WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS MAJOR?

English majors learn an invaluable set of skills that transfers to a variety of careers: reading, thinking, and communicating effectively. At John Jay, the English major is a vibrant community of students from all kinds of backgrounds and professors who help them to engage with writing and ideas that shape the world in which we live. Reading and discussing the work of writers publishing today, as well as those from every period of the past, English majors study how language shapes the world. In the process, they begin to develop their own ability to shape the world using complex information, deep research, and powerful communication in order to share the multiple points of view they understand. Because of the depth of engagement the English major provides with critical thinking and writing, it is among the most effective ways to prepare for law school, graduate and professional schools, and careers in any business or profession that involves research, analysis, and communication.

IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL

Read and analyze novels, poems, plays, films, journalism, history, criticism, and legal documents

Discuss texts and ideas to broaden your knowledge and perspectives among other informed readers

Write about your reading and your lived experience, to communicate ideas and formulate arguments with clarity and precision

FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR

Choose one foundational course:
LIT 230, LIT 232, LIT 233, LIT 237, LIT 239, LIT 326, LIT 327

Lit 260: Introduction to Literary Study

It is crucial to take English major courses in good sequence: the first courses provide a foundation for academic study of literature in upper division courses on historical perspectives, special topics in literature, and the relationship between literature and the law.

See further major requirements at:
www.jjay.cuny.edu/english-major-resources

“The English major at John Jay can do much more than prepare you for useful ends, such as law school. It also creates an educated and well-rounded citizen with a healthy interest in the world.”

— Emilio Herce, Senior
What makes English such an incredibly enriching major is that it fosters superb analysis and creativity, concise writing and unabashed inquiry, shrewd judgment and thoughtful speech—and not just from a humanitarian perspective, but the whole gamut. All of the English professors whom I have taken are gems in their own right precisely because their love for teaching is infectious and inspiring. It is because I have had such a life-changing experience under the care of the English Department that I am now not only loyal to this Department but also to John Jay College.”

— Jamie Bridgewater, Senior

WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?
- Analyzing, evaluating, interpreting, summarizing, comparing, and synthesizing ideas
- Speaking and writing for an informed audience
- Developing and supporting arguments using solid information appropriate to the context
- Designing, developing, and completing research projects by organizing complex information and solving problems

WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Economics
- History
- Gender Studies
- Journalism
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Human Rights
- Psychology
- Sustainability and Environmental Justice
- U.S. Latino/a Literature
- Counseling

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?
- Write for The Quill, student creative writing journal
- Sigma Tau Delta honor society
- Write for The John Jay Sentinel
- Work on internships (credit and non-credit)
- Tutor your peers at the Writing Center
- Take advantage of Career Workshops with alumni

THIS MAJOR CAN BE A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS, SUCH AS:
- Communications: digital marketer, editor, technical writer, journal editor, event planner, journalist, social media content specialist, broadcast and media coordinator, corporate or non-profit education director, web content manager, marketing communications
- Business: retail buyer, merchandiser, advertising executive, sales manager, public relations executive, contract administrator, financial analyst, market researcher, human resources coordinator, account executive, legal risk and compliance analyst
- Education/Entertainment: academic advisor, teacher, actor, alumni affairs coordinator, college development specialist, professor, museum administrator, museum educator or communications specialist, counselor, radio/television/webpage copywriter
- Law/Government/Public Sector: district attorney, public defender, chief of police, investigator, foreign service officer, intelligence officer, legislative aide, public policy researcher, case manager, paralegal, policy and procedures analyst, politician

For more detailed information about careers, contact:
Center for Career & Professional Development (New Building, L.72.00)
212-237-8754
careers@jjay.cuny.edu
www.jjay.cuny.edu/center-career-professional-development

For more information about minors, go to:
www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors

For more detailed information on career paths for English Majors, see
http://jjenglishcareers.commons.gc.cuny.edu/