English Major Goals for Student Learning

• Make use of textual analysis (close reading) to enunciate understanding of and articulate coherent arguments about literary and critical texts

• Show an ability to use texts, quotations, and detailed examples to reveal appreciation of complexity and awareness of nuance

• Develop familiarity with major works, authors, genres, and movements in literature in English

• Recognize and appreciate the importance of major literary genres, subgenres, and periods, including movements and canon formation in English and Anglophone world literatures

• Have a facility with literary-theoretical concepts/issues (and their sources), especially those which engage current, continuing critical questions

• Engage competing critical concepts and approaches to literary works, think through differences in methodologies, and articulate them in written arguments

• Demonstrate an understanding of the aesthetic, cultural, political, and historical contexts and functions of literary texts

• Demonstrate familiarity with historical and cultural contexts and how they affect the creation and understanding of literary texts

• Relate texts from a variety of historical periods and cultures to each other

• Integrate primary and secondary sources into writing.

• Assess different kinds of evidence and opinion,

• Write effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences

• Use information technology and other methods to conduct scholarly research.

• Understand the structure and grammars of the English language as well as its varieties and historical developments

• Demonstrate a deeper/more refined ability to perform close readings of literary prose and poems, paying special attention to the ways in which various techniques generate meaning and/or emotion

• Use the forms, subject matter, prose styles, and/or techniques of published writers to generate their own prose and poetry