Foreign Language Requirement

All graduate students should plan to meet this requirement in the FIRST YEAR of coursework, prior to registering for Thesis Hours or preparing for the Comprehensive Exam.

Students cannot graduate without meeting this requirement, which can be met by taking the Foreign Language Translation Exam in an approved language or by taking approved coursework. For the exam, contact the Foreign Language department in the first four weeks of the semester to take the test anytime during the semester.

See our policy on the website. Contact Dr. Harrington if you have any questions about this requirement.

Welcome

Welcome to our new graduate students who have entered since last fall: Frank Ard, Genevieve Belou, Emily Bingham, Melinda Byrd-Murphy, Michael Cooper, Scott Corley, Rachael Engel, Courtney King, Tammy Lee, Michael Mason, Erica Massey, Samantha McMillan, Megan McNiel, Tiffany Miller, Amanda Peabody, Michelle Rigsby, Matthew Rogers, Ann Elise Tacon, Nadia Taylor, and Sharon Varner.

Congratulations to our recent graduates: Dominique DeSanctis, Michelle Devine, Stephanie Evers, Jeannie Holmes, Amber Johnson, Matt Lambert, Meghan McDonald, Brandon McLeod, Suzanne Rodolfich, Peggy Tran, and Jennifer Powell Thomas.

Stephanie Evers, Deborah Ferguson, Matt Lambert, and Jennifer Powell Thomas are recent alums who will serve as Instructor-Interns for the English department this academic year.

Accomplishments

Current Students and Graduates of the English MA Program

Rachael A. Engel (M.A. in progress, USA) published a story, "Tears of a Clown" in Danse Macabre's spring "Frühlingsstimmen" issue (dansemacabre.art.officelive.com/tearsofaclown.aspx), and it will be featured in The Lakeview Review's Summer issue. Her non-fiction story, "Little Orphan Nanny", was published in Danse Macabre's "Hauptfriedhof" issue (dansemacabre.art.officelive.com/littleorphannanny.aspx).
Jessica Jones (M.A. in progress, USA) will publish her poem “Is Anybody Listening” in the upcoming edition of the Birmingham Arts Journal.

Mike Odom (M.A. in progress, USA) has received scholarships to attend the Writers in Paradise (2009) and Squaw Valley Community of Writers (2008) writers’ workshops in poetry and nonfiction. A grant in January 2009 from the Elizabeth George Foundation supported his attendance at the WIP conference, where he won an honorable mention in poetry that was cited in the 2009 edition of Sabal: A Review Featuring the Best Writing of the Writers in Paradise Conference at Eckerd College. While working for the Fairhope Courier during the past two years, Mike has also won First Place Awards from the Alabama Press Association in the Freedom of Information/First Amendment (2009) and Best Feature Story (2008) categories.

More news about recent MA graduates can be found on our Alumni Accomplishments web page: http://www.southalabama.edu/english/alumni.html

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<th>Graduate Deadlines</th>
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<td><strong>Graduation:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>To graduate in Spring 2008, you must register for graduation by 9/7/07.</td>
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<td>To graduate in Summer 2008, you must register for graduation by 2/8/08.</td>
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<td>To graduate in Fall 2008, you must register for graduation by 5/30/08.</td>
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<td><strong>Thesis:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall First Submission:</strong> 10/29/09</td>
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<td>Defend by: 10/15/09</td>
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<td><strong>Spring First Submission:</strong> 3/25/10</td>
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<td>Defend by: 3/11/10</td>
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<td><strong>Summer First Submission:</strong> 6/28/10</td>
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<th>Thesis Requirements</th>
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<td>Please review the latest version of the Thesis Checklist (available on the English Graduate Website) for information about how to form a committee, sign up for Thesis Hours, submit a Prospectus, and prepare for the Thesis Defense. Dr. Harrington will assist you with the required procedures.</td>
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<th>Literature Comprehensive Exam Option</th>
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<td>Students in the Literature Concentration can choose to write a Thesis or to take a Comprehensive Exam to complete the MA. Please contact Dr. Harrington if you have any questions about comprehensive options or procedures.</td>
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For the Comprehensive Exam, each student will have two English faculty advisors; each advisor will work with the student on one of the two exam fields. Each field, worth 50% of the exam, is chosen by the student with the approval of the advisor. Each field must be in a different rubric (Period, Genre, Topic) and will cover a list of 15-25 primary and secondary texts, approved by the advisor. More details are available at www.southalabama.edu/english/programs/graduate.htm

**Graduate & Teaching Assistants**

Graduate and Teaching Assistantships are competitive positions awarded each year by the department. Graduate Assistants for this academic year are Frank Ard, Genevieve Belou, Emily Bingham, Elizabeth Quave, and Amy Brown (Sponsored Programs). GAs usually work in the Writing Center and for the department, but the department has one GA in the Office of Sponsored Programs. Teaching Assistants for this academic year are Kimberly Daniels, Amanda Gibson, Shannon Howard, Mike Odom, and Joe Rider. TAs will teach EH 101 classes this fall.

**English Graduate Organization (EGO)**

EGO provides a forum for students to socialize, to plan events, and to petition the department to address concerns of graduate students. Please plan to attend some of the meetings or events this year.

Congratulations to our 2009 Graduate Essay Contest winner, Shannon Howard!
The Literature Program Review takes place when a student in the literature concentration has completed at least one-half of the coursework (at least 18 hours) for the M.A. degree, and it is required to proceed with the degree. The student must request the review from his or her thesis director or comprehensive exam mentors in the first month of thesis hours or examination preparation. At the LPR, the student and faculty members will discuss a representative paper that the student submits, the student’s progress, and strategies for completing the Master’s degree in English. The LPR will help each student assess her or his strengths and any weaknesses; additionally, it allows each student to discuss grades, faculty comments, and other concerns such as post-degree options. Please contact Dr. Harrington for more information.

Fall 2009 course descriptions are listed on the last page of the GradLetter. Check the English website for the most recent list of graduate classes and descriptions: [http://www.southalabama.edu/english/programs/grad_class.htm](http://www.southalabama.edu/english/programs/grad_class.htm) You can get current schedule information and register through the PAWS website: [paws.southalabama.edu](http://paws.southalabama.edu)

For incoming students starting in Fall 2009, USA Graduate School rules stipulate that no 400-level classes may be counted to the degree, and no more than twelve hours from dual-listed 400/500 level seminars may be used to meet the requirement of a minimum of thirty-six hours.

Students admitted prior to Fall 2009 follow the earlier rule: No more than twelve semester hours may be selected from the 400-level English courses and no more than twelve hours from dual-listed 400/500 level seminars, and no more than 18 hours from the two categories combined may be used to meet the requirement of a minimum of thirty-six hours. Please contact the Graduate Coordinator prior to registering for a 400-level class to ensure the class will count to your degree.

Dr. Cristopher Hollingsworth will deliver the seventh Eugenia L. Hamner Lecture for the Graduate Program in English on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the Library Auditorium. A reception will follow in the library. All students are encouraged to attend and support our program! This lecture recognizes the great intellectual contributions of Dr. Eugenia “Genie” Hamner, retired faculty member, to USA’s English department and to the Mobile community. Each fall, a member of the Graduate Faculty in English will deliver the lecture.

Poetry Workshop and Reading
Jeannie Thompson, Director of the Alabama Writers Forum will give a reading and workshop on Tuesday, September 8 at 5 p.m. at Satori. Contact Dr. Sue Walker for more information.

Poetry Theatre
Poetry Theatre will continue this year on the last Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. at Satori.

Graduate students and faculty are invited to join the USA Horror Club. Look for more events this year. Contact Horror Club Faculty Advisor Dr. Annmarie Guzy for more information.

Plan to be a part of Oracle 2010 as a contributor or as an editor! USA's literary and fine arts magazine publishes student and community work in areas including Fiction, Painting, Creative Non-Fiction, Illustration, Poetry, Photography, Stage or Screenplay, Printmaking, Essay, and Sculpture. Students are needed to serve as editors (applications due August 31) and editorial board members (open positions starting in September). Submissions for the next issue are due on October 16. Please see the website for details: [www.southalabama.edu/oracle/](http://www.southalabama.edu/oracle/) and contact faculty advisor Dr. Ellen Harrington with any questions.
Sigma Tau Delta
USA has a chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society. Please contact Dr. Kern Jackson for more information about the organization and its service work.

Writing Outreach
The Freshman Composition Program within the Department of English at USA sponsors free-of-charge information sessions for students and others who need additional assistance with particular writing skills. The goal of the Writing Outreach program is to reinforce necessary skills that are often not covered in class discussions due to time constraints. Writing Outreach is open to all university students, staff, and faculty, as well as interested members of the community. English graduate students help organize this series each semester.

USA Gender Studies hosts lectures and other activities throughout the year. Contact Linda Payne or see the website for more details: http://www.southalabama.edu/genderstudies/

The South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on November 6-8, 2009. The conference features a special focus on Human Rights and the Humanities. SAMLA is one of the Modern Language Association’s regional conferences. Look at the conference website for more details about the panels (www.samla.org). If you are interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in English, consider joining MLA or SAMLA.

Congratulations to Shannon Howard, Winner of the Graduate Essay Contest, 2009!

“Protecting the Author from an Unlikely Nemesis: The Reader as Mindless Consumer in the Twenty-First Century”

Using Stephen King’s Misery and Evelyn Waugh’s A Handful of Dust as fictional platforms for this argument, I argue that the unprotected author is subject to mental and physical violation or even career sabotage. By allowing fans to manipulate their author’s favorite works in public forums and granting the public access to popular fiction via the internet and midnight book selling parties, the literary community has begun to resemble a discount store on Black Friday. Today’s consumer society reflects a changing dynamic in the way the masses pursue objects that they desire. Instead of exercising caution and restraint, the average citizen, enamored with a particular book, may be found crushing barriers and outsmarting those who seek to place limits on unchecked avarice. In today’s world, authors act as Scheherazades who manufacture writing on demand because students have not been taught to recognize the marketing strategies of a consumer economy that often pits reader against writer. –S.H.

Conferences and Contests

The Association of College English Teachers of Alabama (ACETA) sponsors two academic honors: the Calvert and Woodall Awards. The Calvert prize honors a paper on a scholarly or theoretical topic in English studies; the paper for the Woodall prize must focus on a pedagogical topic in English studies. See the website for more details about these competitions, which are open to college English teachers and graduate students in English: www.samford.edu/groups/aceta

Louisiana State University hosts the Mardi Gras Graduate English Conference in Language and Literature during Mardi Gras week each year. Check for web updates at english.lsu.edu/dept/orgs/egsa

University of Florida English Graduate Organization’s Annual UF-EGO Interdisciplinary Conference takes place in Gainesville each fall:

www.english.ufl.edu/ego/conference.shtml

Graduate English Website
The English Department Website has current information on events, programs, faculty, etc.: www.southalabama.edu/english. Follow the links to the Graduate English program’s website, which has current information on policies and require-
Prof. Alford is currently working on a novel. The Nations of Denmark, is based on William Shakespeare’s Hamlet. The Nations of Denmark is a revision of the Renaissance play which uses a multi-plot structure to delineate different levels of morality in society. Generally, in a Renaissance play the romantic hero inhabits the uppermost tier, the common or realistic hero inhabits the middle layer, and the clowns, buffoons and such inhabit the lowest level. Much contemporary, commercial fiction concerns itself with realistic and ironic heroes that comprise the two lowest levels, but this is done without the foils of the other two levels.

Prof. Alford’s recent and forthcoming publications include works in Louisiana Literature (Spring 2010), The Ailembic (Fall 2009), Broken Bridge Review (Spring 2009), and Third Wednesday (Fall 2009).

Most of my research these days is about visual rhetoric. I am currently at work on a chapter called "Color It Usable: Implications of Emotional Responses to Form and Color for Visual Communication" for the upcoming book Designing Texts, edited by Eva Brumberger and Kathy Northcut. I am revising my Visual Rhetoric book (with Alan Manning) for resubmission to Parlor Press. I continue to work on two articles about visual rhetoric and gender representations in university websites.

Recent publications:


Larry Beason’s areas of specialization include composition, rhetoric, sociolinguistics, and science fiction. He currently directs the Freshman Composition Program. Dr. Beason presented a conference paper (“No Home Is Complete without a Toaster: How Conflict Defines a Sense of Place in Battlestar Galactica” at the annual meeting of the Far West Popular Culture Association (Las Vegas, March 13, 2009).

Pat Cesarini's article on New England missionary and writer John Eliot appeared in April, 2009, in Symbiosis: A Journal of Anglo-American Literary Relations. His piece on Puritan rhetoric and Indian war will be published in this winter's issue of Early American Literature. Entitled, "'What has become of your praying to God?': Daniel Gookin's Troubled History of King Philip's War," the essay will appeal to those interested in Mary Rowlandson's captivity narrative, the history of Indian-white and colonial relations, and transatlantic discursive dynamics in the early modern period. Dr. Cesarini will serve the English Department as Interim Chair in 2009-2010.

Carolyn Haines was named Fiction Coordinator starting this fall. Her latest book, Greedy Bones, was published in July by St. Martin's Minotaur. In February she was named a 2009 recipient of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award.

John Halbrooks recently published an article on Aelfric in Studies in Philology, and he has a forthcoming essay on Beowulf and P. D. James in a volume to be published by Boydell and Brewer. He is working on an article on Chaucer's historiography
and has a book project planned on anachronism in medieval studies.

Dr. Ellen Harrington

Ellen Harrington’s research examines gender in nineteenth-century sensation and detective fiction and the influence of these genres and criminal anthropology on the work of Joseph Conrad. She published "The 'Test of Feminine Investigation' in Orczy's Lady Molly of Scotland Yard Stories" in Clues: A Journal of Detection this year and presented a portion of the ongoing project at the national Popular Culture Association conference this spring. Currently, she is continuing work on Conrad’s heroines in The Secret Agent, Chance, and other Conrad novels, and she will be presenting a paper, “‘Dead men have no children’: Conrad’s ‘The Idiots’ and ‘Amy Foster,’” at the Conrad Under California Skies conference this winter.

Dr. Richard Hillyer

Richard Hillyer specializes in Renaissance/Early Modern literature and poetry of all periods. He has a book forthcoming through Palgrave Macmillan, Sir Philip Sidney, Cultural Icon, and recently finished an essay titled “Let Me Weigh the Counts: Auden’s Horatian Syllabics.”

Dr. Cristopher Hollingsworth

Cristopher Hollingsworth is the author of Poetics of the Hive: The Insect Metaphor in Literature and is editor of the forthcoming collection Alice Beyond Wonderland: Essays for the Twenty-First Century. He is currently writing a book on Wonderland and the twentieth century.

Dr. Becky McLaughlin

My main area of interest is human relations—specifically, how we interact with one another in situations highly fraught with difficulty: dilemmas involving the linguistic, the sexual, the religious, the ethical, for example—and I find that reading literature, viewing films, and analyzing cultural phenomena can all be interesting ways to gain a better understanding of how and why we do what we do, be who we be. The theoretical lens most useful to me is, as one might guess, psychoanalysis, which of necessity rubs elbows with feminism and deconstruction and which turns up to one degree or another in everything I teach and write. In my classes, I emphasize close reading, and thus my pedagogical gesture is not the grand sweep or whirlwind tour but the slow, steady assault on sentence and paragraph. Although the profession demands that I write and publish scholarly articles, I find other types of writing equally fruitful for exploring issues important to me, and so I write and publish creative nonfiction and fiction alongside more academic articles. The titles of forthcoming publications and/or conference papers will, perhaps, give an accurate picture of what I do, and so I list them below.


Dr. Christopher Raczkowski

Christopher Raczkowski’s research and teaching interests are in post-Civil War through World War II American literature and culture, with a more specific focus on the intersections of literature and crime in modernist art and thought. His most recent publications include an article on W.D. Howells’s A Hazard of New Fortunes and labor violence that appeared last fall in the journal, Studies in the Novel (vol. 40, no. 3). He has two other publications coming out soon. One is a chapter on the

**Dr. Justin St.Clair**

Justin St.Clair specializes in literature of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, with particular emphasis on the postmodern novel and sound culture studies. He’s currently revising his book manuscript, *Novel Listening*.

**Dr. Sue Walker**


**Graduate Classes Fall 2009**

**EH 501 Introduction to Critical Theory**  
**Dr. Pat Cesarini**

In addition to surveying movements and major statements in literary theory and criticism from about the 1930’s to the present, we will devote considerable time to the challenges of applying theory to literary texts. My hope is that, beyond gaining a basic familiarity with a range of theorists and critics, students will—in class discussion and in writing assignments—discover, develop, and refine their own critical and theoretical perspectives. Required of all M.A. students in the Literature Concentration in their first year of work.

**EH 502 Graduate Writing in English: Dr. Cris Hollingsworth**

This course serves as both a gateway to graduate reading and research and an investigation of the fantastic in 19th-century literature. Students taking this course will consider narratives by writers such as Mary Shelley, Edgar Allan Poe, R. L. Stevenson, and H. G. Wells in light of representative examples drawn from the fantasy and realist traditions. We will entertain questions of genre, truth, imagination and the role of the fantastic in modernity’s idea of itself. Evaluation will include research essays, an annotated bibliography, and an oral presentation. Required of all M.A. students in their first year of work.

**EH 505 Teaching College Writing**  
**Dr. Larry Beason**

This course covers both theory and techniques for teaching composition at the college level. EH 505 is primarily intended for teaching assistants who are teaching EH 101 at USA, but other graduate students interested in EH 505 can contact Dr. Beason for more information about enrolling (460-7861).

**EH 545 American Realism**  
**Dr. Chris Raczkowski**

Over its history, the term “realism” in the phrase “American Literary Realism” has signified a surprisingly wide range of meanings. Theodore Roosevelt associated realism with socialist-anarchist revolutionary critique of emerging industrial capitalist culture at the turn of the century. Indeed, Roosevelt allotted to Howells and other realist writers “a heavy part in the burden of responsibility” for the assassination of President McKinley by political radicals (Goodman 33). Frank Norris saw it as an excessively genteel (read “unmanly”) aesthetic program, famously describing Howellsian realism as “the drama of a broken tea cup.” Many contemporary critics treat it as a naive philosophy about the knowability and representability of the object world that came replete with a conservative middle-class complacency. Others deny that it refers to anything other than a set of authors that William Dean Howells—the “Father” of American Realism and its chief 19th century promoter—happened to like. In this class, we will consider realism in its broadest sense as a type of multi-faceted and strat-
egic engagement through literature with Gilded Age American culture and politics. What was at stake in such a project was nothing less than explanatory authority over the rapidly changing social world of modern industrial America. Of particular interest to the course will be the question of who was served by realism’s cultural project and how they were served (if at all). Over the course of the semester we will read a set of canonical texts that utilize different elements of a realist aesthetics and politics (by Howells, James, Cather, Dreiser, Wharton); a set of primary intellectual documents central to realist art (by Riis, Spencer, Veblen, William James), as well as contemporary criticism (Amy Kaplan, Martin Jay, Bill Brown) that will help us to examine how realism responded to, but also participated in the development of 20th century American modernity..

**EH 570: Studies in Medieval Literature: Malory and the Arthurian Tradition**
**Dr. John Halbrooks**
We will begin with a slow, careful reading of Malory’s *Le Morte Darthur*. From there we will move backwards in time to Geoffrey of Monmouth’s *Historia Regum Britanniae (History of the Kings of Britain)*, a strange but tremendously influential text. In order to gauge Geoffrey’s influence, we will read excerpts from two redactions of the *Historia* from the French and English traditions. In addition to imagined histories, the Arthurian narrative also opened up into a vast complex of interrelated romances in practically every European language. We will sample the earliest and possibly the best of these romances, those by the twelfth-century French poet Chrétien de Troyes. We will finish the semester by leapfrogging to the twentieth-century and T. H. White’s novel *The Once and Future King*, a text that acts as a kind of humanist commentary on the entire Arthurian tradition, especially Malory.

**EH 583/584 Grad Fiction Writing Workshop I/II**
**Prof. Carolyn Haines**
Special individual instruction in fiction writing. This course requires special permission.

**EH 585/586 Grad Poetry Writing Workshop I/II**
**Dr. Sue Walker**

“Carried Across the Sky on a Great Wind” (Chippewa Song)

Wind / Song / Flight / Fancy / New Heights: Take Flight. This course will, of course, will ask you to define what heights you would like to reach – and make getting there a reality. So you always wanted to write a novel? Well why not a Verse Novel? You always wanted to be an entomologist; then write the ant hill, the hive – or cook like Julia Child. Then write food poems like Pablo Neruda. Write medicine or physics or math using the language of the discipline of your choice. Write about sea urchins in rhyming couplets. Did you know that a human and a sea urchin shares 7000 genes? Write history in verse. Write fables, murder, a myth, write a comic, write vispo. Write the music of poetry, the poetry of music. Write Jazz. Write a poetic video. Requirements: Necessary Wings and the Will to Soar.

**EH 592 Seminar: “There Is a History in Men’s Lives”: Biography and Autobiography in Early Modern England**
**Dr. Richard Hillyer**
We will read selections from the personal philosophy *Religio Medici* (1643) by the metaphysical essayist Sir Thomas Browne, from the “Brief Lives” by the pioneering antiquarian John Aubrey (1669-96), and from the diary of the innovative naval administrator Samuel Pepys (1660-69). We will also read Aphra Behn’s *Oroonoko* (1688) and Daniel Defoe’s *Moll Flanders* (1722)—early novels (as they would now be classified), but texts originally presented as non-fictional real-life accounts. These narratives will help us keep in mind not only the “history in all men’s lives” recorded by women (Behn) but also the “history in all [women’s] lives” (Defoe). The primary assignment will be a longish research paper (20-25 pages) developed over several drafts. Among other topics, we will discuss the narrative patterns or structures and the choices of emphasis or coverage that shape “history in . . . lives.”

**EH 599 Thesis**
Please see Dr. Harrington if you would like to register for thesis hours and have not already discussed your committee, graduation requirements, etc.