

English and Creative Writing

“The block plan allows our students to immerse themselves in ideas, books, and writing projects to the point of getting lost—and they emerge at the end of the course having arrived in new places.”

Rebecca Entel, Associate Professor of English

The Department of English and Creative Writing offers a broad range of courses, including off-campus classes in Chicago, Great Britain, 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 literature or creative writing.

Many courses allow students to get out of the classroom and into the archives and world. Some classes also have service learning components. Students have many opportunities to work on and design projects that combine academic inquiry and creative practice.

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 magazines *Open Field* and *Boom*, or participate in one of the many creative student organizations on campus. The center is assisted by an Emerging Writer Fellow who teaches courses, plans programs with students, 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 cultural heritage of England, nature writing in northern Minnesota, the Anglophone literature of the Caribbean, 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,” “Documentary Film-making” and “Performance Literature.” 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, and filmmakers from countries such as China, Canada, Cyprus, Iraq, Cambodia, Germany, Haiti, South Africa, and Russia. Other writers come as part of the Visiting Writers Series and engage with students 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 national and transnational 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 the future.

Majors take at least two foundation courses, complete a variety of upper-level courses in literature, and gain in-depth knowledge through a concentration in one subfield of English: literary studies or creative writing. The curriculum is grounded in questions of social justice and social change, and students must take at least one course that focuses on social and global concerns. Our two-part senior capstone allows students to reflect on and deepen their previous coursework while also planning for the future. Senior Seminar emphasizes life after the English major, while small Senior Workshops allow students to complete significant writing projects in their concentrations.

Faculty Bios & Courses

REBECCA ENTEL

Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing

Teaches courses in 19th-century American literature, multicultural literature, and creative writing (including NaNoWriMo). 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 and essays have appeared in magazines such as *Guernica*, *LitHub*, *Electric Literature*, and *Catapult*, and her scholarship on Civil War literature has been published in various academic journals and essay collections. Ph.D., English, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

GLENN FREEMAN

Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing

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., English, University of Florida.

LESLIE KATHLEEN HANKINS

Professor of English

Specializes in modernist and 20th century British literature, especially Virginia Woolf, as well as film studies and the book arts. 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 journalist Emily Carr. Served as president of the Virginia Woolf Society. Ph.D., English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



FACILITIES

While faculty offices are in South Hall, the Cornell College Center for the Literary Arts is housed in a charming historic home two doors away with a long tradition of creative activity. Known as the Van Etten-Lacey House, it serves as the hub for workshops, open mics, and readings, and as a gathering place for students to meet visiting writers and publishing professionals. It is also the publishing home of the college, containing the Open Field editorial office and the Foxden Press; students and faculty work on an 1876 Washington iron handpress and in the digital design studio to gain hands-on understanding about publication design and the history of the book.

INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Students can earn course credit while pursuing internships for a block or longer, an important part of our degree program that allows 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 IowaWatch.org (journalism), ESPN 100, Chautauqua Writers' Center (arts administration in creative writing), 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 in a variety of fields. Some graduates have started their own blogs or are professional writers.

ALUMNI CAREERS

Fulbright English teaching assistant, Madrid, Spain (Class of 2018)

Customer consultation and care representative, GoDaddy, Hiawatha, Iowa (Class of 2017)

Content intern, Masterclass Inc., San Francisco, California (Class of 2017)

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 (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)

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

Journalism: Cardiff University, Wales

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

BECCA KLAVER

Robert P. Dana Emerging Writer Fellow

Specializes in creative writing, contemporary American poetry, and feminist and experimental literature. Author of the poetry collections "LA Liminal" and "Empire Wasted," she has previously taught at Tennessee Tech and as the Distinguished Visiting Writer at Bowling Green State University. She cofounded the small press Switchback Books, and is currently coediting the multimedia anthology "Electric Gulesque." Ph.D., English, Rutgers University.

MICHELLE MOUTON

Professor of English

Teaches Romantic and Victorian literature, film, 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., English and critical theory, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

KATIE SAGAL

Visiting Fellow in English

Teaches courses in 18th-century British literature and academic writing. She was the recent Monticello College Foundation & Audrey Lumsden-Kouvel Fellow at the Newberry Library, completing a book manuscript, Women Writers and Scientific Work in the Long Eighteenth Century. Ph.D., English, Tufts University.

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., English, University of Iowa.