English majors learn an invaluable set of skills: reading, critical thinking, and communicating effectively are in demand in any professional field. Students learn these skills in contact with texts and teachers that reflect on the most pressing questions we are facing in the world today. Reading and making creative or literary writing, journalism, films, podcasts and more, English majors study how the work of writers from the past and the present has shaped our ideas about how our societies should be. The diversity of English majors creates vibrant conversations about the vital questions we are facing now about justice and equality we would like to see in our world, and about the ways we can use knowledge to shape the world in which we live. Through these conversations students develop their own ability to work in the world using complex information, deep research, and powerful communication. Because of the depth of engagement the English major provides with multiple points of view, knowledges and identities, 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.

“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 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

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

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