ENGLISH LITERATURE

Mission Statement
In addition to preparing an increasingly diverse population of critically trained readers and writers, the Department seeks to achieve academic and practical recognition for the excellence of its writers and theorists of language. The Department provides instruction, advising, and experiential opportunities for students in an environment promoting scholarship, critical thinking, free inquiry, creativity, and clear and candid communication that attends to the rhetorical conventions of specific genres, audiences, situations, and purposes. In addition, as informed analysts of literature, rhetoric, and culture, we challenge students to develop standards for ethical engagement with the world of discourse, fostering knowledge about how all texts acquire meaning and power in changing historical contexts.

Student Learning Outcomes
UWF English Literature graduates should be able to do the following:

Content
• Recognize elements of literary works (such as plot, setting, character, point of view, form, and narrative structure) and effectively use literary and critical terminology
• Identify and describe key features of major literary periods, texts, authors, critical perspectives, and genres

Critical Thinking
• Critically interpret literary works by American, British, and other international writers of various genres, periods, traditions, and ethnic backgrounds
• Apply theoretical and critical perspectives to literary studies, including but not limited to formalist, historicist, feminist, and psychoanalytic perspectives

Communication
• Construct persuasive arguments using textual evidence and analysis
• Present ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral communication using proper English grammar and syntax
Integrity/Values
• Avoid plagiarism
• Properly cite sources using MLA style

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes
Our commitment to students is to provide learning opportunities of the highest quality possible. In return we expect hard work and dedication. As students take advantage of majors-only classes with our nationally and internationally recognized faculty, their progress will be assessed in a variety of ways. These include: formal essays, quizzes, short critical responses, group projects, exams, individual meetings with professors, oral presentations, skills-building exercises (such as crafting thesis statements), contributions to online discussions, and, during a capstone course in the senior year, special projects involving engagement with the community. Before graduation, students will also complete an exit survey in which they assess their own intellectual growth and professional development as an English major.

Job Prospects for English Literature Graduates
Graduates with English Literature majors have many options after graduation for employment. Although some jobs require additional training in graduate school, many graduates can qualify for employment directly upon completion of the undergraduate major.

Publisher                     Editor
Creative Writer               Playwright
Technical Writer              Journalist
Advertising Specialist        Teacher
Lawyer                       Business Person
Librarian

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