

Department of English

2008-2009

Mission

The Department of English supports the university's mission by providing opportunities for our students to develop literacy, critical thinking, and communication skills, as well as the knowledge of literature and aesthetic appreciation expected of culturally literate citizens and future teachers in our public schools.

Program Goals

- Provide all Stanislaus students the opportunity to achieve appropriate levels of proficiency in written communication.
- Share with our students a rich variety of American, British, and World texts.
- Guide our students to develop a broad range of interpretive abilities and analytical skills.
- Present the historical, cultural, and technical information necessary for students to become competent readers and scholars.
- Assist our students in the continual process of improving formal writing skills.
- Provide opportunities for students to practice their oral communication skills.
- Support our students as they prepare for and enter into professional life.
- Engage prospective teachers in the philosophy and practice of teaching language arts in secondary schools.

Student Learning Goals/Objectives

Successful English Majors Will . . .

- Master various analytical and critical reading skills, demonstrating the ability to read closely and to comprehend and interpret a variety of culturally diverse literary, non-literary, and visual texts.
- Gain broad knowledge of literature, achieving
 - o Familiarity with the development and significant periods and movements of American, British, and World literatures.
 - o Knowledge of literary, critical, and theoretical terminology.

- o Understanding of background and contextual knowledge necessary for the well-informed consideration of various texts.
- Demonstrate formal writing skills by composing essays and other documents that
 - o Make clear, organized, and well-reasoned arguments.
 - o Analyze, develop, and synthesize concepts.
 - o Reveal the ability to evaluate, incorporate, and document information.
 - o Exhibit a sense of audience and occasion.
 - o Display a mastery of grammar and language.
- Develop competent oral communication skills through class discussions and formal presentations.
- Gain understanding of intellectual and professional issues of the academy, including diversity, academic ethics, and canonicity.

Successful MA Students with a Concentration in Literature Will . . .

- Master the techniques and practices of literary analysis.
- Become familiar with the history and current theories of literary interpretation.
- Acquire the abilities necessary to become professionals in the field of literature, whether as teachers or as other professionals.

Successful MA Students with a Concentration in RTW Will . . .

- Understand the historical development and major theories of rhetoric and composition.
- Master and apply the techniques and practices of rhetorical analysis.
- Acquire the abilities necessary to become professionals in the field of composition and rhetoric, whether as teachers or as other professionals.

Successful MA Students with a Concentration in TESOL Will . . .

- Gain knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts from the areas of linguistics, applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and language teaching methodology.
- Acquire in-depth knowledge and understanding of the interaction between second language acquisition theory and second language teaching and learning.

- Demonstrate expertise in curriculum design, assessment, teaching methods, and classroom management in various TESOL settings.