



Emory's doctoral program in English offers an environment that is both intellectually rigorous and collegial, a place where graduate students learn from faculty who are reshaping their field and grow to become researchers and teachers in their own right.

## Intellectual Community

We are a thriving intellectual community that supports rigorous work in fields across English and connected to other fields and disciplines.

Our program is the right size. We have approximately 35 faculty members, and we accept seven to nine new doctoral students each year. We are large enough to support a full range of interests in literary and cultural studies, and small enough that students enjoy ample access to faculty and to courses. In our program, students work closely with faculty members to craft programs of study that reflect their own individual interests. We encourage you to visit the faculty section of our website, [www.english.emory.edu/people/faculty](http://www.english.emory.edu/people/faculty), where you will find information about all of our faculty members, including research and teaching interests as well as publications.

We support innovative work that crosses disciplinary boundaries. Our graduate students frequently enroll in courses in other programs such as Comparative Literature, Film Studies, History, the Institute of the Liberal Arts (which includes American Studies), Women's Studies, Psychoanalytic Studies, and Studies in Sexualities. Several of these programs offer organized sequences of courses that lead to a graduate certificate in the field.

Coursework in literary and cultural studies is supplemented by strong support for professional development. Our pedagogy program includes both formal coursework and individual faculty mentoring to train students carefully as they begin their teaching careers. Students attend workshops on professional matters throughout their career and receive extensive support during their search for academic employment. Moreover, all students are guaranteed significant funding to present research at conferences and to support summer research at archives. In recent years, students have also received funding to attend the School for Criticism and Theory at Cornell University, the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth, and the Yeats International Summer School in Sligo, Ireland.

Our size also makes possible many opportunities for involvement in the graduate student community, especially through the Graduate English Advisory Committee (GEAC).

- GEAC takes charge of orientation for incoming students each year, welcoming and transitioning new students into the department, and also organizes the graduate students' mentoring program for these new students.
- GEAC organizes the annual graduate student colloquium, which is held each spring. This colloquium offers an opportunity for graduate students to showcase their work for faculty and their fellow students, and often for prospective students as well. In recent years, graduate

# DISCOVER

the unexpected

students have presented their research on topics such as the relationship of technology to narratives of trauma and the intersections of African American and Native American fiction.

- GEAC members also develop graduate student initiatives, including the development of peer-mentoring initiatives in coursework and teaching, the sponsorship of conferences and lectures, and the planning of social events.

Emory hosts a wide range of speakers in literary and cultural studies. The English graduate students have started their own Kemp Malone lecture series, which has featured luminaries such as Bruce Robbins, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick and Stephen Greenblatt. Other recent speakers at Emory include Michael Hardt and Amy Kaplan (both keynote speakers at a conference organized by English graduate students), Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Arnold Rampersad, Elaine Scarry, Geoffrey Galt Harpham, and Declan Kiberd. The English Department also hosts the Richard Ellmann lecture series, which brings to Emory major figures in world literature for a series of lectures and other public events. Seamus Heaney, Wole Soyinka, Helen Vendler, David Lodge, and Mario Vargas Llosa are among past Ellmann lecturers, and Margaret Atwood will be delivering her lectures in 2010.

In 2004, Salman Rushdie delivered the Ellmann lectures. Three years later, he returned to begin a five-year appointment as a distinguished visiting professor. During his time in residence at Emory, Rushdie offers month-long graduate courses in world literatures and delivers several public lectures. Equally significant, Rushdie has deposited his archive in Emory's Manuscripts and Rare Books Library.

## Strengths

Our doctoral program offers training in all traditional fields of literary study, as well as in theoretical and interdisciplinary approaches that cross national and chronological boundaries. Our students benefit from faculty strengths in a variety of areas, including early modern studies, African American literature, modern poetry and poetics, and nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature and cultural studies. Many of these fields are supported by extensive collections in the Woodruff Library's Manuscripts and Rare Books Library.

### Early Modern Studies

Our outstanding faculty members in Early Modern literature provide as much depth and range as are typically found in research departments twice the size of ours. With five tenured faculty members whose primary research interests center in this period, they are able to attract top young scholars to our program and give them expert intellectual and professional guidance. The recent hire of Jonathan Goldberg, whose work on queer theory has transformed the field, has added luster

to a distinguished group including Richard Rambuss, Sheila Cavanagh, Patricia Cahill, and Harry Rusche, whose interests range from religious poetry to theatrical representations of war.

### Modern Poetry and Poetics

Emory University has become a world center for the study of poetry and poetics. The Woodruff Library recently acquired the Danowski Collection of Twentieth-Century Poetry, believed to be the world's largest ever assembled by a private collector, with some 60,000 books and tens of thousands of periodicals. Furthermore, Woodruff's manuscript collections feature an impressive archive of American, English, and Irish poets, including the papers of Seamus Heaney, Anthony Hecht, Ted Hughes, and Paul Muldoon. The University's commitment complements the work of our faculty in a variety of fields, including Walter Kalaidjian's expertise in transnational modern and contemporary literature, Ronald Schuchard's monumental recovery of T.S. Eliot's unpublished work, Geraldine Higgins's expertise in twentieth-century Irish literature, and Mark Sanders's critical and archival work on twentieth-century African American poetry and aesthetics. Our acclaimed scholar of post-colonial literatures, Deepika Bahri, has also published extensively on twentieth-century aesthetic theory. Additionally, two celebrated poets on our faculty - Natasha Trethewey and Kevin Young - are living resources; Young also serves as curator of the Danowski Collection, in which capacity he helps to train our graduate students in archival research.

### American Literature and Cultural Studies

Our deep faculty strength in American literary and cultural study spans the colonial period to the postmodern, with clusters of faculty working on Southern literature, Native American studies, popular culture, technology, historical trauma, ecology, history of medicine, and disability studies. The interdisciplinary pathways charted by these scholars makes for intriguing combinations that nurture inventive research projects of students. Michael Elliott and Benjamin Reiss both pursue cultural studies of the nineteenth-century, while Elliott and Craig Womack have done pioneering work on Native American studies. Meanwhile, Barbara Ladd's expertise in Southern literature is complemented by Womack's situating of Native cultures within a broader regional frame. John Johnston and Walter Kalaidjian both explore contemporary literary formations, including the impacts of media theory, psychoanalysis and trauma theory. Associated Americanist literary faculty in other departments across Emory regularly provide mentoring for our students: these include the pioneering disability studies scholar Rosemarie Garland-Thompson in Women's Studies, and the renowned scholar of nineteenth-century literature and sexuality, Michael Moon in the Institute of the Liberal Arts.

### African American Literature and Culture

Our faculty includes Frances Smith Foster, a pre-eminent scholar of nineteenth-century African American letters; Lawrence Jackson, who has published major work on Ellison and mid-twentieth-century literary culture; and Mark Sanders, a scholar both of African American and Afro-Cuban literatures of the twentieth-century. Our students also regularly take courses in the department of African American studies, which includes scholars such as Rudolph Byrd and Leslie Harris. African American literary collections at Emory include the archives of James Weldon Johnson and Alice Walker, as well as significant collections related to Langston Hughes and the papers of Georgia-born novelist John Oliver Killens. The Camille Billops and James V. Hatch collection of African American performing arts includes hundreds of playscripts by authors including Amiri Baraka, Zora Neale Hurston, and August Wilson, among many others.

### Curriculum

#### Coursework

Students normally take a full load of courses during their first and second years, and some additional courses during their third year. (Students who have completed a Master's degree elsewhere usually complete their coursework in less than two years.) All students enroll in a course on theories, methods, and histories of the discipline in their first year, and then complete modest distribution requirements. Students are encouraged to enroll in related courses offered in other departments.

#### Ph.D. Exam

During the third year, students prepare for a Ph.D. examination with both written and oral components. The exam covers three areas of study designated by the students and covers primary and secondary works selected by the student and his or her advisory committee. The examination is designed to demonstrate the student's mastery over the chosen fields of study as well as to prepare him or her for the dissertation that follows.

#### Dissertation

The capstone of the Ph.D. curriculum is the writing of the dissertation, which the student undertakes under the guidance of an advisor and at least two other committee members. Students also receive support for this process by participating in a dissertation colloquium, and they are eligible to apply for funds for archival research elsewhere. Many of our students have later published their revised dissertations as books with university presses.

### Training in Teaching

All Emory doctoral students receive training in pedagogy and other teaching issues through the following programs:

- A summer workshop, run by the Laney Graduate School, held in August before the second year of graduate study.
- English 791, the Teaching of Composition, offered in the spring of the fourth semester of coursework, before the students teach their own courses.
- Individual faculty teaching mentorships, beginning in the third year and continuing through the student's teaching career at Emory.
- A two-credit Pro-Seminar in the Teaching of Literature, usually taken in the fourth year of graduate study.

As they progress through this training sequence, students are assigned as teaching assistants or teaching associates and then teach their own courses in the third and fifth years of the program.

### Administrative Faculty

RICHARD RAMBUSS

*Professor and Chair of English Department*

Richard Rambuss specializes in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English literature. He is particularly interested in Milton, Shakespeare, Spenser, the metaphysical poets, Renaissance devotional literature, and the baroque. He also works in gender and sexuality studies, contemporary cultural studies, and film. His last book, *Closet Devotions*, treats the relations between religion and eroticism in early modern literature and culture. He is currently working on two book projects: a new critical edition of Richard Crashaw's *English poetry* and *Machinehead: Essays on Masculinity in the Films and Photography of Stanley Kubrick*. Professor Rambuss earned his B.A. from Amherst College and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins. He joined Emory's English Department in the fall of 1996. He is also a core member of the Department of Comparative Literature.



BENJAMIN REISS

*Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in English*

Benjamin Reiss specializes in nineteenth-century American literature and culture, with strong interests in disability, the history of medicine, popular culture, and race. He is a co-editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge History of the American Novel*, a collection of seventy new essays by leading scholars. He is also the author of *Theaters of Madness: Insane Asylums and Nineteenth-Century American Culture* (University of Chicago Press, 2008), and *The Showman and the Slave: Race, Death, and Memory in Barnum's America* (Harvard University Press, 2001; repr. 2010). He teaches courses on traditional literary topics such as *Transcendentalism and The American Novel*, as well as interdisciplinary topics such as *Sleep in Science and Culture and Madness and Modernity*.

## Students

The program typically has approximately 45–50 students in residence. Their interests range broadly across English and related fields. Some recent or current dissertation projects include:

- “Discursive Accidents: Trauma and Technology in Twentieth-Century American Literature.”
- “Affecting Passions on the Stage: Audience, Emotions, and Early Modern Drama”
- “Reclaiming Mother’s Body: Narratives of Transformation in African and African Caribbean Women’s Literature, 1970–2005”
- “Pain, Temporality, and Mental Illness in the Rise of American Autobiographical Poetry”
- “Telling Laughter: A Cultural History of American Humor, 1830–1900”
- “The Subject of Surfaces in Victorian Fiction”
- “Secrets of American Romanticism: The Politics and Ethics of Separation”
- “Weaving Wisps of Narrative: Intersections in African American and Native American Literary Traditions from 1965–2000”

A more complete list of recent dissertations is available at [www.english.emory.edu/graduate/recentgrads/recentgrads.htm](http://www.english.emory.edu/graduate/recentgrads/recentgrads.htm)

All graduate students admitted to the English doctoral program are now funded for five years, either through departmental fellowships or one of the Graduate School Fellowships (Diversity Fellowships, Woodruff Fellowships, and Arts and Sciences Fellowships). All fellowships carry tuition remission and a partial health care subsidy. Students beyond their initial funding package are eligible for a number of Emory fellowships, and the Graduate School offers a Grant Writing Program that supports students’ efforts to apply for external funding.

## Placement

We are committed to helping our students secure the best positions available in their fields. Each year, two faculty members serve as job placement officers. These faculty members guide students seeking academic positions through the search process by holding workshops, reviewing materials, and staging mock interviews.

Our efforts—and the quality of our program—are reflected in our students’ success on the job market. Recent graduates are teaching at Drexel University, Seton Hall, the University of New Hampshire, Illinois State University, Clemson University, San Francisco State University, Wake Forest University, the University of Wyoming, and Morehouse College.

## Contact Information

For more information, please visit our website ([www.english.emory.edu](http://www.english.emory.edu)), where you can find detailed information about the graduate program, the requirements for the doctoral degree, and the application process. You may also contact the Graduate Coordinator, Melanie Tipnis ([mtipnis@emory.edu](mailto:mtipnis@emory.edu)) for answers to specific questions.



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Requests for Additional Information:

RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS

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