

PROGRAM STRUCTURE (June 14, 2021)

Dear English Majors, Minors, and Intended Students,

As promised, I'm following up on my message of May 31 with a more detailed description of the English Department's curriculum revisions, coming into effect this Fall. This document will specifically discuss the structural changes to our major, minor, certificates, and honours program. In my next message, I'll address our revised slate of classes, including new and modified classes, course prerequisites, and so forth. By the end of this month, then, you should have all the information you need to register with confidence for your Fall courses.

Before I get too far into things though, I want to remind you about our first Zoom information session, which will be held on **Monday, June 21, at 11:00**. We'll be holding follow-up sessions on **Tuesday, July 6, at 2:00** and **Wednesday, August 4, at 10:00**, and we plan to post a recording of the first session for those who can't make any of these dates. The sessions will be about 45 minutes long and will include plenty of space for you to ask questions. I will make the Zoom link for each session available as it approaches.

Okay—into the labyrinth! As you can probably imagine, revising a curriculum is a complicated process, and so this description is going to be heavy on the nitty gritty details (and a little lighter than I'd like on the breezy conversational rhetoric). What I want to reassert here, however, is a point that I made in my first message to you: **everything you've done so far—whatever English courses, prerequisites, and requirements you've taken with us—will still count toward your degree**. You will not lose *any* progress toward completing your major, minor, certificate, or honours degree because of these curriculum changes. Our primary impulse as we've made these changes has been toward streamlining and to simplification; we have worked to make our programs easier to navigate and more efficient to complete. In the sections below, I will break down each program and show you how it's changed (and how it hasn't), what hurdles we've eliminated, what requirements we've maintained, and what these changes might mean for you.

The English Major

Let's begin with what's staying exactly the same. In order to complete your BA in English at SFU, you are required to complete 120 units (or credits) at the University. A minimum of 50 of those units must come from English courses, as follows:

- 6 units at the 100-level (i.e. 2 100-level classes)
- 12 units at the 200-level (i.e. 4 200-level classes)
- 32 upper-division units, with a minimum of 8 at the 400-level (i.e. 8 regular upper-division courses, with 2 of those from the 400-level.)

In addition to completing these ENGL units, you are also required to complete the University's general education (WQB) requirements, and you're required to maintain a minimum 2.00 grade point average across your ENGL courses. All of this is a carry over from the old major, so it should look familiar to you.

So what's changed? The most significant changes to the major have to do with the area requirements *within* each level of the curriculum. Currently, at the lower-division, English majors are required to take either ENGL 201 or ENGL 203 and either ENGL 205 or ENGL 206. At the upper-division, English majors must likewise take 2 classes from "Group 1," which covers British literature from its beginnings to the eighteenth-century, and 1 class from "Group 2," which consists of courses in Canadian and Indigenous literatures. **Starting in Fall 2021, the only remaining area requirement will be one upper-level course in Canadian or Indigenous literature.** What that means is that if you anticipate completing your degree after Fall 2021, the 200-level area requirements and the upper-division "Group 1" requirements will no longer apply to you. If you've already completed them, that's great; they won't do you any harm. But if you *haven't* yet completed them, you don't need to worry about them any more. More to the point, if you have completed your Canadian or Indigenous literature requirement (i.e. your upper-division "Group 2") with a course number that's been discontinued, that course will continue to count for you, so you won't lose any progress toward your degree because of the changes.

A quick word about joint majors: English maintains joint major programs with several programs: Communication, French, GSWS, History, and Humanities. As with the regular English major, the only area requirement that will remain for the English portion of these joint-majors will be the Canadian / Indigenous literature requirement. The number of required lower- and upper-division units will remain the same as in the current joint major, as will the requirements from the other department involved.

I've attached a copy of the new major structure to this document as a pdf. The old major structure will still be up on the Department's website until the University publishes the Fall 2021 calendar. Once that happens, the new curriculum will show up, along with the new slate of courses that will be available to you.

English Honours

Like the English Major, English Honours will retain its basic shape and unit-requirements. At the lower-division, the honours program is identical to the regular major (6 100-level units and 12 200-level units), and the changes to the lower-division area-requirements that I've described above will also apply here. At the upper-division, honours students will still be required to take 48 units, with at least 20 of those units (i.e. 5 classes) at the 400-level. Finally, the honours program will still culminate in the Honours Research and Methods Seminar (ENGL 494) and the Honours Graduating Essay (ENGL 496), both of which will continue to be supervised by the Department's Undergraduate Chair and a faculty mentor. The University distribution and GPA requirements for honours will also remain the same: students will need to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and an English GPA of 3.5 to earn an honours BA.

The main changes to the honours program come at the upper-division. As with the regular major, honours students will no longer need to adhere to complex area requirements (one upper-level course in medieval literature, one in Early Modern, one in the long Eighteenth century, and so forth.) **The only upper-division area requirement remaining for honours students will be one course in Canadian or Indigenous literature;** that's the same area requirement remaining for the regular English major. **In addition, honours students will still be required to complete**

ENGL 364, “Literary Criticism: History, Theory, and Practice,” either in advance of or concurrent with the Honours Research and Methods Seminar.

I have not included a pdf of the honours program requirements, but I will be addressing the honours requirements at the Zoom information sessions. If you are interested in honours and wish to talk about it further, please drop me an email as soon as possible. We are hoping to grow and expand the honours program in the coming years, and so we are actively seeking interested students.

The English Minor, Extended Minor, and Creative Writing Minor

The structure of the English Minor will not change. Currently, English minors are required to take at least 6 units of 100-level English courses, 6 units of 200-level English courses, and 16 units at the upper-division, 4 of which must be at the 400-level. As of Fall 2021, minors will have to do exactly the same thing, albeit with a somewhat different set of courses.

The Extended Minor consists of the lower-division requirements for the major and the upper-division requirements for a minor. **That means that the changes I’ve described to the lower division courses of the English Major—specifically the removal of the 200-level area requirements—will also apply to the English Extended Minor.**

The structure of the Creative Writing Minor will not change. One of the lower-division courses currently accepted for credit toward the Minor—ENGL 208, “21st Century Literatures in English”—will be discontinued in the Fall; however, if you’ve already taken that course, it will continue to count toward your Creative Writing Minor.

Interdisciplinary Certificates

The English Department currently houses three interdisciplinary certificates: The Performance Studies Certificate; The Writing and Rhetoric Certificate; and The Creative Writing Certificate. **The structures of these individual certificates will not change;** although, there will be a few course-level changes where individual classes have been deleted, combined, or modified. As with all of our other degree programs, courses that have been deleted in the new curriculum will continue to count toward your certificate if you’ve already completed them.

Finally, a word about the Creative Writing Certificate: Because we’ve recently developed and rolled out the new Creative Writing Minor, we will be suspending admission to the Creative Writing Certificate this Fall. If you are currently enrolled in the Creative Writing Certificate, you have nothing to worry about: **we will continue to support all students completing the Creative Writing Certificate,** just as we have up to this point. If you decide that you’d like to transition from the Creative Writing Certificate to the Creative Writing Minor, we will also support you in that process. The best thing to do, if you think you might want to move from the Certificate to the Minor, is to contact our Undergraduate Advisor, Kathryn Ward, at engladv@sfu.ca. She’ll be able to talk through that process with you and review your options on an individual basis.

This has been a somewhat overlong and detail-packed piece of writing, but I hope that it gives you a good sense of how we've refined our programs. I will write again toward the end of this month to discuss the changes that you'll see in individual courses and to address some important course-level issues, such as prerequisites, credit thresholds, course repetitions, and so forth. And, of course, Kathryn Ward and I will be on Zoom on June 21 at 11:00 to discuss all of these changes in person and to answer any questions you might have. Finally, please do feel free to email me at david_coley@sfu.ca if this message has left you with any lingering concerns.

Please stay safe and take care of yourselves. I'll talk with you again soon.

Best,
David

English Major, Bachelor of Arts

Program Requirements

Students complete 120 units, as specified below.

Lower Division Requirements

Students complete two of

ENGL 111W - Literary Classics in English (3) *
ENGL 112W - Literature Now (3) *
ENGL 113W - Literature and Performance (3) *
ENGL 114W - Language and Purpose (3) *
ENGL 115W - Literature and Culture (3) *
ENGL 199W - Writing to Persuade (3) *

and any four of

ENGL 202 - The Environmental Imagination (3) **
ENGL 204 - Reading Sexuality and Gender (3) **
ENGL 209 - Race, Borders, Empire (3) **
ENGL 210 - Reading and Writing Identities (3) **
ENGL 211 - The Place of the Past (3) **
ENGL 213 - Reading Across Media (3) **
ENGL 214 - History and Principles of Rhetoric (3) **
ENGL 216 - History and Principles of Literary Criticism (3) †
ENGL 234 - Metrics and Prosody (3) **
ENGL 272 - Creative Reading (3)

Students who have completed a flexible pre-major with 18 lower division English transfer units have met the lower division requirements for an English major and should contact the Department of English advisor.

Students wishing to major in English are strongly advised to submit a formal declaration to this effect to the undergraduate advisor upon completing all lower division requirements.

* any one, but not more than one of these courses may be replaced by any three unspecified transfer units in English or in ENGL-Writing

** any one, but not more than one, of these courses may be replaced by any three unspecified 200 division transfer units in English

† recommended

Upper Division Requirements

An English major must complete 32 units in upper-division English courses. A minimum of eight of these units must be at the 400-level, excluding Directed Studies Courses (ENGL 490, 491). A minimum of 4 units must be from the following group of courses, focused on Canadian and/or Indigenous Literature:

- ENGL 355 – Canadian Literatures (4)
- ENGL 360 - Popular Writing by Indigenous Authors (4)
- ENGL 431W - Seminar in Indigenous Literature (4)
- ENGL 432W - Seminar in Canadian Literature (4)

With permission of the department, other English courses of equivalent content may be substituted for those required in this group.

The department may designate up to eight units of program-related upper division courses that are offered by other departments as being acceptable in fulfilling part of the required units in the major program.

Students must maintain at least a 2.00 grade point average in ENGL courses.