



## ENGLISH

To study English literature and language is to understand its power, its possibilities, and its pleasures. As an English major at Illinois Wesleyan, you'll examine writing past and present to discover its variety and complexity. You'll learn to write with clarity and imagination. And you will gain a greater appreciation of literature's influence on our culture.

Our English program offers two tracks for majors: a concentration in literature and a concentration in writing. The literature track focuses on reading, research, critical analysis, and speaking skills. It begins with a course in the practice of literary analysis and continues with classes organized around topics and issues in literary study. The English curriculum is designed to give students a wide range of choices in the kind of literature and topics that interest them. The writing track links the study of literature to an emphasis on creative writing and journalism, with courses and seminars in writing fiction, poetry, the essay, news, and news features. Opportunities for research and independent study are available and encouraged for qualified students in both the writing and literature concentrations. The student-run literary cooperative Tributaries and the campus chapter of the national English honors society Sigma Tau Delta foster a sense of community within and beyond our campus. Regardless of the emphasis in study, the English program offers students additional possibilities, from travel courses and study abroad to preparing for the teaching of English in secondary schools to developing skills for study beyond the undergraduate years.

## A DIVERSE, EXPERIENCED FACULTY

Learning is enhanced at Illinois Wesleyan by the superior, individualized instruction you'll receive from our faculty. Our instructors, who hold doctorates from such prestigious institutions as the University of Chicago, Notre Dame, Cornell, and the University of California at Berkeley, will work closely with you, answering your questions in and out of class, collaborating

with you on research projects, or perhaps directing your internship. Their professional activities add an important dimension to their in-class teaching. Some of our English faculty members include:

- ▶ **Dr. Kathleen O'Gorman, Dr. Pamela Muirhead, Dr. Robert Bray, Dr. James Plath and Dr. Mary Ann Bushman**, who have each received Illinois Wesleyan's all-university teaching award.
- ▶ **Dr. Mike Theune**, an accomplished young poet and scholar, who during his Junior Faculty Leave edited a handbook of poetry writing instruction, *Structure and Surprise*, published by Teachers and Writers Collaborative, and whose students have published their poetry in *McSweeney's Quarterly* and *The Madison Review*.
- ▶ **Dr. James Plath**, who served as president of the Illinois College Press Association and taught as a Fulbright Scholar in Barbados, works extensively with student journalists and creative writers.
- ▶ **Dr. Alison Sainsbury**, whose NEH-sponsored summer research seminar in post-apartheid South Africa yielded contacts that brought South African writers to Illinois Wesleyan for class visits and campus lectures.
- ▶ **Dr. Dan Terkla**, whose research on the literature, art, architecture, and maps of the Middle Ages at places like Oxford's Bodleian Library enhances his medieval studies courses and has resulted in student research conference presentations and the awards of research honors.

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"I think one of the strengths of the Illinois Wesleyan English Department is the diversity of opportunities we offer students. In addition to choosing between a concentration in literature or a concentration in writing, students can specialize to some extent in areas like American or British literature, or create a study emphasis in modern or medieval literature, or focus on specially conceived projects, research interests, or travel.

Students who enjoy British literature, for instance, can study abroad in England for a semester to a full year. Some might end up in Durham, one of the oldest and most beautiful English cities; it has one of the few remaining Romanesque cathedrals in the world. Others might trace the legend and history of King Arthur by exploring English, Cornish, and Welsh sites associated with his life. Experiences like these fully enrich a student's learning process.

On the other hand, journalism students might become directly involved in writing for and administering the school newspaper. Students will often find themselves interviewing local sports figures or city officials or find themselves taking an internship where they combine their learning within practical, 'real world' situations. Students usually rave about these kinds of experiences and find clear directions for their future in having pursued them.

If there's one thing I would suggest to our beginning English majors, it is to experiment, to explore all the options in and out of class. You can't possibly know what's going to interest you until you've tried it."

**Dr. Lynn Devore**

Department of English

► **Dr. Wes Chapman**, whose work in electronic media (including publication of a hypertext novel and participation in a National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar) has led to innovative courses in electronic fiction, cyberculture, and human/machine interconnections.

► **Dr. Barbara Bowman**, whose work and writing about the history of and techniques used in modern film have generated popular courses in understanding film and film's contribution to the fine arts.

## PUTTING YOUR LEARNING INTO PRACTICE

In addition to enrolling in independent studies in literature and in research and honors projects, students can join the staff of *The Argus*, (one of the top-three college newspapers in its class), or work for the campus literary magazine, *Tributaries*, the radio station, the television station, or *The Delta*, a student publication of student research. Students might also find room in their schedules for internships, with opportunities at IWU's public relations office, Bloomington-Normal newspapers, local cable TV and radio stations, and public relations or communications departments at State Farm Insurance. Students are limited only by their ambition.

## YOUR PROFESSIONAL FUTURE

Our alumni include journalists for metropolitan newspapers, Ph.D's from the Universities of Chicago, Michigan, Illinois, and California, a public relations specialist for the Chicago White Sox, editors of journals and literary magazines, attorneys, and public and private high school teachers. Other alumni have gone on to earn graduate degrees in psychology, museum studies, communications, and public relations. A degree in English from Illinois Wesleyan University can be your introduction to a wide variety of challenging and satisfying professional opportunities.

## SAMPLE FOUR YEAR CURRICULUM IN ENGLISH-LITERATURE

### FRESHMAN YEAR

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	May Term
Gateway Colloquium	Natural Sciences	Elective
Natural Sciences	Intellectual Traditions	
Cultural and Historical Change	Language	
Language	Physical Education	
Physical Education	English Foundation Course/ Practical Criticism	

### SOPHOMORE YEAR

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	May Term
Formal Reasoning	Analysis of Values	Elective
U.S. Diversity	Global Diversity	
Practical Criticism	Creative Writing/Journalism	
200 Level English	300 Level English	

### JUNIOR YEAR

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	May Term
300 Level English	English Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective	Travel
Elective or Study Abroad		

### SENIOR YEAR

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
300 Level Elective	Senior Seminar
300 Level Elective	300 Level English
Elective or	Elective
Student Teaching	Elective

During your sophomore year, you should make an appointment with the department chairperson to secure a permanent major advisor. You and your advisor will plan your junior and senior year programs. This is true for both a general English major and an English major with a minor in teaching. If you want to choose an advisor before your fourth semester, you are encouraged to do so.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about the academic program and the faculty visit our website at:

<http://www2.iwu.edu/academics/departments>