

# The English Major Specializations

## American Cultures Specialization

The American Cultures specialization offers students an opportunity to study authors and topics drawn from a broad historical range. We also encourage students to develop a comparative understanding of the field. In practice, this includes exploring how different aspects of American cultures interact, and interrogating the ways regional, hemispheric and global trends shape, and are shaped by, American cultural expressions.

**Faculty:** Professors **Ghosh (Specialization Director)**, Gunn, Gutierrez-Jones, Lim, LeMenager, Maslan, Newfield, and Waid

**Website:** [acc.english.ucsb.edu](http://acc.english.ucsb.edu)

## Early Modern Studies Specialization

The Early Modern Studies Specialization focuses on English literature from 1500 to 1800. It encourages students to take courses on a wide range of topics throughout this broad historical span and to study in depth both minor authors of the period as well as such major figures as Spenser, Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Milton, Pope, Defoe, Richardson, Aphra Behn, and Samuel Johnson

**Faculty:** Professors Cook, Erickson, Fumerton,, Marshall, O’Connell, Rose, and **Warner (Specialization Director)**

**Website:** [emc.english.ucsb.edu](http://emc.english.ucsb.edu)

## Literature and the Mind Specialization

Literature has always honored the power of the imagination in shaping our experience of the world. Current developments in psychoanalysis, psychology, philosophy, cognitive science and neurobiology confirm the profound importance of language and literature in our understanding of the mind, the world, and their creative interactions. Study of the mind is now one of our most exciting fields of interdisciplinary research, informed by and informing not only literary criticism and theory but also the study of cultural and social practice. This specialization explores how and why symbolic activity allows us to experiment with, rather than suffer from, reality.

**Faculty:** Professors Abbott, Caldwell, Carlson, Fradenburg (Specialization Director), Gunn, Gutierrez-Jones, Newfield, Samolsky, and Young

**Website:** [mind.english.ucsb.edu](http://mind.english.ucsb.edu)

## Literature and the Culture of Information Specialization

The specialization in Literature and the Culture of Information brings the perspective of the humanities to the concept of “information” that many students will engage with professionally and personally in their lives. In particular, Literature and the Culture of Information compares the forms, media, institutions, and aesthetics of the “information evolution” to similar revolutions of the past-e.g., the print revolution. Courses offered by this specialization hybridize the theory, practice, and literature of contemporary information culture with studies of the earlier information media of oral discourse, manuscripts, and print and the literature they embodied.

**Faculty:** Professors Liu, Newfield, **Raley (Specialization Director)**, Pasternack, Rose, and Warner

**Website:** [lcmbeta.english.ucsb.edu](http://lcmbeta.english.ucsb.edu)

## Literature and the Environment Specialization

How does literature affect environmental values and practices? Can a novel or poem make a more sustainable world? The Literature and Environment Specialization explores links between culture, science, and politics that are especially pressing in our current era. Courses in the specialization focus on the ways in which literature shapes and responds to a variety of environmental concerns, from animal welfare to pollution to global warming.

**Faculty:** Professors Caldwell, Cook, Duffy, Ghosh, Guerrini (History), Gutiérrez-Jones, Hiltner, LeMenager, Liu, Osborne (History), Samolsky, **Shewry (Specialization Director)**, and Waid

**Website:** [lit-environ.english.ucsb.edu](http://lit-environ.english.ucsb.edu)

## Modern Literature and Critical Theory Specialization

This specialization is for students interested in reading Modern and post-modernist British, Irish, and world literature alongside cultural theory. COMMA emphasizes the coexistence of literature with modern and contemporary cultural productions. Courses in this specialization focus on Twentieth Century Anglophone literature and contextualize this by discussing such topics as critical theory, feminism, or postcolonial theory, as just a few examples.

**Faculty:** Professors Boscagli, **Duffy (Specialization Director)**, Ghosh, Huang, Lim, Raley, Shewry, Samolsky. Other faculty may also teach in this area.

**Website:** [comma.english.ucsb.edu](http://comma.english.ucsb.edu)

## Medieval Literature Specialization

In conjunction with the interdisciplinary Medieval Studies Program, the Undergraduate Specialization in medieval literature of the British Isles 500 – 1500 encourages students to take courses on a wide range of topics throughout this broad historical span, such as Beowulf, Literature of Chivalry, and Chaucer, as well as to engage with literatures in languages other than English.

**Faculty:** Professors **Blurton (Specialization Director)**, Fradenburg, O’Connell, Pasternack.

**Website:** [medieval.english.ucsb.edu](http://medieval.english.ucsb.edu)

## Independent Specializations

Students may also develop their own particular specialization in consultation with a faculty advisor. Working together, this student and faculty advisor would tailor a specialization from already established course offerings.

### Requirements for all specializations:

**Any 4 elective courses or 3 elective courses and one upper-division seminar from the specialization course list.**

**Courses required for the major (101,102,103A/B,104A/B) may not count toward the specializations.**

Students may request certification in, or information on these specializations with the Undergraduate Advisor in the English Department (South Hall 3432-B) during office hours.

**Request for Certification of a  
Specialization in the English major**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Perm number \_\_\_\_\_ Local Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter of expected graduation \_\_\_\_\_

**Specialization:**

\_\_\_\_\_

List below the 4 approved English courses you have completed at UCSB to satisfy the requirements for your specialization, and return the form to the English department. Note that courses used to satisfy core requirements for the major (for example, English 10, 101, 102, etc.) may not be used to complete your specialization, with the exception of a **Senior Seminar** course in your specialization. One **lower-division** elective course is permitted. Courses outside the department may be considered **with approval of the specialization director**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Undergraduate Advisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

	<b>Qtr.</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Instructor</b>
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

See the individual fliers or the English department website at [www.english.ucsb.edu](http://www.english.ucsb.edu) for a listing of courses that can be used to fulfill the requirements for each specialization.