

An English Major's Guide to the Concentration Statement

In the Spring Quarter of the third year, each English major will complete and submit a 1-2 page double-spaced Concentration Statement. It is an opportunity to consider what issues concern you, which texts remain with you, and questions whose answers remain elusive. Think of the Concentration as a declaration of your scholarly interests and priorities—the well from which you will draw when asked, “Why are you an English major?” These statements should aim not only to give shape to your undergraduate studies, but also serve as an evaluative moment to engage critically and thoughtfully with your interests. Completing the Concentration Statement is a program milestone that should attach meaning to the program of study you have elected, a task which can only be accomplished by *you*, the scholar.

The Concentration

Each student will submit a completed Concentration Worksheet that identifies five completed and/or proposed future courses that will compose the Concentration. It is suggested that students organize their Concentrations in the following way: three courses that have been previously taken and two courses they plan to take in the fourth year. However, this is not a requirement. Up to two of the courses can be taken or offered outside of the English Department, including any Creative Writing courses. Please note that the courses you include in your Concentration do not need to be courses that have been approved to formally count towards the major.

Possible Concentrations

The Concentration of courses may fall within one of the following four broad categories, but students are certainly not limited to them:

1. Literary and Critical Theory
2. Form/Genre/Medium
3. Literature in History
4. Literature and Culture(s)

Scholarly Specialization

Though students may organize their Concentrations within one of the four categories listed above, each Concentration Statement should reflect the unique priorities of your academic work. Examples of how students may identify their specialization are listed below and continue on the following page.

Literary and Critical Theory

Animal Studies
Digital Humanities
Post-Colonial Theory
Marxism and Critical Theory
Gender and Sexuality
Psychoanalysis
Critical Race Studies
Literature and Law
Literature and Philosophy
Literature and Political Theory
History of Criticism

Form/Genre/Medium

Drama and Performance
Poetry and Poetics
Epic
Lyric Poetry
The Novel
Graphic Novel
Nonfiction Prose
Cinema
Game Studies
Literature and other Arts

Literature in History

Literature in Historical Contexts
History of British Literature
History of American Literature
Medieval Literature
Renaissance and Early Modern Literature
Romantic Literature
Victorian Literature
18th, 19th, or 20th Century Literature
Modernism
Contemporary Literature

Literature and Culture(s)

Diasporic Literature
African American Literature
Asian American Literature
Latino Literature
Post-Colonial Literature
Irish Literature
Literature and Urban Studies
Transnational Literature