

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

The English Literature major at RWU encourages readers and writers to develop their unique voices. You will apply literary knowledge to real-world experiences such as internships and conferences. Students attend plays together, act out characters in class, or play croquet while discussing novels at our own Victorian “High Tea.” You will engage in intense and exciting discussions of novels, plays, poems, and films, build your own interpretations, and defend your positions in papers, presentations, and discussions. At RWU, our student-centered program will teach you the strong writing, research, and presentation skills you need to transform your passion for reading and writing into a meaningful career.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

### Learn and Do More at RWU

With a focus on experiential learning at RWU, English Literature majors:

- Intern with a local business or organization.
- Engage in project-based classes and hands-on learning.
- Present at national conferences on topics like pop culture and comparative literature.



- + Do you enjoy reading stories and novels?
- + Do you like to express your ideas in writing and group discussion?
- + Are you constantly talking about your favorite TV shows and movies?

## CAREER OUTLOOK

Types of careers RWU English Literature alumni are working in:

- Publishing
- Marketing and communications
- Media relations
- Higher education
- Engineering
- Technical writing
- Production
- Program management
- Editing
- Social media
- Library science

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“My experience at RWU gave me the confidence to know that I can write in any brand voice, for any company or industry. I was amazed how many people in the job market thought an English Literature degree meant I was capable of learning and adapting to any new job quickly.”

Samantha Duncan '13  
English Literature  
Copywriter at Vistaprint

## Get a Great Internship

English Literature majors work in immersive, hands-on courses that apply skills to real-world projects. They may also work as writing center tutors or as editors, publishers, and writers for the distinguished RWU literary magazine, Mount Hope. English Literature majors participate in The Advocacy Seminar in which they work in conjunction with the Scholars at Risk Network, an international human rights organization that promotes global academic freedom. Students choose from multiple off-campus internships in communications and media relations, technical writing, copywriting, publishing, public affairs, and more.

## Faculty

Our English Literature faculty are award-winning educators, as well as practicing writers and researchers. They bring literature to life by making connections to popular culture and society. Faculty serve as mentors to English Literature majors, helping them discover interests, offering one-on-one feedback, and providing resources for career development.

## Resources

The program is dedicated to your success during your undergraduate studies and beyond. As a first-year student, you will be paired with a peer mentor to help you transition into the English Literature department. We also host a career event with an alumni panel each year so you can see what English Literature majors are doing after graduation. RWU is dedicated to helping English Literature majors apply their highly valuable skills to the job market.

## CURRICULUM

### Structure

After taking foundation courses, English Literature majors take courses in American literature, British literature, global literature, as well as various electives. Students complete a senior thesis of publishable quality, and present their final papers at an annual conference.

### Special Courses

The program offers a number of exciting courses that bring literature to life with dynamic discussions, hands-on projects, and real-world connections. Examples include:

- Queer Theater and Drama
- Modern African Literature
- Serpents, Swords, Symbols, and Sustainability
- Early American Literature
- Shakespeare
- Form in Poetry

## OVER 80% OF RWU STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH MORE THAN JUST A SINGLE MAJOR

Design your experience with your passion and have a unique career advantage with a minor or double major. Many students combine **English Literature** with:

- Creative Writing
- Web Design
- Graphic Design
- Communications
- Journalism
- Marketing
- Arts Management
- Photography
- Legal Studies

*Last Updated: July 2021*