

MAJOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH:

New Building, Room 7.63.01 ■ 524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 ■ 212-237-8909

www.jjay.cuny.edu/department-english

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

WE ARE THE STORIES WE TELL...

In the English major, students expand their knowledge of how narratives shape the world, and discover strategies to intervene in the most pressing questions of *justice, equity, and antiracism*. Here, students nurture their ethical abilities to communicate and care for each other by studying multiple points of view, cross-cultural forms of knowledge and identity, and the relationship between law and equality, while confronting the structural racism of our everyday life.

The English major is also one of *the most effective ways to prepare for graduate and professional schools, particularly law school and any business or profession that involves research, analysis, and communication*. English majors learn valuable skills that are in demand in nearly all professional fields—skills such as critical thinking, using creative imagination to solve problems, either independently or as part of a team, storytelling, and communicating visually and verbally across an ever-changing landscape of digital and social media.

Through the English department's interdisciplinary and *student-centered approach* to teaching and learning, students develop their ability to become life-long learners and thinkers. With dedicated, active, and award-winning teachers in digital media and journalism, literature, creative writing, film, rhetoric/composition, Latinx culture, and more, English majors learn how to model and interpret future scenarios, create and tell stories, probe the psychology of complex and dynamic characters, write poetry, and create digital media platforms. In addition to opportunities to engage with and publish in various outlets connected to our department—our student-run newspaper, The Sentinel, for example, the literary journal, The Quill, John Jay's Finest, and the Vertical Writing Program's Power of Language—students in the English major also *enjoy a sense of community* around our many sponsored and co-sponsored events such as open-mic nights, book talks/film talks, literary salons, poetry readings, quiet study areas, and more.

IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL ...

Discuss and debate ideas to broaden your knowledge of cross-cultural and historical perspectives

Communicate ideas and formulate arguments with clarity and precision

Read and analyze digital media, novels, poems, plays, film, journalism, history, criticism, and legal documents

Create poems, short stories, screenplays, digital media, journalistic accounts, and complex analytical accounts

Study court cases and the law as part of our concentration in law and literature

FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR ...

Lit 260: Introduction to Literary Study

Choose one foundational course:

Pathways Courses: **LIT 237:** Literature as Witness, **LIT 239:** Science in the Making, **LIT 241:** Murder on Screen and Stage, **LIT 326:** Crime and Punishment in US Literature, **LIT 327:** Crime and Punishment in World Literature, and many more.

These first courses should be taken earlier to lay a foundation for the upper division courses on historical/cultural 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 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 WORKPLACE SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- Analyzing, evaluating, interpreting, summarizing, comparing, and synthesizing ideas
- Speaking and writing for diverse audiences
- Developing and supporting arguments using appropriate information for the context
- Creating and developing original writing and research projects by organizing complex information and problem solving
- Learning by doing to become a lifelong learner
- Fostering digital media analysis skills

WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD FIT WITH THIS MAJOR?

- Africana Studies
- Creative Writing
- Digital Media and Journalism
- Film Studies
- U.S. Latinx Literature
- Sustainability and Environmental Justice
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Humanities and Justice
- Economics
- History
- Gender Studies
- Criminology
- Human Rights
- Psychology
- Counseling

For more information about minors, go to:

www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

- **Develop the skills employers seek the most**—written communication, problem-solving, verbal communication, and ability to work in a team—according to a 2018 survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers
- **Write for *The Quill***, student creative writing journal
- **Join the Sigma Tau Delta** honor society
- **Write for *The John Jay Sentinel***, the student newspaper
- Write screenplays, poems, short stories, or make digital videos
- **Participate in 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.commonscuny.edu/>