

College of Arts and Sciences

Literature

B.A. in Literature

Admission to the Program

Formal admission to the major requires a grade point average of 2.00 (on a 4.00 scale) and departmental approval.

University Requirements

- A total of 120 credit hours
- 6 credit hours of college writing
- 3 credit hours of college mathematics or the equivalent by examination

General Education Requirements

- A total of ten courses, consisting of one foundation course and one second-level course in an approved sequence from each of the five curricular areas
- No more than 6 credit hours may be taken in the same discipline

Major Requirements

- 42 credit hours with grades of C or better, with at least 21 credit hours at the 300 level or above

Course Requirements

- LIT-105 The Literary Imagination 1:1 (3)
or
LIT-120 Interpreting Literature 1:1 (3)
- LIT-480 Senior Project in Literature (3)
- LIT-498 Senior Seminar on the Value of Literature (3)
- Three survey courses from the following with at least one of LIT-210 or LIT-220:
LIT-150 Third World Literature 3:1 (3)
LIT-210 Survey of American Literature I (3)

LIT-211 Survey of American Literature II (3)

LIT-220 Survey of British Literature I (3)

LIT-221 Survey of British Literature II (3)

LIT-225 The African Writer 1:2 (3)

LIT-235 African-American Literature 2:2 (3)

LIT-240 Asian American Literature 2:2 (3)

- Four courses in literature written before 1900, of which at least two must be in literature written before 1800
- One of the following:
LIT-215 Writers in Print/in Person 1:2
creative writing course
300-level cinema course
- Three additional courses offered or approved by the Department of Literature

University Honors Program

All University Honors students must complete at least 12 credit hours of advanced-level (300-level and above) Honors courses including a 3 to 6 credit hour Honors Senior Capstone Project. Students may graduate with University Honors in the major if they complete at least 12 advanced-level Honors courses including the Senior Capstone Project in the department. Each department has three levels of University Honors requirements: Level I Options (100-200-level Honors classes); Level II Options (300-level and above Honors classes); and Level III Options (Honors Senior Capstone). The department Honors coordinator advises students in the University Honors Program regarding departmental options. For more information, go to www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/.

Minor in Literature

- 18 credit hours with grades of C or better and at least 12 credit hours unique to the minor

Course Requirements

- LIT-105 The Literary Imagination 1:1 (3) *or*
LIT-120 Interpreting Literature 1:1 (3)
- One course from the following:
LIT-150 Third World Literature 3:1 (3)
LIT-210 Survey of American Literature I (3)
LIT-211 Survey of American Literature II (3)
LIT-220 Survey of British Literature I (3)
LIT-221 Survey of British Literature II (3)
LIT-225 The African Writer 1:2 (3)
LIT-235 African-American Literature 2:2 (3)
LIT-240 Asian American Literature 2:2 (3)
- 12 credit hours in literature; at least 9 credit hours must be at the 300 level or above. Only one course in creative writing and one course in film may be counted toward the minor, or if no creative writing course is used, two film courses may be counted.

Minor in Literature: Cinema Studies

- 24 credit hours with grades of C or better and at least 12 credit hours unique to the minor

Course Requirements

- COMM-105 Visual Literacy 1:1 (3)
- LIT-135 Critical Approach to the Cinema 1:1 (3)
- 12 credit hours from the following:
LIT-346 Topics in Film (3) may be repeated up to four times with different topics
LIT-402 Creative Writing: Film Script (3)
- 6 credit hours from the from the following:
COMM-330 Principles of Photography (3) *and*
COMM-331 Film and Video Production I (3)
COMM-511 History of Documentary (3)
COMM-512 Social Documentary (3)
COMM-517 History of Cross-Cultural Cinema (3)
COMM-520 History of Animation (3)
COMM-558 Survey of American Cinema (3)
COMM-586 History of Czech Cinema (3) (study abroad)

Combined B.A. and M.A. in Literature

The program enables students to complete both the B.A. and the M.A. in Literature.

Admission to the Program

Undergraduate literature majors ordinarily apply at the end of their junior year, but they should consult with the M.A. program director prior to applying. Admission decisions follow the procedures used to evaluate graduate applicants to the M.A. in Literature. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required. Students will be admitted formally to M.A. status only if they have completed all requirements for the B.A. in Literature with at least an overall 3.00 grade point average and a 3.20 grade point average in literature courses.

Requirements

- All requirements for the B.A. in Literature
- Undergraduate students may apply up to 9 credit hours of approved graduate-level course work in literature to satisfy the requirements of both degrees.
- All requirements for the M.A. in Literature, including a minimum of 18 credit hours completed in residence in graduate status after the undergraduate degree has been awarded.

M.A. in Literature

Admission to the Program

In addition to meeting the minimum university requirements for graduate study, applicants should have a grade point average of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) in undergraduate literature courses. The Graduate Record General Examination is required. An undergraduate major in literature is desirable, but applications from candidates who have majored in other fields will also be considered, provided that substantial study of literature has been done. Two letters of recommendation and a sample of critical writing are required. Part-time as well as full-time students are welcome in the program.

Degree Requirements

- 36 credit hours of approved graduate work with at least 18 credit hours in 500- or 700-level courses
- A written comprehensive examination based primarily on literature taught in M.A. seminars and other literature courses

Course Requirements

- 9 credit hours from the following:
LIT-521 Readings in Genre: Poetry (3)
LIT-522 Readings in Genre: Drama (3)
LIT-523 Readings in Genre: Novel (3)
LIT-524 Readings in Genre: Cinema (3)
- 18 graduate credit hours in literature, with at least 9 credit hours at the 700 level

Teaching

- LIT-730 Teaching of Writing (3)
- LIT-731 Teaching of Writing Practicum (3)
- an approved graduate course in literature, education, linguistics, or anthropology (3)

Pre-doctoral

- LIT-732 Literary Theory (3)
and
LIT-793 Directed Research in Literature (3) plus another 700 level course in literature
or
LIT-797 Master's Thesis Seminar (6)
or
6 credit hours in literature at the 700 level

General

- 9 additional graduate credit hours in literature

Interdisciplinary

- 9 graduate credit hours in another department or departments, in a individually-designed program of study as approved by the M.A. program director

M.F.A. in Creative Writing

Admission to the Program

Applicants must meet the minimum university requirements for graduate study. An undergraduate major in literature is desirable, but applications from candidates who have majored in other fields will be considered. Admission is based on samples of previous writing (30 pages of fiction or 15 pages of poetry), academic record, and two letters of recommendation.

Degree Requirements

- 48 credit hours of approved graduate work
- Advancement to candidacy is automatic on admission to the program, but subject to yearly review
- A book-length manuscript of fiction, poetry, or drama, to be approved by the creative writing faculty
- One oral examination on the candidate's manuscript: its merits, characteristics, and relations to the works of others

Course Requirements

- 12 credit hours in writing workshops:
LIT-700 Advanced Fiction Workshop (3)
LIT-701 Advanced Poetry Workshop (3)
LIT-702 Creative Writing: Film Script (3)
Students may concentrate on one genre or work in several
- 12 credit hours in literature courses selected from among the regular graduate level literature offerings of the department
- LIT-705 Seminar on Translation (3)
- LIT-710 Art of Literary Journalism (3)
- LIT-691 Graduate Internship (6)
Possible internship sites include the Writer's Center in Bethesda, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Library of Congress, the Writers-in-the-Schools programs, and affiliations with in-house and trade publishers.
- 6 credit hours from the following:
Additional writing workshops, offered at American University or elsewhere
Additional courses in literature, cinema studies, or performing arts
With the approval of an advisor, courses in foreign languages, journalism, or in any other discipline which seems germane to the individual student's interest and consistent with the objectives of the program
- 6 credit hours of LIT-797 Master's Thesis Seminar