no credit,) for the purpose of preparing for the exam retake during a subsequent semester. Students must identify a faculty member to direct the study, and they must submit a syllabus to the graduate committee prior to the semester in which they plan to take the 1-hour DIS. The course must be taken during the semester the student plans to retake the exam. Students may only use this workshop option once while in the program, and it does not count toward the degree requirements.

Incompletes

Under special circumstances, students may apply for an incomplete at the end of a semester. The student must initiate this procedure, not the professor. An incomplete notation may be given to a student who is passing but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control other than lack of time. The missing materials must be turned in by the end of the next long semester; however, we strongly urge that students complete the work over the semester break. Trying to finish an incomplete while simultaneously fulfilling the requirements of 2-3 new courses can be an onerous burden. If the student fails to complete the assignment(s) or forgets about the deadline altogether, the grade is automatically changed from an “I” to the letter grade previously determined by the professor.
**Academic Probation**

You must maintain a 3.0 (“B”) grade point average and are allowed to apply only one “C” to your degree plan. Students whose cumulative GPAs drop below 3.0 will be placed on scholastic probation. To be removed from scholastic probation, a student must achieve a cumulative 3.0 GPA within completion of the next 9 semester credit hours. If, during this time, a student’s GPA for any semester again drops below 3.0, he or she will be forced to withdraw from the university for one year before reapplying for admission.

Students may apply a total of 6 semester hours of credit/no credit to their degree plan. Only a few graduate courses are graded this way: ENGL 5396 (DIS) and your thesis work (ENGL 5395).

**Failing Grades / Repeating Courses**

Students who fail a course and repeat it may not use the new, improved grade as a replacement to the failing grade (as it does in undergraduate study). Instead, both the “F” and the grade from the student’s second attempt at taking the course are averaged into the GPA. A graduate student may retake a maximum of two courses during graduate study in the University. The student may repeat each course only one time. All grades received for the course will be computed in the grade point average.
What is the process for . . .

Student Travel

The English Department encourages graduate students to present at professional disciplinary conferences; however, funding is very limited. Students whose work has been accepted for presentation are eligible to request travel funding. Those students must work with a supervising faculty member to both arrange travel funding and draft and practice their presentation.

Get Approval from English Chair

As soon as they hear of their acceptance to present at a conference, students should, in consultation with the faculty sponsor (the instructor who supervised the writing of the work to be presented), prepare an email to the English Chair outlining their travel budget. The memo must include:

- Title of the student’s presentation
- Title of the conference, scope of the conference (national, international, regional, etc.)
- Travel dates and city
- Estimates for airline tickets/rental car, food, registration, and hotel

The acceptance letter/notice from must be attached to the email.

Get Faculty Support

The faculty sponsor should then write a short memo endorsing the student’s application, including information about the student’s status (graduate) and course for which the work was created.

Determination of Available Funds

These two memos should go to the English Department Chair, who will determine if funds are available to support the trip. If funds are available, the English Department will support student travel for the academic year for those who are presenting.

Work with an Administrative Assistant

Once funding is secured, the chair will email students, faculty mentors, and the appropriate administrative assistant (Norma Canales or Becký Flores) who will manage the travel process. Students are responsible for working with an administrative assistant to get all travel documents arranged before they incur any expenses, or they may not receive reimbursement.

Students who are employees of the university must request a CONCUR account (at “Single Sign On” at http://hr.tamucc.edu/) and must designate Becky Flores as their delegate. Once the travel is prepared, students must approve the authorization request to get it through the approval process before travel begins. Students who are not employees will be given further instruction by the chair.
Credit Card Warning
Students should be aware that most hotel chains and car rental agencies require a credit card to check in or get a car. If this is a debit card, a large charge may be placed on the card. If you do not have a credit card or sufficient funds, please talk to the administrative assistant with whom you are working or your faculty mentor for options.

Reimbursement of Expenses
Students must follow all state/university travel policies and must turn in all travel receipts no later than two days after their return to the administrative assistant with whom they worked. It may take a week or several weeks to get the reimbursement processed. No expenses will be reimbursed until travel is completed and all documents submitted.
If Conflicts Arise . . .

While our classes should be sites of learning, collegiality, and trust, there are occasions when this atmosphere may break down. Students might find themselves in such a situation, either as a student in a graduate course, as a grader for sophomore literature, or as a teacher in a composition course. Remember, a third party should not interfere in a student-teacher relationship, but there are ways that problems can be mediated. Here are guidelines for faculty and students to follow:

For a course-related situation between a graduate student and a faculty member
If a student and his/her teacher cannot resolve a problem, the issue should be taken to the Department Chair, Dr. Kevin Concannon.

For a course-related situation between students in a First-Year Writing Course
Conflicts between students should be resolved by the Teaching Assistant. If that fails, the conflict should be mediated by the Coordinator of the First Year Writing Program, Dr. Glenn Blalock. Do not ask other students or other teachers to become involved.

For a course-related situation between Teaching Assistant and his/her student(s)
These conflicts should be mediated by the Coordinator of the First-Year Writing Program, Dr. Glenn Blalock. If a Teaching Assistant is approached by a student who is having problems with another teacher, advise the students to try to resolve it with their own teacher and, if that fails, to go to the Coordinator of the First-Year Writing Program. Under no circumstances should one professor try to mediate the student/teacher conflict of another teacher. This is true whether the teachers involved are teaching assistants, adjuncts, or tenure-line faculty.

For a conflict between graduate student and supervisor
Conflicts between a TA and the Coordinator of the First-Year Writing Program or between a grader and the sophomore literature instructor should be resolved by the Department Chair, Dr. Kevin Concannon.

In other work-related capacities
If you are serving in a capacity with some other on-campus office such as the Writing Center, Intercollegiate Athletics, or Information Services, you should follow the conflict resolution procedures governing that office.
Sources of Financial Support

Graduate Assistantships
We have two half-time graduate assistantships, which traditionally have been reserved for first-year students. These positions (20 hours a week) come with benefits. Applications for these positions are submitted to the English Graduate Coordinator. Please find the form on the department website or contact the Graduate Coordinator. They are due by April 15 for the coming school year.

Teaching Assistantships
English MA students in their second year of study have the opportunity to teach in the First-Year Writing Program as Teaching Assistants. To be eligible students must have completed 18 graduate credit hours in English, including ENGL 5301, ENGL 5303, and one seminar in the ENGL 5360-69 sequence. In addition, students must have a 3.5 GPA at the time they begin teaching and must complete ENGL 5392 Practicum for Composition Instructors during the summer before the teaching period commences. The course is offered during each Summer II session.

Positions involve teaching one to two sections of English Composition each long semester (two sections are considered half-time and include benefits). To extend a teaching assistantship into a second year, students must 1) remain a student in the program, and 2) apply for an extension by the application deadline, and 3) demonstrate successful teaching and professional development during your first year of appointment. Applications for new and extended positions are due by March 1st for the coming school year. Teaching assistants are expected to enroll in 6 seminar hours each semester of appointment (this is to help enrich our courses with your second-year and teaching experience, as well as help you with content and methodology as you teach). Application forms can be found on the department website. You may also ask the Graduate Coordinator for the forms.

Other employment:
Part-time graders for Sophomore-level core literature sections are always needed. Arrangements are made through individual faculty members teaching those survey courses. The Core Literature Coordinator, Dr. Jennifer Sorensen, and the Graduate Program Coordinator will help liaison between you and faculty members. Very often, graders are hired at the last minute, since sections must reach an enrollment of 50 to receive a grader.

When funding is available, the Writing Center in the Center for Academic Student Achievement (Located in the Glasscock Student Success Center) employs graduate students as English tutors in the Writing Center. For more information contact Dr. Noelle Ballmer at 825-2254 or noelle.ballmer@tamucc.edu.

Other sources of support include Intercollegiate Athletics, and individual faculty members who have received grants to hire student assistants.
Graduate Assistantships

The English Graduate Program has available a limited number of assistantships for first-year graduate students. Awards are made on the basis of the applicant’s academic record, financial need, and demonstrated skills that pertain to the various graduate assistantships. These half-time positions pay $1200 a month, with benefits, during the academic year (fall and spring semesters).

Requirements:

As a prospective English GA, you must meet the following requirements:

- You must have completed all university requirements for admission to the graduate program (submitted official application, paid the mandatory fee, sent official transcripts confirming a BA or BS).
- You must have submitted a complete admissions portfolio via the Graduate Studies Office to the English Graduate Program (including a letter of application, academic writing sample, and three letters of recommendation).
- You must complete the form and send it directly to the Graduate Coordinator. Please find the form on the department website or contact the Graduate Coordinator.
- You must enroll in and successfully complete at least 6 credits hours of English graduate courses each semester.

Assistantship Duties:

Graduate Assistants will work 20 hours a week in one of three capacities: as tutors in the CASA Writing Center, as graders in sophomore literature classes, as research or editorial assistants for faculty in the English department.

Selection of GAs:

The English Graduate Committee will review your completed application and notify you of its decision.
Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Eligibility Requirements
As a prospective English TA, you must meet the following requirements:

- You must be officially admitted to the MA/English program (earned BA or BS; all required paperwork completed).
- You must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA and be a student in good standing.
- You must have earned 18 semester hours in the MA English program before the fall semester in which you will begin teaching, and completed English 5301, 5303, 5392, and one course in the 5360-69 sequence. Another English graduate course in Linguistics or Professional Writing may be substituted for a course in the 5360-9 sequence only with written approval of the English Graduate Coordinator.

Duties
You may teach between two and four sections of ENGL 1302 per nine-month appointment (no more than 2 per semester). When you teach two courses in any semester, you are eligible for benefits during that semester, although there is a 90-day waiting period. All benefits questions must be addressed to Human Resources.

Supervision
English TAs will be supervised, mentored, and evaluated by the FYWP Coordinator in accordance with University guidelines. TAs will be evaluated during each semester of their employment, and continued employment will depend on:

- Earning successful student evaluations of their teaching,
- Participating in weekly meetings with their learning community,
- Meeting with the FYWP coordinator, being observed, and reflecting on their teaching,
- Responding in a timely fashion to various deadlines/responsibilities, including turning in syllabi and curriculum vitae (academic resume), and posting midterm and final grades, and
- Attending retreats and professional development events, when possible.

Conditions of Employment:

- TAs must successfully complete ENGL 5392 (Practicum for Composition Instructors) or other course designated by the department and demonstrate an aptitude and preparation for teaching FY composition, including building and maintaining a website for their courses.
- They must enroll in at least six (6) semester credit hours (SCH) of English graduate classes while teaching. They must successfully complete at least 12 SCH during each year of your appointment, and they must maintain a 3.5 GPA.
- Normally, a teaching assistantship appointment is for one academic year. Students must re-apply to continue the assistantship, although they do not have to put together a complete application; instead, they will respond to a query from Steve Schwerin, the UCPR Program Coordinator. Second-year positions depend on enrollments.
• TAs teaching in the FYWP will receive $2700 per course.

Selection of TAs
You may find the application and recommendation forms on the department website, or you may contact the Graduate Coordinator to ask for the forms. The English Graduate Committee will review your completed application and will select candidates to train for duties in the FYWP.

*Students admitted into the MA in English program in a spring semester may apply without completing ENGL 5301 provided they meet all other eligibility requirements. Such students, if accepted as TAs, must complete ENGL 5301 during the first semester of their teaching appointment.
When You Are Ready to Graduate

Before graduating, students must fill out a clean copy of their degree plan (see degree plan forms in Appendices section of handbook) and get signatures from their Exam Director/Advisor, the Graduate Coordinator, and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. At that time, students schedule an appointment to meet with Rachelle Stanley in Academic Advising (Driftwood 203E, 825-3466) to certify that all is in order and they are ready to apply for graduation. Students must have an approved degree plan on file with Academic Advising to graduate. If something happens and the student does not graduate that semester, he/she must reapply for graduation the next semester.

Graduation application deadlines vary but are usually 3-4 months prior to graduation. Be sure to keep track of these dates in the course schedule or online through S.A.I.L. Students apply for graduation and order their diploma through the registrar’s office: http://registrar.tamucc.edu/Degrees_and_graduation/Apply_for_grad.html. Graduate regalia (worn during university commencement and the English department’s hooding ceremony) can be ordered through the bookstore, 361/825-2803.

If students owe the university any money, they will not be allowed to graduate. This includes parking and library fines, late registration fees, add-drop fees, etc.

Thesis Track Candidates

Students should be considerate of their thesis committee! Do not expect them to read a final draft (or worse yet, a draft they have never seen) and schedule a defense in the last week of the semester. Like students, faculty get very busy at the close of semesters, so students must give them ample time to read, comment, and prepare questions for the oral defense.

Remember that after a successful defense, students must follow the College of Graduate Studies submission procedures and submit a bound copy to the library.

Non-Thesis Track Candidates

Students should see the Graduate Coordinator and the Graduate Academic Advisor the semester before they plan on graduating to make sure that they are meeting all requirements and have a signed degree plan on file.

Incompletes

Students cannot carry an incomplete during their final semester of study. That is, an incomplete will invalidate application for graduation, and students will have to reapply.
Professional Organizations

An important aspect of a graduate and professional experience is collegiality, or working with peers. The following organizations provide opportunities for such experiences:

The English Club
The English Club is a collective group of graduate and undergraduate English students that organizes events on and off campus.

Sigma Tau Delta: English Honors Society
Sigma Tau Delta is international English honor society to confer distinction for high achievement in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies.

   Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Sorensen, 825-3002
   jennifer.sorensen@tamucc.edu

Other organizations include:

Switchgrass Review and Windward Review:
Publication highlighting Art and Literature from the University and Civic Communities.

   Editor: Dr. Robin Carstensen, 825-3627
   robin.carstensen@tamucc.edu

Islander Creative Writers
Advisor: Dr. Robin Carstensen, 825-3627
robin.carstensen@tamucc.edu

Island Waves: University student newspaper
http://islandwaves.tamucc.edu/
Phone: 825-5862
   Email: editor-in-chief.islandwaves@tamucc.edu

For a complete list of University Student Organizations, see http://tamucc.orgsync.com/.
Directory of English Graduate Faculty

Christopher Andrews – Ph.D. Texas Tech University
Technical Communication and Rhetoric, Digital Rhetoric, Social Media, and Computers and Writing
Office: FC256 | Phone: 825-4124
Email: christopher.andrews@tamucc.edu

Kelly Bezio – Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Early American Literature and Culture, Medical Humanities, Literature and Medicine, Biopolitics
Office: FC 285 | Phone: 825-3623
Email: kelly.bezio@tamucc.edu

Glenn Blalock – Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Director, First-Year Writing Program
Rhetoric and Composition, Writing Across the Curriculum, Writing Program Administration, Digital
Rhetoric, and Technical Writing
Office: CE 213D | Phone: 825-2488
Email: glenn.blalock@tamucc.edu

Robin Carstensen – Ph.D., Oklahoma State University
Editor, Switchgrass Review and Windward Review
Creative Writing, Poetry and Poetics, Gender and Women’s Writing, Environmental Studies, Borderland
Cultures
Office: FC 281 | Phone: 825-3627
Email: robin.carstensen@tamucc.edu

Kevin Concannon – Ph.D. University of California-Irvine
Chair, Department of English
Coordinator, Literary Studies
Transnational Studies, Ethnic American Literature
Office: FC 282 | Phone: 825-3874
Email: kevin.concannon@tamucc.edu

Shannon Fitzsimmons-Doolan – Ph.D., Northern Arizona University
Language Policy, Language Ideologies, Content-based Instruction, Corpus Linguistics
Office: FC 257 | Phone: 825-3637
Email: shannon.fitzsimmons-doolan@tamucc.edu

Stephen Doolan – Ph.D., Northern Arizona University
Coordinator, Linguistics
Linguistics, Second Language Writing, Reading to Write, Resident L2 Writing, Quantitative
Research Methods
Office: CE 213 D | Phone: 825-3643
Email: stephen.doolan@tamucc.edu

Charles Etheridge – Ph.D., Texas Christian University
Rhetoric and Composition, Technical and Professional Writing, English Education
Coordinator, Writing Studies
Office: FC 288 | Phone: 825-5755
Email: charles.etheridge@tamucc.edu

Susan Garza – Ph.D., University of Texas at Arlington
Rhetoric and Composition, Technical and Professional Writing
Office: FC 267 | Phone: 825-2483
Yndalecio Isaac Hinojosa – Ph.D., University of Texas, San Antonio
Rhetoric and Composition, Literacy Studies, Chicana/o Rhetoric
Office: FC 275 | Phone: 825-2585
Email: yndalecio.hinojosa@tamucc.edu

Dale Pattison – Ph.D., Arizona State University
Coordinator, Sophomore Literature
20th- and 21st-Century American Literature, Urban Studies, Trauma Studies, Film and Media Studies
Office: FC 255 | Phone: 825-2418
Email: dale.pattison@tamucc.edu

Catherine Quick – Ph.D., University of Missouri-Columbia
Director, Coastal Bend Writing Project
Rhetoric and Composition, Technical and Professional Writing, English Education
Office: FC 286 | Phone: 825-3025
Email: catherine.quick@tamucc.edu

Sarah Salter – Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University
Multiethnic US literature, African American history and culture, Historical Newspapers and Magazines, Translation, Literary aesthetics and forms
Office: FC 256 | Phone: 825-2834
Email: sarah.salter@tamucc.edu

Lucy Sheehan – Ph.D., Columbia University
Victorian Literature; Gender and Sexuality; Political Philosophy, Law, and Social Thought; History and Theory of the Novel; Slavery and Empire
Office: FC 277 | Phone: 825-3793
Email: lucy.sheehan@tamucc.edu

Jennifer Sorensen – Ph.D., University of Michigan
British and American Modernism, Book History and Print Cultures, Visual Cultures and Material Cultures, Gender Studies, Media Theory and Histories
Office: FC 258 | Phone: 825-3002
Email: jennifer.sorensen@tamucc.edu

Susan Wolff Murphy – Ph.D., Texas A&M University, College Station
Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
Developmental Writing, Discourse Analysis, Writing Centers
Office: FC 203C | Phone: 825-3990
Email: susan.murphy@tamucc.edu

Email: susan.garza@tamucc.edu
Degree Plan: Non-Thesis Option  
MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPORUS CHRISTI

Student:  
Banner ID:  
Email:  
Date Admitted:  
Exam Director:  
Exam Area:  
Exam Date and Results:  

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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5301 Theory and Practice 1: Literary Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5303 Theory and Practice 2: Writing Studies</td>
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<td>ENGL 5380 - 85 Linguistics</td>
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* 6 Hours: WRITING STUDIES (ENGL 5360 – 69, 5385, 5392)  

| ENGL | 3 |
| ENGL | 3 |

* 6 Hours: LITERARY STUDIES (ENGL 5340 – 5349)  

| ENGL | 3 |
| ENGL | 3 |

* 15 Hours: ELECTIVES  

| ENGL | 3 |
| ENGL | 3 |
| ENGL | 3 |

Graduate Advisor:  
Student:  
Graduate Coordinator:  
Dean/Assoc. Dean:  

TOTAL SEM HRS: 36  

* One of the above non-core courses must have capstone designation (C). See student handbook for specifications.
Degree Plan: Thesis Option
MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI

Student:
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TOTAL SEM HRS: 36

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<td>Graduate Coordinator</td>
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<td>Dean/Assoc. Dean</td>
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Three Examples of Individualized Reading Lists

Example 1: Literary Studies

Exam Area: Space and American Literature
Key terms: Urban, Domestic, Identity Politics

Primary Texts
Danielewski, Mark Z. *House of Leaves*
Viramontes, Helena Maria. *Their Dogs Came with Them*
Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*
Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Millhauser, Steven. *Martin Dressler: The Tale of an American Dreamer;*
Robinson, Marilynne. *Housekeeping*
Smiley, Jane. *A Thousand Acres*
Brown, Charles Brockden. *Edgar Huntly*
Pynchon, Thomas. *The Crying of Lot 49*
O'Neill, Eugene. *Long Day's Journey into Night*
Poe, Edgar Allan. “The Fall of the House of Usher”
DeLillo, Don. *White Noise*
Wharton, Edith. *The Age of Innocence*
Whitman, Walt “Song of Myself”
West, Nathanael *The Day of the Locust*
Tobar, Hector. *The Tattooed Soldier*
de las Casas, Bartolomé. *The Very Brief Relation of the Devastation of the Indies*
Equiano, Olaudah. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*
Wheatley, Phillis “Selected Poems”
Rowlandson, Mary. *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*

Secondary/Theoretical Texts
de Certeau, Michel. *The Practice of Everyday Life*, selections
Lefebvre, Henri. “The Right to the City”
Harvey, David. *Postmodern Geographies*, selections
Kern, Stephen. *The Culture of Time and Space*, selections
Kaplan, Amy. “Manifest Domesticity”
Freud, Sigmund. “The Uncanny”

Parameters:
25 texts +
No more than 5 from former coursework
5+ are theoretical/scholarly
Pre 18th: Rowlandson, Wheatley, Equiano, de las Casas, Brown
Example 2: Literary Studies

Exam Area: British Empire

Key terms: Gender, Race, Travel

Primary Texts
Austen, Jane. Mansfield Park
Achebe, Chinua. Things Fall Apart
Adichie, Chimamanda. Purple Hibiscus
Bennett, Louise. “Colonization in Reverse”
Bronte, Charlotte. Jane Eyre
Conrad, Joseph. Heart of Darkness
Coetzee, J.M. Foe
DeFoe, Daniel. Robinson Crusoe
Equiano, Olaudah, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano
Haggard, J. Rider. King Solomon’s Mines
Johnson, Linton Kwesi. “It Nuh Funny,” “Inglan is A Bitch,” “If I Waz a Tap Natch Poet”
Kareishi, Hanif. The Buddha of Suburbia
More, Thomas. Utopia
Rhys, Jean. Wide Sargasso Sea
Roy, Arundhati. The God of Small Things
Rushdie, Salman. Midnight’s Children
Selvon, Samuel. Lonely Londoners
Shakespeare, William. The Tempest
Swift, Jonathan. Gulliver’s Travels
Walcott, Derek. “A Far Cry from Africa”

Secondary/Theoretical Texts
Clifford. “Travelling Cultures”
Levine, Philippa. From Gender and Empire
Sharpe, Jenny. From Allegories of Empire
Said. From Culture and Imperialism
Thiong’o, Ngugi wa. From Decolonizing the Mind.

Parameters:
25 texts +
No more than 5 from former coursework
5+ are theoretical/scholarly
Pre 18th: More, Shakespeare, DeFoe, Equiano, Swift
Example 3: Writing Studies

Example Exam Area: “Writing Across the Curriculum / Writing in the Disciplines (WAC/WID): Activity, Genre, and Using Writing in Disciplinary Contexts”

Key Terms / Concepts: Rhetoric, Cultural-Historical Activity Theory, Genre, Learning

Books:

Articles in Edited Collections: The following texts are examples of recent edited collections. In consultation with Writing Studies faculty, students will identify appropriate / relevant essays from these for their reading list.
- Bazerman, Charles; Adair Bonini; Debora Figueiredo (Eds.), Genre in a changing world
- McLeod, Susan H.; Eric Miraglia; Margot Soven; Christopher Thaiss (Eds.). (2001). WAC for the new millennium: Strategies for continuing writing-across-the-curriculum programs

Articles from Scholarly Journals:
- Students, in consultation with Writing Studies faculty, could also be selecting relevant / appropriate articles from relevant scholarly journals, not only from Writing Studies but from disciplinary journals that publish articles on discipline-specific pedagogy.

Relevant Web Resources:
- CompPile [http://comppile.org](http://comppile.org)
- WAC Clearinghouse [http://wac.colostate.edu](http://wac.colostate.edu)
Student Checklist

Coursework Requirements

- ENGL 5301: Theory and Practice 1: Literary Studies (Fall, first year in program)
- ENGL 5303: Theory and Practice 2: Writing Studies (Spring, first year in program)
- 3 hours in Linguistics
- 6 hours in Writing Studies
- 6 hours in Literary Studies
- 15 hours (or 9 for Thesis) Electives

Capstone Requirement

- Course and Professor of record confirmed (during semester preceding course)
- Draft of contract submitted to Professor for approval
- Completed contract submitted to Graduate Coordinator (by wk 13 of long semester before course is offered)
- Notification of approval by Graduate Committee
- Successful Completion of Capstone course and project (ideally semester before exams)
- Copy of Capstone project submitted to Graduate Coordinator

Thesis Requirement

- Thesis Director and Committee selected
- Proposal completed in consultation with Committee and submitted to the Graduate Coordinator
- Thesis Request Form and Thesis Committee Form completed and submitted to Graduate Coordinator
- Notification of approval or request for revisions by Graduate Committee
- Registration for two semesters of ENGL 5395 completed
- Thesis drafted and circulated among committee for feedback throughout the two semesters of 5395
- Thesis defense scheduled (contact Graduate Coordinator to coordinate) and CGS agreement form completed
- Successful defense of thesis completed
- Recommended revisions completed

(Thesis Requirement continued on next page)
___ Properly formatted thesis according to the College of Graduate Studies requirements
___ Thesis submitted to ProQuest
___ Copy of submission receipt submitted to Rachelle Stanley (Graduate Advisor) for degree certification
___ Copy for Department of English submitted to the Graduate Coordinator

**Written Comprehensive Exam: Literary Studies**
___ Exam Director and Faculty Reviewers in place
___ Approved Reading List, Rationale, and Review Form submitted to Graduate Coordinator (no later than week 13 of semester preceding exam)
___ Registered for exam (Exam Registration Form submitted to Graduate Coordinator)
___ Successful completion of Written Comprehensive Exam (final long semester of program)

**Written Comprehensive Exam: Writing Studies**
___ Exam Director and Faculty Reviewers in place
___ Approved Reading List, Annotated Bibliography (with Introduction), and Review Form to Graduate Coordinator (no later than week 13 of semester preceding exam)
___ Registered for exam (Exam Registration Form submitted to Graduate Coordinator)
___ Portfolio submitted to Writing Studies Coordinator 4 weeks before exam
___ Successful completion of Written Comprehensive Exam (final long semester of program)

**Graduation**
___ Register for graduation on SAIL; diploma ordered
___ Completed degree plan signed by respective faculty
___ Confirmation with Rachelle Stanley (Graduate Advisor) that degree plan is complete and filed
___ Regalia ordered through bookstore
___ RSVP for Hooding Ceremony with Graduate Coordinator