Student Learning Outcomes - English B.A. - University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Approved by the Faculty in English
March 6, 2015

At the time of receiving a bachelor’s degree, English majors should be able to:

Skills
- understand, analyze, and interpret literary texts, especially through close and critical reading
- place literature in relation to its historical, cultural, intellectual, theoretical, aesthetic, social, and political contexts
- locate, evaluate, and use relevant scholarship, literary criticism, and cultural commentary, both in print and online
- formulate a focused, well-organized, and stylistically appropriate argument that supports its claims with evidence and demonstrates an awareness of audience, purpose, and context
- engage in public discourse through careful listening, respectful questioning, and thoughtful speaking in both formal and informal settings
- collaborate with others to identify, define, and solve problems related to the production, publication, and interpretation of literature

Knowledge
- recognize literature as a vehicle for both individual and cultural expression that can engage the imagination, elicit feeling, express value, and enable inquiry
- identify the major historical periods of literature written in English, including British, American, and Anglophone authors, movements, and styles
- identify the characteristics of different forms of literature, including the major genres (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama) and hybrid forms
- demonstrate familiarity with representative theories of criticism and interpretation, both historical and contemporary
- demonstrate familiarity with literary terms, themes, and techniques, both traditional and experimental
- understand the relationship between language, authorship, publication, audience, and power
- appreciate the importance of difference in producing, publishing, and interpreting literature, including racial, ethnic, gender, sexual, religious, economic, and ideological differences
- appreciate the relationship of literature to other arts, such as dance, music, photography, film, theater, visual art, and performance