

## APPLICATION PROCESS FOR AN AREA OF CONCENTRATION IN ENGLISH

Applications for a concentration in English (formerly “British & American Literature”) are normally made in the 5<sup>th</sup> Contract before the end of the first module; applications made earlier in a student’s studies are rarely accepted when there is a compelling reason to declare early. The student proposing a concentration in English is expected to submit an application for an Area of Concentration to the Humanities Division office.

This application consists of:

1) a form available in the Humanities Division office or online that records the student’s past and present work in Literatures and identifies some broad parameters for future study to complete the Area of Concentration.

2) a “Student Profile” print-out, available through the online Registration system.

Faculty members in the field will meet at the end of Module 1 each semester to discuss the applications; qualification requires unanimous approval.

The committee’s judgment will be based on a demonstration of work completed and skill-levels attained in the following areas of literary study:

- ° familiarity with major literary periods and major genres (fiction, poetry, drama) in English,
- ° familiarity with critical theories and approaches to the study of literature,
- ° some familiarity with major works of literature outside of the English language tradition, and
- ° the ability to analyze literature critically.

These requirements should be met through a balanced program of courses and tutorials including some work outside of literature in English, but also a very substantial study of works in anglophone literary traditions. Applications may be rejected on the basis of skill, not merely the number of courses accrued and completed.

This qualification and approval procedure *must be completed* before an Area of Concentration form for Literature or British and American will be signed by any of the Literatures faculty for submission to the Office of the Registrar. Students should consult with their academic advisors or with a member of the Literatures faculty about completing the application and about relevant deadlines.

Students should understand that an individual faculty member in the field may be unwilling to approve the qualification of a student who has not worked with that faculty member. Not only are English faculty unable to speak to the qualifications of students with whom they have not worked, but further, the required breadth of study is more difficult to achieve without working with all four English faculty.

If a student applies for a Joint-Disciplinary Area of Concentration that includes English on the student’s Area of Concentration form, the qualification procedure for the “English” portion of the Joint-Disciplinary AOC will be as outlined above, except that an appropriate reduction in the quantity of coursework, the coverage of genre and period, and demonstration of critical and analytical expertise will be made by unanimous decision of the faculty in English. This is usually about 50% of the required work for a full AOC, but it may be more depending upon quality of work, area of interest, and relation to the thesis project. We do not consider this a “major” or “minor” but a joint-disciplinary endeavor. Students are responsible for working with relevant faculty in the joint-disciplinary field to fulfill their requirements.

Once the student’s proposal has been approved, *any faculty member in the field* may sign the Provisional Area of Concentration form and/or the Thesis/Senior Project Prospectus form. Within three weeks of the committee’s meeting, applicants will be informed of their status, and successful applicants will receive a letter stating the expectations for completion of their Area of Concentration. This letter constitutes specific requirements that must be met to complete the AOC. It is expected that an Area of Concentration in English will include *at a minimum* one signatory in English, and that the Thesis/Senior Project Prospectus will show that a member of the English faculty is the thesis director in most cases.

**PROPOSAL FOR A CONCENTRATION IN**  
(Check One)       **LITERATURE**       **ENGLISH**

If you are applying for a split or joint AOC, specify which discipline: \_\_\_\_\_

**NB:** You must negotiate details of the other disciplinary area with the relevant faculty.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRACT TERM \_\_\_\_\_ BOX \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Past courses and projects in literature at NEW COLLEGE: (see #5 for period/genre terms)**

| <b>Course Title:</b> | <b>Instructor:</b> | <b>AY &amp; Semester<br/>or Mod 1 or 2</b> | <b>Lit Period and Genre:</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------|--|------------------------------|
| _____                | _____              | _____                                      | _____                        |
| _____                | _____              | _____                                      | _____                        |
| _____                | _____              | _____                                      | _____                        |
| _____                | _____              | _____                                      | _____                        |
| _____                | _____              | _____                                      | _____                        |
| _____                | _____              | _____                                      | _____                        |
| _____                | _____              | _____                                      | _____                        |
| _____                | _____              | _____                                      | _____                        |

| <b>Tutorial or ISP &amp; Instructor:</b> | <b>AY/Semester/ISP:</b> | <b>Lit Period:</b> | <b>Genre:</b> |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| _____                                    | _____                   | _____              | _____         |
| _____                                    | _____                   | _____              | _____         |
| _____                                    | _____                   | _____              | _____         |
| _____                                    | _____                   | _____              | _____         |
| _____                                    | _____                   | _____              | _____         |
| _____                                    | _____                   | _____              | _____         |

**2. TRANSFERS & OFF-CAMPUS WORK ONLY:**

College-level coursework and projects in Literature at other institutions:

| <b>Course Title&amp; Institution</b> | <b>AY</b> | <b>Lit Period:</b> | <b>Genre:</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------|
| _____                                | _____     | _____              | _____         |
| _____                                | _____     | _____              | _____         |
| _____                                | _____     | _____              | _____         |

**3. Currently enrolled in the following courses and projects in Literature at New College:**

| <b>Course Title &amp; Instructor:</b> | <b>Semester/Module:</b> | <b>Lit Period:</b> | <b>Genre:</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| _____                                 | _____                   | _____              | _____         |
| _____                                 | _____                   | _____              | _____         |
| _____                                 | _____                   | _____              | _____         |

**4. LITERATURE AOC ONLY:**

**What language (other than English) are you studying?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your preparation in that language?**

- I am currently taking (course title/level)\_\_\_\_\_
- I will complete my third semester in (year/semester)\_\_\_\_\_
- I have already met the requirement, by completing (course title/level)\_\_\_\_\_
- I am a native speaker and reader, and/or have qualified according to Professor \_\_\_\_\_

**Other details/explanation:**

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**5. What areas of coverage (genre, period) are still needed? What other requirements do you still need to fulfill and how do you plan to do so?**

**Areas of Coverage: (check those in which more work will be undertaken)**

LITERARY PERIOD:

- Pre-1700
- 1700-1899
- 1900-present
- Mixed (ranging from/to \_\_\_\_\_)

LITERARY GENRE:

- Prose
- Poetry/Verse
- Drama
- Mixed
- Theoretical

**Other details:**

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**6. How many literature courses/projects have you completed in:**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> British  | <input type="checkbox"/> German                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French   | <input type="checkbox"/> Classics (Greek/Roman) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish  | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese                |

**7. Briefly describe your potential Senior Thesis interest or project ideas and name faculty with whom you have discussed them:**

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