

English Major Planning Form

Student's name: _____

Faculty Advisor: _____

Welcome to the English Department. Now that you have declared your major, and have been assigned an advisor, you will need to meet with that advisor to plan the shape of your major. Faculty office numbers and office hours are posted on the bulletin board outside the department office; we recommend that you make an appointment to meet with your new advisor.

Before meeting with your major advisor, spend some time looking at the English Department offerings in the Vassar College Catalogue. We do not expect you to know with certainty the English courses you will take between now and graduation: your interests will change; new courses or new course topics will appear; and some courses may not be available at the time you wish to take them. Think of this as a modeling exercise: you may not take these exact courses, but the process will give you and your advisor a chance to talk about the different pathways through the major, based on your interests. **Remember to include the distributional requirements and how you plan to fulfill them in this discussion with your advisor.**

As an aid to this procedure, you will find below a list of the English correlate sequences (with the 200- and 300-level courses that pertain). You do not need to select one of these sequences; they are provided here simply to indicate a few of the many possible concentrations within the major. Please note, however, that you should progress from 200- to 300-level work in at least one area of specialization.

1. Race and Ethnicity: English 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 251, 252, 261, 262, 275, 277, 326, 370
 2. Literary Theory and Cultural Studies: English 217, 218, 262, 277, 317, 362, 370
 3. Poetry and Poetics: English 211-212, 222, 223, 236, 237, 248, 250, 315, 345, 352, 353, 355, 356
 4. Literary Forms: English 215, 216, 240, 247, 250, 255, 256, 262, 315, 317, 325, 326, 352, 353, 355, 356, 362, 370
 5. British Literary History: 215, 222, 223, 235, 236, 245, 246, 248, 249, 250, 255, 256, 260, 261, 262, 340, 341, 345, 350, 351, 352, 353
 6. American Literary History 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 251, 252, 326, 328, 329, 330, 331
 7. Creative Writing: English: 205, 206, 207, 208, 209-10, 211-12, 307
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Courses in the English Major
(to be filled out in consultation with the major advisor).

	a-term	b-term
Freshman Year		
Sophomore Year		
Junior Year		
Senior Year		

Advisor (to be assigned) _____

Student's name: _____ Class: _____

Campus mailbox: _____ Telephone: _____ email: _____

Requirements for the English major

Units: 12 units, comprising either 11 graded units and an ungraded senior thesis, or 12 graded units. All college requirements for distribution must be satisfied (e.g. 25% of your courses taken toward the degree must be outside the curricular division of the Arts (English, Drama, Film, Physical Education and Dance))

Distribution Requirements for the major:

- * 2 units of work in literature written before 1800
- * 1 unit of work in literature written before 1900
- * 1 unit of work that focuses on issues of race, gender, or ethnicity

The distributional requirements must be taken at the 200- or 300-level.

There is always some confusion over the pre-1900 requirement. It can be fulfilled by taking a course covering any period of British or American literature before 1900. For example, English 240 (Shakespeare) could be used to fulfill the pre-1900 or one of the pre-1800 requirements, but not both at the same time. Alternatively, English 250 (Victorian Poetry) fulfills the pre-1900 requirement but not the pre-1800 requirements since Victoria did not come to the throne until 1837. **Please consult *The Alphabet Book*, published semi-annually by the department, for specific information about what courses fulfill these distributional requirements.**

300-level work: 4 units, at least one taken in the senior year

Note: courses can double count but not triple count. So, for example, if you took a 200-level course focusing on women in Shakespeare, it would fulfill the race, gender and ethnicity requirement and either the pre-1900 requirement or the pre-1800 requirement. However, if a similar course was offered at the 300-level, you could NOT use to fulfill three requirements (300-level, pre-1800 or pre-1900, and race, gender and ethnicity), but it could be counted towards two of those three.

JYA/Transfer credit: At least 6 units, including the senior tutorial if you choose to write one, must be taken at Vassar. JYA/Transfer credit can be counted towards the distributional requirements.

Literature courses taught outside of the English Department: Students can apply one literature course from another department or program towards the English major. See *The Alphabet Book* for details.

Complete the following in consultation with one of the Co-Associate Chairs

Pre-1800 units (2): _____

Pre-1900 unit (1): _____

Race, gender and ethnicity unit (1): _____

Units at the 300-level (4): _____
