



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to Discover®



# Department of English PhD Program

Why choose graduate study in English literature at the University of Minnesota? In this diverse and vibrant urban setting, you can:

- Pursue cutting-edge literary studies research with faculty who are innovating the discipline
- Receive guaranteed funding support for six years to complete the PhD program
- Work with the University of Minnesota's rich archival holdings
- Join other English graduate students in research and social groups. Our students regularly cite supportive peers and a collaborative culture as highlights here
- Take courses and pursue minor concentrations in other prominent UMN departments
- Participate in cross-department interdisciplinary workshops
- Take advantage of the literary, cultural, and artistic scenes in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul



## Faculty Excellence & Innovation

What makes our faculty stand out? We are at the forefront of new directions in the advanced study of English literature. Our professors are interested in globalizing the study of literature, using cognitive science to change how we understand reading, and addressing key issues of environmental sustainability and social justice through literature. Department of English faculty are leaders in their fields, publishing innovative and award-winning scholarship, investigating new ideas in cutting-edge graduate seminars, and receiving research support from top grantmakers.

## University Archives

At the University of Minnesota, you'll have access to a bounty of archival holdings for your research. From the Givens Collection of African American Literature to pre-1800 collections in the James Ford Bell Library, from the papers of John Berryman and James Wright to the Sherlock Holmes Collection and the Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies, the archives preserve an amazing array of materials supporting interdisciplinary research.

# Six Years of Funding

All students admitted to the PhD program are guaranteed six years of financial support, which includes a competitive stipend, tuition waiver, and comprehensive health insurance. Support is distributed through fellowships, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships.

Graduate students' teaching appointments entail only one course per semester, and graduate students have opportunities to teach stand-alone courses in both composition and literary studies. English emphasizes preparing graduate students to be excellent teachers, and the department and University provide extensive support and training for graduate instructors.



# English Academic & Social Groups



Research groups comprised of graduate students and sometimes faculty meet once or twice a month for discussion of scholarly and literary texts, to receive peer feedback on works-in-progress, and to get advice on professional endeavors such as publishing. Many students participate in more than one group for social networking as well as academic support. Doctoral candidate Jenna Dreier describes her peers as “smart, talented, motivated”: “Having them as a support system throughout this process is an experience I would never trade.”

## Interdisciplinary Workshops

As the central humanities department in the College of Liberal Arts, English collaborates with a wide range of University programs on research, courses, events, and graduate student committees. Faculty and students work regularly with interdisciplinary units such as the Centers for Early Modern History, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and Medieval Studies; Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World; Human Rights Program; Immigration History Research Center; and Race, Indigeneity, and Sexual Studies Initiative.



## Explore Other UMN Departments

The University of Minnesota offers a wealth of classes in well-regarded departments, such as American Studies; African American & African Studies; Anthropology; Art; Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature; Gender, Women, & Sexuality; History; Political Science; Sociology; and our department's own Creative Writing Program. You may also pursue a graduate minor in other departments and programs. The University has the sixth-largest main campus student body in the United States, with 50,943 students in 2018-19; it contains 19 colleges, schools, and other major academic units.



Graduate students may take studio art classes and creative writing workshops in addition to academic classes across the University.

Above photo: Historic Pillsbury Hall will be the home of the Department of English beginning in 2021.

# Literary Study in a Cosmopolitan Community



The Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul are home to one of America's most celebrated regional theater scenes, as well as world-class art and history museums. The largest book publishing community outside of the east coast (including the award-winning Graywolf and Coffee House presses) has generated a variety of reading series, pop-up events, and book festivals. Local restaurants and breweries are receiving national notice, and the renowned popular music scene continues to thrive. Residents enjoy access to lakes, rivers, and trails through all four seasons. The Twin Cities have big-city amenities and small-town livability. In 2019, *US News & World Report* named Minneapolis-St. Paul the sixth best place to live in the US, and Minnesota the third best state.

## **Department of English**

University of Minnesota  
207 Church Street SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
[cla.umn.edu/english](http://cla.umn.edu/english)



## **Have questions?**

Want to learn more?  
Email [gradeng@umn.edu](mailto:gradeng@umn.edu)  
or call 612-625-3882.