



An Overview of the English Program

1. Introductory Courses

Students intending to major or minor in English are required to take either ENGL1000Y – *Introduction to English Literature* in Peterborough or the equivalent 1003H and 1005H in Oshawa. These courses introduce students to a diverse range of literary texts from North America, the West Indies, Britain and other parts of the world, and to the skills necessary for appreciating, understanding and discussing this literature. The courses are taught in one-hour lectures and one-hour seminars of 12-15 students. Lectures are given by a team of full-time instructors.

2. Foundation Courses

ENGL 2100Y - *Medieval and Renaissance literature* and ENGL 3210Y - *Restoration to Romantic literature* are foundational to a study of English literature and are required of all students. ENGL 2100Y begins on the battlefields of ancient Britain and ends in the theatres of Shakespeare's London, studying a period that forged both the English language and English literature, producing works that remain vital touchstones for both writers and readers. ENGL 3210Y explores the genres, aesthetics, philosophies, and political movements of the period that saw the rise of Europe's empires, the American and French revolutions, the beginning of the industrial revolution, the invention of the steam engine and, just as important to us, the development of the English novel.

These foundation courses are reading-intensive and have lighter writing requirements than the rest of our courses. They are team-taught in a combination of lectures and workshop classes of 30 to 40 students.

3. 2000 Series Courses

At the 2000 level we offer a variety of courses designed to be useful to students at the second year level, including ENGL 2001H – *Critical Practice*, which is strongly

recommended for all English majors. We also offer several courses that are useful to non-majors, including courses in *Children's Literature*, *Reading Shakespeare for the Classroom*, and *Literature and the Environment*.

4. 3000 Series Courses

At the 3000 level we offer courses that are both more advanced than those at the 1000 or 2000 level, and generally more tightly focused on specific historical periods, national literatures, theories, thematic approaches or genres. We encourage students to take advantage of the wide range of courses offered at the 3000 level and require that all majors take credits in at least three of the following areas: *Canadian, American, Victorian and Modern British*, and *World Literature*.

3000 series courses are generally taught in one-hour lectures and in one-hour seminars of 12 to 15 students. Occasionally, an instructor will have requested a different scheduling arrangement (e.g., a 2-hour lecture and 1-hour seminars).

5. 4000 Series Courses

4000-series courses are for advanced studies in specific fields. They differ from other courses in our curriculum in that they expect students to have a solid background in English studies: you must have a 70% average and have earned 4 English credits for admission to 4000 series courses, and some have additional prerequisites. Many 4000 series courses also have a strong emphasis on research, which is reflected in reading requirements and assignments. They are generally taught in two-hour seminars of up to 12 students.

4000 series courses are not required for an Honours degree, but are recommended for students intending to pursue a B.Ed. or graduate studies. Even if you are not intending to go on to graduate studies you should keep in mind that your professors are engaged in a wide range of innovative research projects which they enjoy sharing with committed and enthusiastic students. 4000 series seminars provide an excellent opportunity to do so; they are open to students, in their third or fourth year of studies, who meet the prerequisites.

For detailed descriptions of this year's Seminars, see the online guide to "4000-Series Courses" for the coming year on this website.

6. Frequency of Course Offerings

Introductory and Foundation Courses are offered every year. All other 2000, 3000 and 4000 series courses are usually offered on a two- or three-year rotation. If you are in the Honours program, each of these courses will be available to you at least once in either your second, third or fourth year. If you are in the General program, you will miss some of the courses which are on a three-year rotation – but all of the most popular courses are offered on a two-year rotation.

In Oshawa:

Introductory Courses are offered in both Day and Evening slots every year. All other courses are rotated through the Day, and Summer schedules.