



Emory's doctoral program in English offers an environment that is both intellectually rigorous and collegial, a place where graduate students learn from faculty conducting cutting-edge research, and grow to become researchers and teachers in their own right.

Intellectual Community

We are committed to thriving and genuine intellectual community that supports rigorous work in fields across English and into other fields and disciplines.

Our program is the right size. We have approximately 40 faculty members, and accept seven to nine new doctoral students each year. We are large enough to support a full range of interests in literary and cultural studies, and small enough that students enjoy ample access to faculty and to courses. In our program, students work closely with faculty members to craft programs of study that reflect their own individual interests.

We support innovative work that crosses disciplinary boundaries. Our graduate students frequently enroll in courses in other programs such as Comparative Literature, Film Studies, the Institute of the Liberal Arts (which includes American Studies), and Women's Studies. Our graduate students are also active in the Psychoanalytic Institute. Several of these programs offer organized sequences of courses that lead to a graduate certificate in the field.

Coursework in literary and cultural studies is supplemented by strong support for professional development. At Emory, we seek to train our students to be the researchers and teachers of the twenty-first century. Students attend workshops on professional matters throughout their career, and receive extensive support during their search for academic employment. Moreover, all students are eligible to apply for funding to present research at conferences or to support summer research at archives. In recent years, students have received funding to attend the School for Criticism and Theory at Cornell University, the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth, and the Yeats International Summer School in Sligo, Ireland.

Our size also makes possible an active graduate student community, working through the Graduate English Advisory Committee (GEAC).

- GEAC takes charge of orientation for incoming students each year, welcoming and transitioning new students into the department, and also organizes the graduate students' mentoring program for these new students.
- GEAC organizes the annual graduate student colloquium, which is held each spring. This colloquium offers an opportunity for graduate students to showcase their work for faculty and their fellow students, and often for prospective students as well. In recent years, graduate

DISCOVER

the unexpected

students have presented their research on topics such as the relationship of technology to narratives of trauma, the place of humor in American literature, and the intersections of African American and Native American fiction.

- GEAC members also develop graduate student initiatives, ranging from a much-needed renovation of the graduate student lounge and computer lab to the first program sponsored graduate student conference in the Spring of 2007, titled “Rethinking Resistance: Literature, Politics, Religion.”

Graduate student committees organize the Brown Bag Colloquia Series, the Kemp-Malone Lecture Series, and the department’s social committee.

Emory hosts a constant stream of speakers in literary and cultural studies. The English graduate students have started their own Kemp Malone lecture series, which has featured luminaries such as Bruce Robbins and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. Other recent speakers at Emory include Michael Hardt and Amy Kaplan (both keynote speakers at a conference organized by English graduate students), Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Arnold Rampersad, Elaine Scarry, and Declan Kiberd. The English Department also hosts the Richard Ellmann lecture series, which brings to Emory major figures from the stage of world literature for a series of lectures and other public events. Seamus Heaney, Wole Soyinka, Helen Vendler, David Lodge, and Mario Vargas Llosa are among past Ellmann lecturers.

In 2004, Salman Rushdie delivered the Ellmann lectures. Three years later, he returned to begin a five-year appointment as a distinguished visiting professor. During his time in residence at Emory, Rushdie will offer graduate courses in world literatures, and will deliver several public lectures. Equally significant, Rushdie has deposited his archive in Emory’s Manuscripts and Rare Books Library.

Strengths

While the program supports students in all fields of literary and cultural studies, from the Medieval to the contemporary, we have several particular strengths, in large part supported by extensive collections in the Woodruff Library’s Manuscripts and Rare Books Library:

Interdisciplinary scholarship in literature and culture

Our graduate students take advantage of strong programs in Women’s Studies, American Studies, and African-American Studies. We are the home to scholars such as Laura Otis, a MacArthur fellow working in the intersection of science and literature, and Deepika Bahri, a scholar of postcolonial studies whose courses attract graduate students throughout the university. Recently, we have been joined by Jonathan Goldberg, whose work in the Renaissance and queer theory

has had an impact across literary studies, Benjamin Reiss, whose work on cultural performance in the United States spans disciplines, and Craig Womack, a leading scholar of the Native American literatures of the Southeast. Many members of our faculty have joint appointments with Emory’s highly regarded department of Comparative Literature, including the trauma theorist Cathy Caruth. Professor Caruth and others also participate in Emory’s innovative, multidisciplinary program in psychoanalytic studies.

Poetry

Emory University has made a commitment to establishing itself as a world center for the study of poetry and poetics. The Woodruff Library recently acquired the Danowski Collection of Twentieth-Century Poetry, believed to be the world’s largest ever assembled by a private collector, some 60,000 books and tens of thousands of periodicals. Furthermore, the manuscript collections of Woodruff Library feature an impressive archive of American, English, and Irish poets, including the papers of Seamus Heaney, Anthony Hecht, Ted Hughes, and Paul Muldoon. The University’s commitment complements the expertise of our faculty in a variety of fields: the Renaissance, Romanticism, Irish Studies, and twentieth-century modernism.

African American literature and culture

Our faculty includes Frances Smith Foster, Lawrence Jackson, and Mark Sanders—as well as two award-winning poets, Natasha Trethewey and Kevin Young. Our students in African American literature have access to a growing collection of archival resources at the Woodruff Library, and can take courses with a robust, interdisciplinary department of African American studies that includes scholars such as Rudolph Byrd, Leslie Harris, and Dwight Andrews. This deep strength in African American literature anchors the English department’s offerings in the literatures of the United States, which include courses taught by scholars in Southern literature, Native American literature, and contemporary fiction, as well as offerings by scholars such as Michael Moon in the American Studies program.

African American literary collections include the archive of James Weldon Johnson, as well as significant collections related to the Harlem Renaissance novelist and poet Langston Hughes and the papers of the Georgia-born novelist John Oliver Killens. The Camille Billops and James V. Hatch collection of African American performing arts includes hundreds of playscripts including scripts by Amiri Baraka, Zora Neale Hurston, and August Wilson, among many others. The Library’s southern literary collections include the literary archives of numerous Georgia authors as well as major American poets, short story writers, and novelists (James Dickey, Flannery O’Connor, and Robert Penn Warren).

Curriculum

Coursework

Students normally take a full load of courses during their first and second years, and some additional courses during their third year. (Students entering the doctoral program who have completed a Master's degree elsewhere usually complete their coursework in less than two years.) All students enroll in a course on the "Survey of English" in their first year, and then complete modest distribution requirements. Many students enroll in courses that are cross-listed or even offered in other departments.

Ph.D. Exam

During the third year, students prepare for a Ph.D. examination that has both written and oral components. The exam covers three areas of study designated by the students, and covers lists of primary and secondary works selected by the student and his or her advisory committee. The examination is designed to allow the student to exhibit his or her mastery over the chosen fields of study as well as to prepare him or her for the dissertation that follows.

Dissertation

The capstone of the Ph.D. curriculum is the writing of the dissertation, which the student undertakes under the guidance of an advisor and at least two other committee members. Students also receive support for this process by participating in a dissertation colloquium, and are eligible to apply for funds for archival research elsewhere. The dissertation represents a product of original research, and many of our students have later published their revised dissertations as books with university presses.

Training in Teaching

All Emory doctoral students receive training in pedagogy and other teaching issues through the Graduate School's Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Program (TATTO). As part of their pedagogical training, students are required to complete the following requirements:

- A summer workshop, run by the Graduate School, held in August before the second year of graduate study.
- A two-semester sequence of English 791, the Teaching of Composition. This course begins in the spring of the fourth semester of coursework, before the students teach their own courses, and continues the following semester as a practicum while students are teaching.
- A two-credit Pro-Seminar in the Teaching of Literature, usually taken in the fourth year of graduate study.

As they progress through this training sequence, students are assigned as teaching assistants or teaching associates, under the mentorship of faculty members and with progressively more responsibility.

Faculty

We have over 40 faculty members, including leading experts in a number of English literary and cultural studies fields. We encourage you to visit the faculty section of our website, www.english.emory.edu/people/faculty, where you will find information about all our faculty members, including research and teaching interests as well as publications.

Administrative Faculty

WILLIAM GRUBER

Chair, English Department, Professor of English and Adjunct Professor of Theater Studies.

*Educated at Yale University, the University of Idaho, and Washington State University (PhD 1979). Worked as a journalist and served in the Marine Corps before becoming a college professor. He is the author of *Comic Theaters: Studies in Performance and Audience Response* (1986; *Choice Outstanding Academic Book*), *Missing Persons: Character and Characterization in Modern Drama* (1994), and *On All Sides Nowhere: Building a Life in Rural Idaho* (2002 *Bakeless Prize for nonfiction*). He teaches courses in drama and the history of drama, especially British and continental drama of the twentieth century and also in creative nonfiction. His most recent publications include scholarly articles on Samuel Beckett and the Austrian dramatist Thomas Bernhard as well as personal essays on subjects such as wheel bearings, the color indigo, and a fallen-down barn.*

BENJAMIN REISS

Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies. UC Berkeley (PhD 1997)

*Dr. Reiss specializes in 19th-century American literature and culture, with strong interests in popular culture, medicine, race, disability, and environmental issues. He is currently an editor of the *Cambridge History of the American Novel*, a collection of seventy new essays by leading scholars*



due to be published in 2009. He is also the author of *The Showman and the Slave: Race, Death, and Memory in Barnum's America* (Harvard UP, 2001), *Theaters of Madness: Insane Asylums and Nineteenth-Century American Culture* (University of Chicago Press, 2008). Professor Reiss teaches courses in traditional literary periods (such as the Nineteenth-Century American Novel and Antebellum American Literature), as well as courses that blend literary analysis with cultural studies, cultural and social history, and the history of medicine and disability. These include *Literature and Madness; Slavery in American Literature and Culture; Freaks, Monsters, and Curiosities; Hawthorne and History; and Literature and the Environment*. Reiss has also taught at Tulane University, and he is the recipient of grants and fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, the NEH, and the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Students

The program typically has approximately 40-45 students in residence. Their interests range broadly across English and related fields. Some recent or current dissertation projects include:

- “Discursive Accidents: Trauma and Technology in Twentieth-Century American Literature.”
- “From the Borders of Partition: Trauma, Ethics, and Testimony”
- “Reclaiming Mother’s Body: Narratives of Transformation in African and African Caribbean Women’s Literature, 1970-2005”
- “The Craft of Confession: Analyzing Madness and the American Ego in Confessional Poetry”
- “Surface Poetics: Ornamentation and Liquefaction in Robert Herrick’s *Hesperides*”
- “Excessive Encounters: The Language of Revelation in Nineteenth-Century Literature”
- “Fictions of Authenticity: Antebellum Literature and the Informational Reader”

- “Weaving Wisps of Narrative: Intersections in African American and Native American Literary Traditions from 1965-2000”

A more complete list of recent dissertations is available at www.english.emory.edu/graduate/recentgrads/recentgrads.htm

All graduate students admitted to the English doctoral program are now funded for five years, either through departmental fellowships or one of the Graduate School Fellowships (Diversity Fellowships, Woodruff Fellowships, and Arts and Sciences Fellowships). All fellowships carry tuition remission and a partial health care subsidy. Students beyond their initial funding package are eligible for a number of Emory fellowships, and the Graduate School offers a Grant Writing Program that supports students’ efforts to apply for external funding.

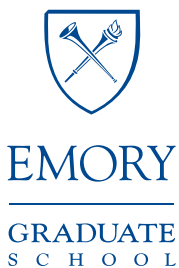
Placement

We are committed to helping our students secure the best positions available in their fields. Each year, one or two faculty members serve as job placement officers. These faculty members guide students seeking academic positions through the search process by holding workshops, reviewing materials, and staging mock interviews.

Our efforts—and the quality of our program—are reflected in our students’ success on the job market. Recent graduates are teaching at Duquesne University, Seton Hall, the University of New Hampshire, Illinois State University, Wake Forest University, the University of Wyoming, and Morehouse College.

Contact Information

For more information, please visit our website (www.english.emory.edu), where you can find detailed information about the graduate program, the requirements for the doctoral degree, and the application process. You may also contact the Graduate Coordinator, Melanie Tipnis (mtipnis@emory.edu) for answers to specific questions.



Requests for Additional Information:

RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS

Emory Graduate School
209 Administration Building
Mailstop 1000-001-1AF
201 Dowman Drive
Atlanta, GA 30322

404-727-6028 or
800-727-6028 (domestic only)
(ask for the English program)
Fax: 404-727-4990

<http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu>
<http://www.english.emory.edu>