

English and Creative Writing

“I see students make far more progress in a one-block writing course here than I ever saw on the semester system.”
Shannon Reed, Professor of English

The Department of English and Creative Writing offers a broad range of courses, including off-campus classes in Chicago, Great Britain, Italy, the Bahamas, and the Wilderness Field Station in northern Minnesota. The major fosters a general understanding of English and American literary history while enabling students to concentrate in one of three areas: literature, creative writing, or film studies.

Many courses allow students to get out of the classroom and into the archives and world. Some classes also have service learning components. Because of the three tracks, English faculty often allow students to create their own projects, choosing between a strictly academic project or a creative project with an academic component, for example. This better allows classes to fit the needs and interests of the students.

Students can also take part in Cornell's vibrant literary life through opportunities supported by the Center for the Literary Arts. Through the center's programs, students can take courses led by distinguished visiting writers, attend readings and workshops, contribute to the literary magazine *Open Field*, or participate in one of the many creative student organizations on campus. The center is assisted by an Emerging Writer Fellow who teaches courses, supports programs, and works on her own creative projects.

BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME

Our faculty extend their classrooms beyond campus on a regular basis. Whether exploring the theatre and

architecture of England, nature writing in northern Minnesota, the Anglophone literature of Africa or the Caribbean, Dante's poetry on site in Tuscany and Rome, or Chicago's vibrant literary scene, students' imaginations are opened to new worlds of insight and possibility.

Every year two Distinguished Visiting Writers teach advanced topics courses such as “Graphic Journalism,” “Fabulist Fiction,” and “Science and the Lyric.” The “Global Voices” series brings writers from the University of Iowa International Writers Program to visit classes and give readings. Visitors have included poets, fiction writers, filmmakers, and performance poets from countries such as China, Canada, Cameroon, Iraq, Cambodia, Haiti, South Africa, and Russia. Other writers come as part of the Visiting Writers Series and spend time in classes. Students have the opportunity to visit, and often to dine, with these writers.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

The diverse scholarly expertise of our faculty enables a curriculum steeped in literary tradition while fully engaged with the contemporary world. Our faculty endeavor to teach students to read, evaluate, and write clearly about “the prose of the world”—the myriad texts they will be confronted with both at Cornell College and in their future.

Majors take at least two foundation courses, complete a variety of upper-level courses in American and British Literature, and gain in-depth knowledge through a concentration in one subfield of English: literary studies, creative writing, or critical film studies. The curriculum is grounded in questions of social justice, and students must take at least one course that focuses on social and global concerns. Senior Seminar, with its emphasis on research and life after the

Faculty Bios & Courses

REBECCA ENTEL *Associate Professor of English*

Teaches courses in nineteenth-century American literature, multicultural literature, and creative writing. She takes students to the Bahamas to study Caribbean literature and to Chicago to study literature and social justice. She is the author of the novel “Fingerprints of Previous Owners” (2017). Her short stories have appeared in magazines such as *Guernica* and *Joyland*, and her scholarship on Civil War literature has been published in various academic journals and essay collections. Ph.D. and M.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison; B.A., University of Pennsylvania.

GLENN FREEMAN *Associate Professor of English*

Teaches creative writing and American poetry courses and takes students to the Wilderness Field Station in Minnesota and to the Bahamas for Nature Writing courses. He is the author of two books of poems: “Traveling Light” (2011), and “Keeping the Tigers Behind Us” (2007). His poems have also appeared in *Poetry*, *The Cimarron Review*, *The Lullwater Review*, and *Talking River Review*. Ph.D., University of Florida, Gainesville; M.F.A., Vermont College; B.A., Goddard College.

LESLIE KATHLEEN HANKINS *Professor of English*

Specializes in modernist and 20th century British literature, especially Virginia Woolf, as well as film studies. She teaches Modern American Literature at the Wilderness Field Station in Minnesota and is currently researching modernism and the wilderness, focusing on Canadian painter and journal-writer Emily Carr. Ph.D. and M.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; B.A., Duke University. Served as president of the Virginia Woolf Society.

English major, plus a small, concentration-specific senior workshop, provide a capstone experience.

FACILITIES

While the faculty are housed in South Hall, the Cornell College Center for the Literary Arts is housed in a charming home two doors away that has a long tradition of creative activity. Known as the Van Etten-Lacey House, it supports a variety of programs that bring distinguished visiting writers to campus for courses, workshops, and readings.

INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Students can earn course credit while pursuing internships for a block or longer, and we consider internships to be an important part of our degree program. They allow students to clarify goals, make connections, and perform meaningful work in a variety of fields. Students have recently held Cornell Fellowships at Creative Materials in Huntington Beach, California (creating teaching materials), and Westview Press in Boulder, Colorado (academic texts), as well as internships with Iowa Watch.org, ESPN 100, Columbia University Press, Phantom Graphics (comics), and African Great Lakes Initiative in Burundi.

AFTER CORNELL

Recent grads have gone on to master's of fine arts programs, publishing, Teach For America, law school, library science, and graduate school. Some graduates have started their own blogs or are professional writers.

Alumni Careers

High school English teacher, Peace Corps, Indonesia (Class of 2016)

Circulation assistant, University of Iowa Law Library (Class of 2016)

Beat writer and football analyst, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; contributing writer-broadcaster, ESPN, Las Vegas (Class of 2016).

Freelance writer, County Line Magazine, Texas (Class of 2016)

Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Peace Corps, Burkina Faso (Class of 2016)

Content lead, Gateway Media, St. Louis, Missouri (Class of 2014)

English teacher, Dundee Crown High School, Carpentersville, Illinois (Class of 2013)

"Education First" English teacher, Beijing, China (Class of 2013)

Communications specialist and marketing coordinator, University of Minnesota Duluth (Class of 2012)

NYU Master of Fine Arts workshop, Paris (Class of 2012)

Designer, Google, San Francisco, California (Class of 2011)

Ensemble member and company stage manager, The New Colony, Chicago (Class of 2011)

Editorial assistant, Geological Society of America, Boulder, Colorado (Class of 2011)

Graduate School

Editing and publishing: Denver Publishing Institute, Colorado; University of Chicago, Illinois; New York University, New York

Creative writing: NYU-Paris; New Mexico State University, Las Cruces; Chatham University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; College of Saint Rose, Albany, New York; Vermont College, Montpelier

English language and culture: University of Leiden, the Netherlands

Law: Boston College, Massachusetts; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; University of Iowa, Iowa City

English literature: Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; University of Iowa, Iowa City; Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts; Iowa State University, Ames; Colorado State University, Fort Collins; Leeds University, United Kingdom

English education: Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois; University of North Dakota, Grand Forks

Library science: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; University of Iowa, Iowa City

Theology: Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut; Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.

Music history and literature: Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

Film and literature: University of York, United Kingdom

Social justice and community development: Loyola University, Chicago

Music management: William Patterson University, Wayne, New Jersey

MICHELLE MOUTON

Professor of English

Teaches Romantic and Victorian literature, Introduction to film studies, and AIDS literature and film. She is co-founder of the Foxden Press and co-teaches Introduction to Book Arts. She raises honeybees and teaches a first-year seminar on Food and sustainability. Ph.D. and M.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; B.A., Tulane University.

SHANNON REED

Associate Professor of English

Specializes in restoration and 18th century English literature, with a particular focus on gender, race, and colonization. Her courses frequently include literature from other countries, like India, South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the Sudan. Her primary research interests are in teaching and learning. She is currently working on an article about teaching students with disabilities and an article about teaching race. Ph.D., University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, M.A., California State University at Sacramento, B.A., Earlham College.

KIRILKA (KATY)

STAVREVA

Professor of English

Teaches Medieval and Renaissance literature, Global Shakespeare, film, and book arts and history. She is author of the 2015 book "Words Like Daggers: Violent Female Speech in Early Modern England," a Global Flex Fulbright Scholar for 2016-18, and editor of two British Literature series for Gale Researcher. Ph.D., University of Iowa; Specialist (combined B.A. and M.A. degree), Sofia University, Bulgaria.

HELEN RUBINSTEIN

Robert P. Dana Emerging Writer Fellow

Her essays have appeared in The Seneca Review, The Paris Review Daily, Witness, The New York Times, and elsewhere, and her fiction in The Collagist, Ninth Letter, and Salt Hill. M.F.A., nonfiction, University of Iowa; M.F.A., fiction, Brooklyn College; B.A., literature, Yale.