English Department

General Mission

The mission of the undergraduate degree program in English is to offer a broad range of courses that will develop in its majors a familiarity with literature in English, with the structure of language and of composition, and with the principles and practice of literary analysis and composition.

The program is designed for students who plan to pursue advanced degrees in fields including literature, rhetoric and composition, linguistics, English as a Second Language, education, and law. It provides an educational foundation for students wishing to pursue careers in teaching, writing and editing, government service, law, and medicine.

Through its Writing program, the English Department offers English 100/100T, Expository Writing, and ESL 100, Expository Writing for Non-Native Speakers to all UH Hilo degree candidates, as well as writing courses for majors in the various disciplines. To the General Education program, the department contributes several lower-division literature and linguistics courses.

Curricular Program

The English major is divided into two tracks: the Literature track and the Writing track. The tracks include a common core of requirements in literature, language, and writing. The Literature Track requires upper-division courses in literature in English: British literature; Shakespeare; Medieval and Renaissance literature; seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth century literature; American literature; modern and contemporary English; as well as upper-division writing courses. The Writing track offers upper-division courses in writing in various fields including professional and technical writing, as well as writing on the Web, creative writing, and the teaching of composition. Elective courses are offered in literary theory, children's literature, film, Women's Studies, Japanese literature in translation, genre studies, the teaching of composition, and ethnic and postcolonial literatures.

Program Goals

1. Develop familiarity with the literary tradition of England, the United States, and other English-speaking cultures of the world.

2. Develop understanding of the sociocultural and biological nature and structure of human language, in particular the English language.

3. Develop understanding of the social, political, and cultural foundations of literature in English.

4. Develop understanding of the principles and practice of literary criticism and literary theory.
5. Develop the ability to assess diverse viewpoints, to identify the assumptions that underlie discourse, to assess the reliability of sources, and to analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources.

6. Develop the ability to write clearly, effectively, and concisely in formats appropriate for the presentation of work to a variety of audiences and for a variety of purposes, including audiences and purposes common to academic and career settings.

7. Develop the skills to pursue and appropriately present the results of library research.

8. Develop familiarity with the diversity of literary art and literary standards of excellence.