

# English

## Learning Goals

1. Analyze and appreciate literature from the earliest periods to the present by British, American, and Anglophone authors.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with a variety of methodological perspectives with an understanding of the historical and political dimensions of discourse related to race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and disability.
3. Write clear and compelling prose appropriate to the intended readership.
4. Make cogent oral presentations responsive to an audience.
5. Assess and conduct research using both print and digital sources, and articulate one's own ideas together with the appropriately cited work of others.
6. Create a substantial work of critical or creative writing through sustained reflection, composition, and revision.
7. Engage in thoughtful discussion about discourse that is inclusive of the literature and experience of historically marginalized groups.
8. Think creatively and critically about anything made of language.

## About the major

The English Department offers intensive study in literature by major writers from the medieval period to the present. It also provides experience in a variety of interpretive methods and cultural contexts and fosters the understanding and appreciation of literature as an artistic expression of human experience. In addition, the department offers rich and varied opportunities for the development of creative writers in all genres.

The English major cultivates students' powers of empathy and sympathy as well as critical thinking, rigorous analysis, thorough and responsible research, and clear and persuasive writing. These skills and abilities are prized by employers in nearly every field, and valuable as well for admission and success in graduate programs in law, medicine, journalism, and other disciplines.

Course work begins with a core sequence designed to introduce students to close reading, literary theory and criticism, and the historical foundations of literature in English. This introduction is followed by lecture and seminar courses that expose students to the important periods and works of British, American, and Anglophone world literature, and to research methods in literary study.

*“From the smallest word choices to the largest questions about the human experience, my considerations at work feel like a natural extension of those we mulled in my lit seminars. It’s completely delightful.”*

*Angela Evancie '09  
Host and Creator of the  
Vermont Public podcast  
Brave Little State*

## Reasons you might choose this major

- You enjoy reading a variety of literary works and are curious about the different literary and cultural conditions that produce them.
- You have an interest in analyzing critically and thoughtfully the material that you read.
- You are interested in developing skills that will make you a better interpreter of any kind of textual product.
- You enjoy writing and would like to pursue a field of study that nurtures the development of careful, precise, and engaging writing, whether critical or creative.



## Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

**Critical Thinking:** Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

**Oral/Written Communications:** Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

**Teamwork/Collaboration:** Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

**Leadership:** Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

**Professionalism/Work Ethic:** Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

**Global/Intercultural Fluency:** Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

**Digital Technology:** Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

**Career Management:** Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

## Where English majors go

### Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

New Amsterdam Records

The Truth Podcast

*Cosmopolitan Magazine*

Sound Diplomacy

San Francisco Public Press

Morgan Stanley

Downtown Music Publishing

Random House Inc.

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival

Office of the Attorney General of New York

PEN America Center

British American Drama Academy

Wheelhouse Creative

New York State Writers Institute

*Burlington Free Press*

Embassy of Jamaica-Tokyo/Consulate  
General of Jamaica-New York

*New England Review*

Focus Advisory Services

Antiques Roadshow

### . . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. **go/midd2midd**

Harper Collins Publishers, Inc.,  
*Vice President and Associate Publisher*

Donaghy Literary Group, *Literary Agent*

Stanford Hospital and Clinics, *Family-Sports  
Medicine Physician*

*New York Times*, *Sports Reporter*

Amazon, *Senior Editor, Trade Books*

Helix Agency, *Executive Creative  
Director, Principal*

Comedy Central, *Writer*

NBC Universal, *Senior Vice President*

National Geographic, *Executive Producer,  
National Geographic "Explorer"*

Boston Celtics, *Media Relations*

Sentient Decision Science, *Senior Analyst*

EatingWell Media Group, *Senior Digital  
Editor*

Sundial Pictures, *Screenwriter*

Western Reserve Land Conservancy,  
*President and CEO*

West Virginia University, *Manuscripts  
Librarian*

Oxford University Press, *Associate Editor*

City of Philadelphia, *City Budget Director*

Google, *Head of Sales Google Cloud*

Rockbot (formerly Roqbot), *Cofounder  
and CEO*

Mayo Clinic, *Investment Officer*

Discovery Communications LLC,  
*Creative Project Manager*

*New Yorker Magazine*, *Writer and Editor*

Natural Resources Defense Council,  
*Environmental Law and Policy Consultant*

Verizon, *Head of Content Acquisition  
and Programming*