



THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS

ENGLISH

Guide

Letter from the Chair

Welcome! We appreciate your interest in our program. The English major at the University of New Orleans offers a course of study that provides a solid foundation for rewarding careers and informed citizenship. Students who love to read, write, and explore new ideas are challenged to reach their full potential as culturally literate individuals. And today, there is no better way to prepare for the many careers requiring analytical and communication skills than to major in English. An English major prepares you for a wide variety of careers in fields such as publishing, journalism, law, education, creative writing, marketing, communications, advertising, broadcasting and public relations. The skills that employers in these fields most prize—research, communication, critical thinking, analysis, and writing—are the skills that we

focus on in the Department of Language and Literature.

Why study English at UNO? Because we offer small class sizes (from 15 to 38 students), diverse courses, mentoring, and rich opportunities for those who love to read and write. Read on to find out the many ways that we provide our students with the resources to succeed in college and beyond.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine S. Brooks". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elaine S. Brooks
Professor and Chair



Language and Literature at a Glance

- Number of English majors: **92**
- Number of performances, presentations and productions by faculty in 2021-2022: **48**
- Number of full-time faculty: **39**
- Class sizes: **15-35** students
- Number of writers published in the last issue of *Ellipsis*: **20**
- Number of scholarly articles and creative works published by faculty in 2021-2022: **17**
- Number of books published by faculty in 2021-2022: **6**
- Number of undergraduate awards and scholarships sponsored by the English Department: **7**
- Number of university awards granted to faculty in the past five years: **6**



THE UNIVERSITY *of*
NEW ORLEANS

Visit our Campus

If you'd like to know more about our programs, give us a call or write us an e-mail. We'd love to get to know you better. You can even sit in on a few classes and get a tour of our department and campus. Here's how to reach us:

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE
AND LITERATURE**

The University of New Orleans

(504) 280-6276

english@uno.edu

english.uno.edu



About New Orleans

The vibrant culture of New Orleans offers our students linguistic, literary, and cultural experiences found nowhere else in the country. The university is surrounded by the living history of a city that has inspired some of



the greatest figures in American literature, including William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams, and Kate Chopin.

Throughout the year, the New Orleans metropolitan area offers a rich assortment of cultural activities. The city is famous for its annual events, like Mardi Gras, Jazz Fest, Essence Festival, and the Words & Music Festival, as well as the many regional celebrations of Louisiana's culture and cuisine, all of which are celebrated by locals and tourists alike. Each year, the Tennessee Williams Literary

Festival and the New Orleans Poetry Festival, along with several bookstore-sponsored readings and community-organized events, bring dozens of accomplished poets and writers to the area.



For those who want to reach out and lend a helping hand, our vibrant city offers many opportunities for volunteering and community service work.



THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

“At the risk of sounding cliché, I must say that the most enjoyable (and influential) aspects of the English program are the conversations amongst fellow English majors. The students here seem to be completely and utterly willing to throw themselves into their craft, thus perpetuating amazing conversations and discussions. I have attended other universities where the goal of most students was to achieve their degree with as little work as possible, but at UNO I have found students who are dedicated to the complete understanding of their craft, as well as willing to accept the viewpoints of others as objectively as possible.”

— Sam Kane, 2011 graduate



At the same time, the department is constantly expanding opportunities for students to connect and get involved—through its newsletter, its Facebook page, its student publications, and on-site literary events. We want all of our students to feel that they belong to an exciting intellectual and cultural community that values each and every voice. Our department’s first priority is to serve the academic needs of each student in the undergraduate major program through one-on-one advising sessions with our Advisor of Undergraduate Studies in the College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Human Development.



“One of the things I loved about my English classes was the level of student participation. None of the other programs at UNO have the same level of participation.”

*— Kristopher Kirkland,
May 2009 graduate*

Creating Community & Fostering Learning

Campus Events

The logo for 'Midday Musings' is set against a dark teal, cloud-like background. The word 'Midday' is written in a large, light blue, cursive font. Below it, 'Musings' is written in a smaller, white, serif font with a dark outline. Underneath that, the phrase 'a discussion series' is written in a smaller, white, cursive font. At the bottom of the logo, the text 'Sponsored by UNO English' is written in a small, white, sans-serif font.

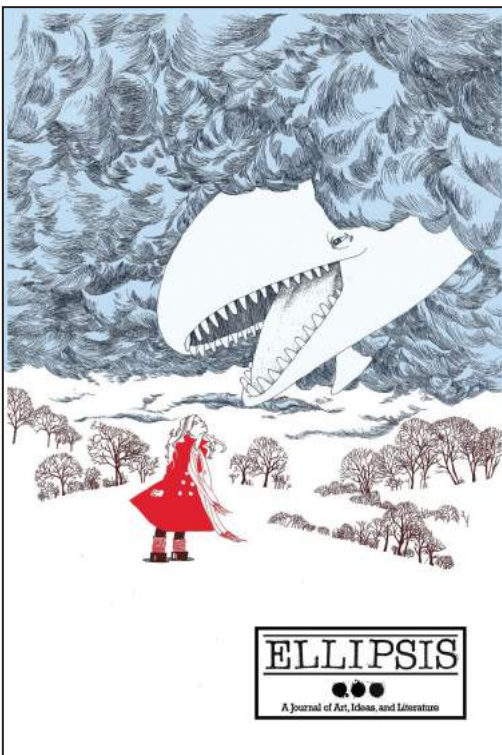
*Midday
Musings*
a discussion series
Sponsored by UNO English

Faculty and students gather every month for **Midday Musings**, a discussion series in which writers, editors, and professors discuss topics related to the reading and writing life. Students get the opportunity not only to listen to people passionate about writing and literature, they also get to ask questions and become part of the discussion. Recent topics have included “The Book That Changed My Life,” “Internships for English Majors,” and “The Graphic Novel.”

Community Events



The English Department shares opportunities for volunteering, reading, writing, and performing across the Greater New Orleans Area. Reading series like LMNL Lit welcome UNO students and community members to workshops, readings, and more. Non-profit



organizations like One Book, One New Orleans offer students a chance to volunteer for literacy. Several local literary festivals provide even more ways to stay engaged with the written word beyond our campus.

Ellipsis

Ellipsis is the student-edited literary journal published every spring by the Department of English. *Ellipsis* accepts submissions of original poetry, fiction, essays, and art from UNO students, staff, faculty, and alumni. Many English majors have appeared in *Ellipsis*, becoming published writers before they graduate.

ELLIPSIS

A Journal of Art, Ideas, and Literature



Find out more at:

<https://scholarworks.uno.edu/ellipsis/>



Scholarships and Awards

Many funding opportunities are available to majors. The Ryan Chighizola Memorial Scholarship awards \$1000 to a student who excels in poetry. The Catherine Barragy Mackin Prize and The Quarante Club Prize recognize students who have written outstanding papers for their major courses. Our most recently established departmental honor is The John W. Cooke Memorial Award for Excellence in the Study of Fiction, which carries a \$1500 prize.



We bestow these honors at our
annual awards banquet.



Study Abroad

UNO offers courses and workshop abroad



for everyone... including English majors!

Destinations include:

Cork, Ireland: Literature, Creative Writing, Philosophy & Film

Brunnenburg Castle, Italy: poetry workshop and Ezra Pound studies

Innsbruck, Austria: Writing, Anthropology, History, Fine Arts, & Film

Get out there! 
The world is waiting.





Areas of Concentration

The undergraduate program in English at UNO is intellectually challenging and academically flexible; it provides a solid general background in literature while also offering a varied menu of elective courses. Those students who wish to use their elective courses to focus on a single area of advanced study may opt for one of the four following areas of concentration:

- ◆ Creative Writing
- ◆ Journalism
- ◆ Professional Writing
- ◆ Literary Studies

“My employer instantly recognized my degree in English from UNO and made the final decision to hire me based on it. I have a great job and a great life due to my degree in English from UNO!”

–Kelly Vest, B.A. 2003 (now Executive Assistant in Human Resources, Securities & Trading, New Orleans)

Internships

Through our internship program, students discover how they can use their English degree after graduation, and many have found their careers in this way. The program works like this: we help our students find local opportunities to work in writing, editing, or teaching for approximately 8 hours per week throughout the semester. Most internships do not pay wages but instead reward students with academic credit (the equivalent of one elective course), useful professional experience, training, and references. UNO English majors have recently completed internships like these:

- ◆ Researching, interviewing, and assisting in production with CNN's "In America" unit in New York
- ◆ Writing press releases at the Earhardt Group, a local public relations firm
- ◆ Assisting in the investigative reporting unit at WDSU, a local TV news station
- ◆ Writing, editing, and graphic and layout design at Where Y'At, a local magazine
- ◆ Teaching writing at a local elementary school, and teaching reading and poetry with a local homeschooling organization
- ◆ Writing press releases and doing research for the Public Relations Office of the UNO College of Liberal Arts, Education and Human Development
- ◆ Reviewing submitted manuscripts and proofreading at a local publisher, Pelican Publishing



Careers

Our major prepares students for graduate study in the Humanities as well as careers in a variety of fields ranging from law to advertising to journalism. Recent graduates from our program work in the communications industry, teach at private middle and high schools, pursue certification to teach in the public school system, and attend law school or graduate school. Many of our students are already published writers before they leave us, and many more go on to publish their creative, critical, and professional writing after graduation.



“UNO’s English Department gave me an excellent foundation for my teaching career. Many of my teaching methods are modeled after my excellent UNO English professors. I was truly challenged by the English Department, and I endorse the English Department to my students as often as I can.”

*—Melanie Punch Lohfink, B.A. 2002
(now teaches at St. Charles Catholic High School)*

Meet the Faculty

English is the largest department on the UNO campus, with 35 full-time faculty members, which means that we can offer our majors an amazing range of ability and expertise. We are acclaimed poets and novelists, we are distinguished literary scholars, critics, and essayists, and above all, we are highly accomplished teachers, dedicated to providing our students a Liberal Arts education of the highest quality. Our faculty members have won the University's highest teaching award in twelve out of the last fifteen years and are dedicated to scholarship and creative projects that enhance their teaching. It's not surprising, then, that student evaluations consistently rate our teaching highly. The following are profiles of three members of our faculty.



Meet the rest of our faculty at:
<http://english.uno.edu>

Dr. Jacinta Saffold is an African American lit-



erary scholar invested in how twentieth and twenty-first century fiction help construct and contest intersections of race, gender, class, age, and geography on metropolitan city-

scapes of the African Diaspora. She is developing her manuscript, *Books and Beats: The Cultural Kinship of Street Lit and Hip Hop*.

Dr. Saffold received her Ph.D. from the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she also received graduate certificates in Advanced Feminist Studies and African Diaspora Studies. Dr. Saffold's research has been generously supported by the Mellon Mays Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the National Academy of Education, the Spencer Foundation, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Dr. Nancy Easterlin is a University Research Professor and Professor of Women's and Gender Studies. She explores the intersections between the humanities and the sciences. Her book, *A Biocultural Approach to Literary Theory and Interpretation* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012), for which she received a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation, focuses on applying cognitive and evolutionary approaches to a range of literary specializations, including new historicism, ecocriticism, cognitive criticism, and evolutionary criticism. She teaches courses in British Romanticism and the contemporary novel (a course that includes examples from across the globe), and special topics courses like *Sex, Power, and the Short Story*.



Dr. Elizabeth Steeby is an Associate Professor



of English, with a specialization in Twentieth-Century American Literatures. She has her Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego

and is currently working on a book-length project on the legacies of plantation slavery in the U.S., the Caribbean, and beyond. Her research interests are in U.S. Southern Studies in a Transnational Context, Comparative Ethnic Studies, Critical Gender Studies, and Queer Theory. Her local interests often revolve around disaster capitalism, the politics of the city block, anti-prison activism, and notions of reconciliation vs. reckoning. She has taught courses in New Orleans Literature, U.S. Prison Literature, and Contemporary American Literature.

A Selection of Recent **Course Offerings**

ENGL 2090: SCIENCE FICTION LITERATURE

This course is a survey of major authors of Science Fiction and their works, and major themes of the genre. In particular, the course will focus on the precursors to modern Sci-Fi, the history and evolution of the genre, and its contemporary diverse manifestations, such as Afro-Futurism and Cyberpunk. The course includes early visionary texts, the futuristic visions of Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, Post-Cold War texts by Vonnegut and others, and landmark contemporary texts that examine trends such as the video game revolution and artificial intelligence.

ENGL 4045: SOUTHERN LITERATURE

The Gothic South, the Dirty South, the moonlight and magnolias South, the oppressive South, the Third Coast—all of these regional names remind us that there are many Souths. This course is a survey of literatures of the U.S. South, examining how the region has been imagined in relation to the nation and beyond. Attention is paid to how these texts are informed by histories of slavery and segregation, movements between the “country South” and the “urban South,” social activism, social misfits, and social graces.

ENGL 4091: CONSTRUCTING AMERICAN MASCULINITIES

This course examines the construction of masculinity in texts spanning the colonial period to the present. Topics covered in the course include representations of masculinity in religious discourse; sentiment and self expression in male discourse; masculinity and the American West; masculinity and narratives of empire building/war/race; masculinity and “the war of the sexes”; masculinity and sexuality.

ENGL 4093: AFRICAN and CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

This course explores aspects of the Black experience as represented in African and Caribbean literature, the historical, social, cultural, and intellectual underpinnings of that experience, and the diversity in its expression.

ENGL 4378: AMERICAN WOMEN’S NARRATIVES OF TRAVEL & EMPIRE

The study of American women’s travel writing (nonfiction and fiction) through a feminist/post-colonial framework, with a consideration of the dynamics of domestic and foreign travel, colonization, western migration, slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, immigration, etc.

ENGL 4401: LITERATURE OF ENGLAND IN THE LATER MIDDLE AGES

Students read stories about an enchanted castle where a knight must prove his reputation as a ladies' man, murderous fairies, beheading contests, a stolen lamb disguised as a human newborn, a woman turned into a weeping dog, and men who travel into their own brains, among others.

ENGL 4616: DRAMA OF THE AGE OF SHAKESPEARE

Madness. Murder. Obsession. Vengeance. Incest. The tragedies written by William Shakespeare's contemporaries combine stunning poetry with equally stunning levels of violence. This course looks at tragedies and a few comedies by early modern playwrights including Thomas Kyd, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Francis Beaumont.

ENGL 6190: POETRY REVISION

"And you flail and you falter and you shift and you shake, and finally, you come forth with the first draft. Then, if you're myself and if you're like many of the other poets I know, you revise, and you revise. And often the finished product is nothing like your first draft. Sometimes it is," wrote Gwendolyn Brooks. This course is an in-depth study of poetry revision. Class members will study interviews, craft essays, critical writing,

and modernist and contemporary poetry manuscripts to identify and understand various revision methods. Students will use these methods to revise their poetry drafts at the macro level (theme, development, rhetoric) and the micro level (diction, syntax, lineation).

FRENCH 4202: FRENCH CIVILIZATION II: "THE OUTSIDERS"

An overview of French culture and civilization (history, fine arts, architecture, history of ideas, literature and popular culture) from the end of the Middle Ages to the Napoleonic wars. Students will study the evolution of French society throughout this period, follow the evolution of intellectual and cultural life, encounter key characters, and discuss artistic movements. Our approach will be thematic rather than chronological centering on the character of the Outsider...

FRENCH/SPAN 3406: ROMANCE CULTURES OF NEW ORLEANS AND LA

Throughout the 18th century, colonial New Orleans developed under the leadership of two powerful Romance cultures: France, which initiated the settlement and gave the colony its original French character, and Spain, that transformed it into a stately city and, as capital of the Spanish Province of Louisiana, gave it administration, laws, architecture, and prosperity. This character was

reinforced by the arrival of Acadians from Canada, Canary islanders, refugees from Haiti, Sephardic Jews, Italians from Calabria and Sicily ... and, more. Learning about these original cultural influences will frame New Orleans as a melting pot of Romance cultures.

JOUR 4791: SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

This course focuses on the techniques and practice of covering sports and entertainment for the mass news media, focusing on story idea development, fact gathering, and the actual writing of news stories for both of these beats.

SPAN 4070: INTRO TO THE FIELDS OF TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION

This course is designed to introduce students to the discipline of translation and interpreting. Students will learn how to switch safely and accurately between the source and the target language (Spanish<>English) both written and oral. This course includes an intensive study of vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, and translation difficulties as well as an intensive study of sight translation, consecutive and simultaneous interpreting in a variety of fields.



We're here to help—don't hesitate
to reach out!

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE
AND LITERATURE
The University of New Orleans

Follow us on Facebook:
“UNO English”

(504) 280-6276

english@uno.edu

<http://english.uno.edu>

*“I can honestly say that the teachers in
the English Department at UNO are
the most dedicated, knowledgeable,
caring, and encouraging teachers
that I have ever encountered in my
life.”*

*—Marly Robertson, B.A.
2005, M.A. 2007*