DEPARTMENT FACULTY

Jeffrey Bilbro, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of English

Betsy Craig ’77
Professor of Theatre & Communication Studies

Andrew Harvey, Ph.D.
Professor of English

Adam Loretto ’05, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of English

Joshua Mayo, Ph.D.
Chair, Associate Professor of English

H. Collin Messer, Ph.D.
Professor of English

Eric Potter, Ph.D.
Professor of English

Michael S. Rawl, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English

Kristen Waha, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of English

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Department of English is dedicated to the study of the great works of English, American and world literature. The approach of the department is to read the literature for its explorations of the fundamental questions regarding the nature of God and man, the meaning of moral choice, the purpose of life, and the possibility of salvation. The goal is to equip students to discover this truth wherever it may be found, especially in the enduring works of the literature of Western Civilization. The department prepares students for a wide variety of careers, as well as graduate and professional study.

MAJORS

English

The English major is for students who love to read, discuss and write about great literature. Students complete 39 credit hours of course requirements in addition to the College core curriculum.

English major leading to (7-12) teaching certification in English

In addition to the 85 credit hours of major coursework, students participate in real-life teaching situations during field experiences and student teaching.

English major leading to (7-12) teaching certification in English and Communication

In addition to the 91 credit hours of major coursework, students participate in real-life teaching situations during field experiences and student teaching.

WRITING CONCENTRATIONS

Concentrations are available in Business Writing (15 hours), Creative Writing (15), Professional Writing (15), Science Writing and Reporting (16-17) and Technical Writing (15-16).

MINORS

English

To complete a minor in English, students need 18 credit hours that can be chosen from a wide variety of courses in British, American and world literature.

Theatre

Students must fulfill 24 credit hours of course requirements to complete the minor, including 12 credit hours from the theatre core and 12 credit hours from elective options.

Classical Studies

Students take 21 credit hours from a combination of English, Greek, history, philosophy, political science and Latin for a Classical Studies minor.

Classical Christian Education

Students complete 23 credit hours plus an internship to better prepare themselves to teach in Classical Christian schools.

Creative Writing

Students take 21 credit hours from a wide variety of English writing and literature courses.

Musical Theatre

Students complete 24 credit hours from a combination of music, physical education/dance and theatre courses.

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTAL AREAS OF INTEREST

Students have many opportunities to get involved in English-related activities. Students can write for the campus newspaper, The Collegian, contribute to our two literary magazines, The Echo and The Quad, and work on productions in our award-winning theatre program. The department also hosts an annual Christian Writers Conference to focus on a writer or theme of interest in the relation between literature and Christianity.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Students may choose to participate in the Honors Seminar in their junior or senior year, for which they students must fulfill 24 credit hours of course requirements to complete the minor, including 12 credit hours from the theatre core and 12 credit hours from elective options.

INTERNSHIPS

Internships for students majoring in English typically involve work done off campus under the supervision of a professional in an English or communication related field. Recent internships have included work in public relations, advertising, library and information sciences, journalism and publishing. Internships are most often completed during the summer and are considered a valuable stepping-stone to careers following graduation. English majors can also earn academic credit for completing internships.

CAREER AND GRADUATION OPPORTUNITIES

Many students majoring in English go on to graduate school in a wide range of areas, including English, law, library & information science, education and theology. In recent years, students have gone on to schools such as New York University, University of Virginia, Baylor University, Boston University, Case-Western Reserve, University of Notre Dame, Oxford University, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University and Duquesne University.

CONTACT

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The Grove City English program felt like a greenhouse, rich with the light and nutrients I needed to grow. My professors walked us through literature as the study of what it means to be human, seeing ourselves as both Fallen creatures who need grace and image-bearers of God who desire His goodness. Their teaching gave me the insight and practical skills (such as critical thinking and communication) to step into post-graduation life rooted in truth and wisdom and reaching joyfully for whatever God calls me to do.

– Alicia Pollard ’17