

Literature and Culture, B.A.

The B.A. in Literature and Culture

The Literature & Culture Major teaches students how to read, interpret and write persuasively about novels, poems, plays and other imaginative works across a variety of genres and media forms. Along with teaching students the analytical skills and methodological tools to interpret these works, this major teaches the importance of understanding imaginative works within their cultural and historical contexts. In addition, the major is designed to train students in strong professional and academic skills like critical thinking, inductive reasoning and persuasive argumentation that are applicable to other fields of study and a variety of career paths.

Program Learning Outcomes

- Use disciplinary vocabulary from literary theory and Cultural Studies scholarship appropriately in analyses.
- Deploy literary and/or Cultural Studies theories/frameworks appropriately to describe, explain, or critique artifacts of communication.
- Apply methods appropriately to answer research questions commonly asked in Literary and Cultural Studies.
- Explain how contexts and identities (historical, social, economic, political, technological, etc.) influence cultural forms, language, and practice, and how cultural forms, language, and practice shape the contexts of use.
- Exhibit competence in reading, writing, and speaking in academic and professional contexts by identifying scholarly niches/research questions and synthesizing evidence to support a claim.

Curriculum

The Literature & Culture curriculum consists of **13 courses** for a **minimum of 117 units**.

- **At least one course** other than 76-245 Shakespeare: Tragedies & Histories or 76-247 Shakespeare: Comedies and Romances **must focus on a period pre-1900**. Applicable courses have an asterisk (*).

Required Introductory Courses (3 courses) 27 units

Required Introductory Courses		Units
76-212	Introduction to TV Writing	9
or 76-260	Introduction to Writing Fiction	
or 76-261	Intro to Writing Creative Nonfiction	
or 76-265	Introduction to Writing Poetry	
or 76-269	Introduction to Screenwriting	
76-245	Shakespeare: Tragedies & Histories	9
or 76-247	Shakespeare: Comedies and Romances	
76-275	Introduction to Critical Writing	9

200-Level literature & culture courses (2 courses) 18 units

Course options include but are not limited to the following:

200-Level Literature & Culture Courses		
76-203	Literature & Culture in the 18th Century	9
76-207	Special Topics in Literature & Culture	9
76-210	Banned Books	9
76-217	Literature & Culture of the 20th and 21st Century	9
76-220	Mystery! From Detective Fiction to True Crime	9
76-221	Books You Should Have Read By Now	9
76-230	Literature & Culture in the 19th Century	9

76-236	CMU Prison Education Project:	12
76-239	Introduction to Film Studies	9
76-241	Introduction to Gender Studies	9
76-242	American Woman Writers	9
76-244	Immigrant Fictions	9
76-245	Shakespeare: Tragedies & Histories If not taken already for the Core Required course.	9
76-247	Shakespeare: Comedies and Romances If not taken already for the Core Required course.	9
76-259	Film History	9
76-268	Comic Books & Pop Culture	9
76-278	Japanese Film and Literature: The Art of Storytelling	9
76-295	Russian Cinema: From the Bolshevik Revolution to Putin's Russia	9
76-296	20th Century Russian Masterpieces	9
76-299	19th Century Russian Masterpieces	9

300-Level Literature & Culture Courses (2 courses) 18 units

Course options include but are not limited to the following:

300-Level Literature & Culture Courses		
76-312	Crime and Justice in American Film	9
76-314	Data Stories	9
76-317	Contemporary American Fiction	9
76-326	Contemporary Global Fiction	9
76-329	Performing Race in Early Modern Drama	9
76-337	Intersectional Feminism	9
76-339	Topics in Film and Media	9
76-341	The Age of Jane Austen *	9
76-342	Love: A Cultural History	9
76-343	Rise of the American Novel	9
76-347	Major Fiction	9
76-348	Adaptation: Fiction to Film	9
76-350	Critical Theories about Literature If not taken for the Theory Course requirement	9
76-353	Transnational Feminisms: Fiction and Film	9
76-367	Fact Into Film: Translating History into Cinema	9
76-370	Independent Study in Literary and Cultural Studies (instructor permission required)	Var.

76-376	Crafting Race in 19th-Century Britain	9
76-382	Media: Past, Present, and Future	9
76-392	Special Topics in Literature & Culture	9

400-Level Literature & Culture Course (1 course) 9 units

400-Level Literature & Culture Course		
76-407	Topics in Literary & Cultural Studies	9
76-410	The Long Eighteenth Century	9
76-414	Decolonial Imaginaries	9
76-423	Transnational Feminisms	9
76-424	Theories of Social Class	9
76-429	Introduction to Computational Humanities	9
76-431	Gender Play in Early Modern Drama	9
76-434	Literature & Social Change in the 19th Century	9
76-439	Seminar in Film and Media Studies	9
76-442	Black Lives in Pre-1900 Britain *	9
76-445	Milton *	9
76-446	Revenge Tragedy *	9
76-450	Law, Culture, and the Humanities	9
76-452	Generations and Culture *	9
76-453	Literature of Empire *	9
76-454	Rise of the Blockbuster	9
76-455	The Pittsburgh Review of Books (PRoB)	9
76-461	Refugee Stories: Literature, Art and Film	9
76-467	Crime Fiction and Film	9
76-468	Space and Mobilities	9
76-482	Rise of the Art Film	9
76-495	Other People's Words: The History, Theory, and Practice of Interviews	9

theory course (1 course) 9 units

Theory Courses		Units
76-350	Critical Theories about Literature	9
76-424	Theories of Social Class	9

Rhetoric Course (1 course) 9 units

Courses include but are not limited to:

Rhetoric Courses		
76-204	Race, Ethnicity, Controversy	9
76-219	Law & Blame	9
76-318	Communicating in the Global Marketplace	9
76-325	Intertextuality	9
76-327	Equity & Communication: Strategies for Institutional Change	9
76-373	Argument	9
76-384	Race, Nation, and the Enemy	9
76-389	Rhetorical Grammar	9
76-390	Style	9
76-393	Narrative & Argument	9

76-415	Mediated Power and Propaganda	9
76-416	Rhetorics of Race & Empire	9
76-425	Rhetoric, Science, and the Public Sphere	9
76-427	Topics in Rhetoric: Audience	9
76-473	Rhetoric & the Construction of Race	9
76-475	Law, Performance, and Identity	9
76-476	Rhetoric of Science	9
76-479	Model Minorities? Race, Rhetoric, & Identity in Asian America	9
76-490	Digital Rhetorics	9
76-492	Rhetoric of Public Policy	9

English electives (3 courses) 27 units minimum

Students may choose any three 76-2xx through 764xx nine-unit courses from **our course descriptions** to fulfill this requirement, provided the course has not already been used to fulfill a requirement above.

* **Pre-1900 course**

Double Counting

Students may double count up to two courses with other programs outside of the Department of English. **NOTE:** courses being used for the **Dietrich College General Education** (<http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/schools-colleges/dietrichcollegeofhumanitiesandsocialsciences/general-education/>) requirements do not have a double-counting limit.

Transfer Courses

Students may transfer up to two courses from other non-CMU programs/institutions toward the primary or additional major in Literature & Culture or the BHA concentration in Literature & Culture, **with the exception of** the Required Introductory Courses listed above, which must be taken at CMU. If the two-course maximum is met, other related transfer courses will be considered for general education requirements and/or free electives for graduation. Please see the **Dietrich College Advanced Standing and Transfer Credit Policy** (<https://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/advisory-center/scheduling-classes/ap-and-transfer-credit.html>) for more information.

Recommended Curriculum Pathway: B.A. in Literature & Culture

Below is the recommended plan, or pathway, for completing the B.A. in Literature & Culture in four years. This pathway includes the Literature & Culture course requirements as well as requirements for the **Dietrich College General Education** (<http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/schools-colleges/dietrichcollegeofhumanitiesandsocialsciences/general-education/>) curriculum. While it is not required for students to follow this pathway precisely, it is highly recommended for students to do so, and we recommend students begin the major's courses as early as possible. (Students in Dietrich College may declare their primary major as early as the beginning of their second semester.) Students who have not yet declared their major in the Department of English may still take courses with us.

Students may also view the pathway for the B.A. in Literature & Culture via the **Stellic Degree Audit Application** (<https://www.cmu.edu/es/stellic/>).

First-Year		Second-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
GED ED: Foundations: Communication	GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: Humanities	GEN ED: Foundations: Computational Thinking	GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: Logic/Math
GEN ED: Foundations: Contextual Thinking / LITCUL: Shakespeare Course (double-counts)	GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: Social Sciences	GEN ED: Foundations: Intercultural & Global Inquiry	GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: Humanities
GEN ED: Foundations: Data Analysis	GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: The Arts / LITCUL: Introductory Genre Writing Course (double-count)	GEN ED: Perspectives on Justice & Injustice	LITCUL: English Elective #1
GED ED: Grand Challenge Seminar	Free Elective	76-275 Introduction to Critical Writing	Free Elective
LITCUL: 200-Level Literature & Culture Course #1	Free Elective	LITCUL: 200-Level Literature & Culture Course #2	Free Elective

Third-Year		
Fall	Spring	Summer
GEN ED: Foundations: Scientific Inquiry	LITCUL: 300-Level Literature & Culture Course #2	GEN ED: Experiential Learning
LITCUL: 300-Level Literature & Culture Course #1	Free Elective	
LITCUL: Theory Course	Free Elective	
LITCUL: Rhetoric Course	Free Elective	
Free Elective	Free Elective	

Fourth-Year	
Fall	Spring
GEN ED: Disciplinary Perspectives: Additional Disciplines	LITCUL: 400-Level Literature & Culture Course
LITCUL: English Elective #2	LITCUL: English Elective #3
Free Elective	LITCUL: Literature Elective #4
Free Elective	Free Elective
Free Elective	Free Elective