Bachelor of Humanities and Arts (BHA)

Dietrich College (DC) Concentration in English  
81 units (minimum)

Advisor:  
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The BHA concentration in English is distinctive in drawing from the artistic and research strengths of the Department’s faculty in Literary and Cultural Studies, Rhetoric, and Creative Writing. Literary and Cultural Studies focuses on the way texts are formally constructed and how they function in historical and contemporary contexts. Creative Writing helps students focus on language as a tool to explore and depict experience. Rhetoric focuses on the principles through which writers construct texts and audiences respond to them. Drawing from all of these perspectives, students with a Concentration in English learn the research skills and writing strategies to enable them to analyze the language and texts of other writers and to report their research in effective texts of their own. Such training can prepare students for graduate work in literature, cultural studies, or rhetoric, and also for careers in law, business, or government, which require similar skills in interpretation, research, and writing.

BHA students take 9 courses in their DC concentration, for a minimum of 81 units. A completed DC Concentration Declaration Sheet must be approved by the concentration faculty advisor and submitted to the BXA office by the end of the student’s sophomore year.

Introductory Courses  
(2 courses, 18 units)

The 200-level core courses are designed to introduce students to writing in a variety of genres, to a knowledge of literary and other media forms, and to a basic theoretical knowledge of how texts are produced and interpreted. In the Interpretive Practices course, students are introduced to basic concepts, methods, and practices of literary and rhetorical approaches to texts. In the Survey of Forms course, students learn how to use language to express experience through poetic and narrative forms.

76-26x  Survey of Forms (Nonfiction, Fiction, Poetry, Screenwriting)  
76-294  Interpretive Practices  
76-294  Interpretive Practices is a prerequisite for these courses. Course options include but are not limited to the following:

Research Course  
(1 course, 9 units)

Research in English offers training in gathering information systematically and in building arguments based on that information. Students will hone their skills in reading texts, using critical commentary, assessing print and electronic materials, and conducting interviews and surveys. They will learn how to test their hypotheses against alternatives and present their research to audiences within the discipline of English. The historical or thematic content of this course will vary from one semester to another. While 76-394 is not a prerequisite for 400-level courses, it is strongly recommended that students with a BHA concentration in English take this course in their junior year.

76-394  Research in English  
76-394  Research in English

Rhetoric Course  
(1 course, 9 units)

Complete one course from a set of varied offerings in Rhetoric as designated each term by the English Department. Rhetoric courses focus explicitly on language and discourse as objects of study and emphasize the relationships of language, text structure, and meaning within specific contexts.

300-Level Courses  
(2 courses, 18 units)

Complete two 300-level courses that investigate the production and interpretation of texts and other media from a variety of periods and theoretical and methodological perspectives. Course offerings that meet these requirements are advertised on a semester-by-semester basis. For students with a BHA Concentration in English, 76-294 Interpretive Practices is a prerequisite for these courses. Course options include but are not limited to the following:

76-323  God: A Literary and Cultural History  
76-338  Topics in Film Studies: The Rise of the Blockbuster Film  
76-343  The Rise of the American Novel  
76-344  Censored Texts  
76-350  Theory from Classics to Contemporary  
76-381  Mad-Men, Television, and the History of Advertising  
76-3xx  Any 300 level course with advisor approval

400-Level Courses  
(2 courses, 18 units)

Complete two 400-level seminar courses that investigate a specific topic in depth and allow students to work on a major research-based paper. Courses in this category will be advertised on a semester-by-semester basis. For students with a BHA Concentration in English, 76-294 Interpretive Practices is a prerequisite and 76-394 Research in English is pre- or co-requisite. Among current course offerings, examples include but are not limited to the following:

76-403  The Crucible of Modernity: Vienna 1900  
76-410  The Long Eighteenth Century  
76-421  Why Stories Matter  
76-429  Introduction to Digital Humanities  
76-439  Stars and Celebrities  
76-444  History of Books and Reading: Media before "New Media"  
76-4xx  Any 400 level course with advisor approval
Period Course Requirement

The period course requirement is not a separate course requirement per se but one that needs to be met through the selection of the required 300- and 400-level courses. At least two of these four required courses must be "period" courses, that is, courses that focus on texts that are connected in time and place or through common social concerns. One of these two courses must focus on a historical period prior to 1900. Courses in this category will vary from year to year and be advertised on a semester-by-semester basis. Such courses may be at either the 300- or 400-level.

Elective Course (1 course, 9 units)

Complete one course from the English Department’s offerings. This course may be at the 200-, 300-, or 400-level. Electives may include any courses offered by the English Department with the exception of courses designed for non-majors. Some semester offerings may include cross-listed courses from Modern Languages or History.