



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH LITERARY STUDIES,
CULTURAL STUDIES, AND LINGUISTICS

Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.

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UNIVERSITY OF THE
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THE HUMANITIES

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students who major in English literature, linguistics, or cultural studies acquire skills that make them employable in a range of possible fields. Employers are increasingly searching for independent learners who can communicate well, have a solid aptitude for critical thinking, and can easily process information. Students who master these skills are well suited to a job market that demands the ability to think creatively and to adapt to a changing workplace in an on-going way. Our graduates are trained to become life-long learners who will continue to deepen their knowledge and develop their critical reasoning faculties throughout their lives.

Professions that demand advanced skills in writing, critical thinking, research, communication, and textual analysis include **publishing, journalism, law, teaching, and library science**. The ability to write well and argue persuasively is also fundamental to careers in **advertising, marketing, public relations, tourism, and business**. Students might also choose to pursue an **academic career** at a university, or become a **creative writer** or even a **filmmaker**. Your education in our under-graduate and post-graduate English courses, in short, is an essential stepping stone towards any of these long-term career goals.



WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER

The **Department of English** offers an exciting curriculum for undergraduate and postgraduate students interested in the study of language, literature, and culture. Our academic staff work closely with students to help them become discerning and thoughtful readers of a range of texts tied to specific historical periods and movements, as well as to local South African and global contexts. We take seriously our responsibility to:

- **Nurture the critical sensibilities** of our students through a curriculum that meets national and international standards;
- Hone the **interpretative, analytical, writing, reading, and oral communication skills** at the heart of **critical and creative deliberation** in contemporary South Africa;
- Value the unique **cultural and experiential background** of each student;
- Facilitate **participatory forms of education** that will encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning; and
- Train students in a range of literacies – including **critical, visual, cross-cultural, transnational and digital literacies** – that might contribute to the formation of engaged South African publics.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

We offer a range of unique courses that empower students to become active critical readers of the complex social worlds that they inhabit. Our undergraduate courses include:

- **ENGL 1514:** Reading Literature – An Introduction to Reading, Writing and Critical Textual Analysis;
- **ENGL 1624:** Reading Literature, Film, and Culture;
- **ENGS 1624:** Critical Reading, Writing, and Analyses of Texts;
- **ENGL 2614:** Early Modern to Contemporary World Literatures;
- **ENGL 2724:** Twentieth Century and Modernist Literatures;
- **ENGL 3718:** Early English Literatures and Cultures; South African and African Literatures and Cultures;
- **ENGL 3828:** Narratives of Resistance; Literature, Film, Culture – Critical Approaches to Cultural Studies; and
- **ENGS 3728:** Critical Discourse Analysis and the Study of Online Communication in English.

The following courses are on offer for improvement of English skills in general:

- **ENGE1608:** English skills for education students, specifically those in the foundation and intermediary phases;
- **ELLT2504:** English skills for students in the Faculty of Education, particularly those who intend to teach in the secondary school and FET phases;
- **ENGS1504:** English skills for students who wish to develop strong fluency and presentation skills for professional communication contexts; and
- **ENGS1506:** English skills for law students, focusing on critical reading and writing skills.

In addition to these modules, we offer a variety of exciting third-year seminars that reflect the research expertise of our staff. These seminars constitute 50% of our ENGL3718/ENGL3728 courses.

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

We offer a selection of fascinating Honours courses for students interested in postgraduate studies. These include:

- **ENGL 6814:** Literary Theory: The Beginnings;
- **ENGL 6824:** Contemporary Critical Theory;
- **ENGP 6814:** Discourse and Difference;
- **ENGQ 6814:** Digital Media Research;
- **ENGA 6834:** Contemporary Poetry;
- **ENGC 6874:** Perspectives on Modernism;
- **ENGN 6814:** Principles and Practices for Teaching and Assessing English as a Second Language;
- **ENGN 6824:** Multimodal Perspectives in English Second Language Learning and Teaching;
- **ENGE 6844:** Contemporary Literary Identities – Race, Gender and the Self; and
- **ENGI 6844:** Intra-African Mobilities – Contemporary African Cultural Production.

We also currently supervise a range of research projects at **Masters, PhD** and **Postdoctoral** level.



RESEARCH

The Department of English maintains a vibrant research culture for students and faculty on the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses alike.

Research projects currently undertaken in the Department include studies of the processes and cultural practices involved in the formation of group identities; computer mediated communication; political emotion, protest cultures, and the management of public feeling; cross-cultural adoption; consumer cultures; the relationship between critical animal studies and African Cultural Studies; trans-hemispheric literacies; contemporary modes of citizenship education for global youth; the cultural organisation of (South) African urban space; African science fiction and Afro-futurisms; the postcolonial trafficking in images of children; as well as the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and class, as reflected in various texts including film, literature, and mass media, to name just a few.

We have, in recent years, run a lively visiting speaker series featuring distinguished academics and creative writers from across the globe.

Contact us:

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