

LITERARY STUDIES/THEATRE STUDIES IN ENGLISH

The PhD Program in Literary Studies/Theatre Studies in English at the University of Guelph presents an opportunity for doctoral study that is unique in Canada. Although students might choose to focus on either literary studies or theatre studies, the special opportunity provided by the PhD Program is its contribution to the evolution of interdisciplinary work in the humanities. This bridging of disciplines allows for opportunities not available in more traditional doctoral programs, especially in interdisciplinary and theoretical work across the boundaries of literary and theatre studies. Students can choose to undertake research in one or more of six fields of specialization:

- Studies in Canadian Literatures
- Colonial, Postcolonial and Diasporic Studies
- Early Modern Studies
- Studies in the History and Politics of Performance and Theatre
- Sexuality and Gender Studies
- Transnational Nineteenth-Century Studies

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Graduate Faculty

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Graduate Faculty

Ann Wilson

BA, MA, PhD York - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

PhD Program

The PhD Program in Literary Studies/Theatre Studies in English is offered in six fields of specialization:

1. studies in Canadian literatures;
2. colonial, postcolonial and diasporic studies;
3. early modern studies;
4. studies in the history and politics of performance and theatre;
5. sexuality and gender studies; and
6. transnational nineteenth-century studies.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the PhD Program normally requires an MA in English, and MA in Drama/Theatre, or an equivalent degree with at least an A- average in graduate work. In certain exceptional circumstances, students will be considered directly out of the undergraduate degree. Applications are considered by the Graduate Program Committee and a recommendation to admit or decline is forwarded to the Assistant VP of Graduate Studies.

Program Requirements

Graduate Course Work (2.5 credits)

Students are required to take 5 graduate courses in the initial phase of their degree. The standard practice is to take two courses in the Fall semester of Year 1, two courses in the Winter semester of Year 1, and one course in the Fall semester of Year 2. This arrangement of courses is recommended, but remains flexible: any combination of 5 courses over these semesters is acceptable. In unusual circumstances, students may petition to do one course in the Winter semester of Year 2 in order to meet particular demands in their program of study. Courses are advertised on a two-year cycle to maximize choice and facilitate planning in the program.

Graduate courses allow students to develop their knowledge of key theoretical, historical and critical concerns for the analysis of culture. It is during coursework that students hone their skills in writing and research so that they will be prepared for the challenges posed by their Primary and Secondary Area Qualifications. Students are encouraged to choose their courses in order to maximize their critical and historical repertoire, and to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the program to work across the disciplines of English and Theatre Studies.

Language Requirement

Doctoral students are required to demonstrate reading proficiency in at least one language other than modern English, as approved by the Graduate Study Committee. Typically the language requirement will be completed by the end of the student's fifth semester in the program.

The language should normally have direct relevance to the student's program of study. In certain cases, students' research may require demonstrable competency in a non-written or technical language such as a programming language. The selection of the language(s) will be determined by the student in consultation with the dissertation advisor, and must be submitted for approval by the Graduate Program Committee.

The language requirement may be fulfilled through one of the following:

- A three-hour examination, which consists of the student's translation (with the help of a dictionary) of one passage in prose of not more than 1000 words.
- A faculty member with expertise in the language grades the examination on a pass/fail basis. A student who fails the language

examination twice will normally be required to withdraw from the program.

- Equivalent language requirement through an MA-level examination.
- An undergraduate-level language course or above whose completion demonstrates reading proficiency in the language (as determined by the student's committee and approved by the Graduate Program Committee).

The student's advisory committee may submit a rationale, no later than the end of the third semester of study, to the Graduate Program Committee explaining why a second language is not necessary to the course of study. In order to promote equity across the program, the Graduate Program Committee will be charged with approving or rejecting that rationale or requesting further clarification.

Secondary Area Qualification

The SAQ takes place in the Summer of Year One and provides an opportunity for students to quickly develop the repertoire needed to potentially teach in a field without necessarily committing to that field as an area of specialization. The objective here is to gain working knowledge of the major texts and statements relating to a field of scholarly enquiry. Upon completion of this exercise, students should have both the range and the depth to confidently teach in a secondary area.

As the name implies, this is a qualification exercise. The student is responsible for a reading list comprised of 60 texts, (the definition of what constitutes a standard text is internal to the design of the lists) selected from standard department reading lists; 30% of the list may be altered to suit particular interests. Students are assessed on a pass/fail basis on the following:

1. The student will write a three-hour examination composed of four questions, from which the student chooses two. These questions give the student an opportunity to demonstrate the range and depth of their reading. The questions will ask the student to place a range of primary texts in relation to key critical debates in the field.
2. This written examination is followed one week later by a one-hour oral examination on questions arising from both elements of the written work.

Primary Area Qualification (Year 2)

After the completion of the SAQ, the student progresses to their Primary Area Qualification. The objective here is to develop sufficient expertise in a field of scholarly enquiry to be able to make original contributions to that field through the writing of a doctoral dissertation. Through discussion with their advisory committee, the student develops a reading list of approximately 120 works divided roughly into two parts. The first comprises a Field Survey that is aimed at sketching the broad contours of an area of scholarly enquiry. The second is a more specific articulation of the works, called the Topic Readings, that will immediately impinge on the dissertation. The PAQ Examination, intended to determine whether the student is prepared to write and capable of writing the PhD thesis, is usually taken 12 months after the completion of the SAQ:

1. A three-hour examination on the primary material to be studied in the thesis and on scholarship concerning that primary material-i.e. this is directed specifically to the Topic Readings. The student will be asked to answer two questions from a choice of three.
2. A three-hour examination on the immediate background--the literary, cultural and intellectual milieu of the subject being studied-i.e. this is directed specifically at the Field Survey. The student will be asked to answer two questions from a choice of three.

3. A two-hour oral examination in which the examining committee usually follows up on material in the written examinations and questions the student on plans for the doctoral thesis. While the examination is likely to focus on the student's main area of interest, examiners also have the lee-way to ask questions pertaining to the overall list of texts.

Students are assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Dissertation Prospectus

Immediately following the Primary Area Qualification, the student develops, in consultation with their advisory committee, a full prospectus for their dissertation. The prospectus states the overall objective of the thesis, lays out the chapter structure, and summarizes the issues and concerns to be addressed in each chapter. If and when the Dissertation Committee ratifies the Prospectus, it is forwarded to the Graduate Program Committee for formal approval.

PhD Dissertation

Following successful completion of the two Area Qualifications, the student must complete an original research project on an advanced topic. The advisory committee for the dissertation will consist of three members of the graduate faculty, one of whom assumes the primary advisory role. Ideally, the dissertation supervisor has worked with the student, in an advisory capacity, from her/his first semester in the program.

Each candidate shall submit a thesis, written by the candidate, on the research carried out by the candidate on an approved topic. The thesis is expected to be a significant contribution to knowledge in its field and the candidate must indicate in what ways it is a contribution. The thesis must demonstrate mature scholarship and critical judgement on the part of the candidate and it must indicate an ability to express oneself in a satisfactory literary style. Approval of the thesis is taken to imply that it is judged to be sufficiently meritorious to warrant publication in reputable scholarly media in the field.

The dissertation should normally be between 50,000 and 75,000 words in length. The regulations for submission, examination and publication are outlined in Chapter IV PhD Degree Regulations (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/degree-regulations/doctor-philosophy/thesis/).

Courses

LTS*7900 Directed Studies Unspecified [0.50]

The study of a special topic under the guidance of a member of the graduate faculty.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Literary Studies and Theatre Studies in English students.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6002 Topics in the History of Criticism Unspecified [0.50]

This course deals with various aspects of the field of literary criticism, focusing on a specific problem or question each time it is offered. Topics may include the investigation of a specific critical debate - the debate between the Ancients and the Moderns, for instance - or the various ways in which a particular concept - such as didacticism or intentionality - has been treated or is being treated in literary studies.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6003 Problems of Literary Analysis Unspecified [0.50]

Variable in content and practical in orientation this course seeks to familiarize the student with particular critical techniques and approaches by applying specific examples of those approaches and methods to particular topics (e.g., cultural studies and renaissance literature, discourse analysis and the Victorian novel, computer-mediated analysis and the theatre of the absurd).

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6201 Topics in Canadian Literature Unspecified [0.50]

A course to be offered at least once every academic year. This course in Canadian Literature may focus on cross-genre study or on single genres such as poetry, biography, the short story, literary memoir and/or autobiography, and poetic prose. The focus may be on such topics as the literary and general cultural production of a time-period, an age group (such as children's literature), or a specific region (such as Atlantic Canada, the Prairies, or the West Coast), or may bring together texts from two or more categories to allow for a comparative study. Other possible topics include: post-modernism and the creation of an ex-centric Canadian canon; multiculturalism and the transcultural aesthetics of Canadian writing; the construction and reinvention of a national identity and literature; and literary history, influence, reception and critique.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6209 Topics in Colonial, Postcolonial and Diasporic Literature Unspecified [0.50]

A course to be offered at least once every academic year. A comparative study of postcolonial literatures in English. Topics may include a focus on a single area, such as India, the Caribbean, Africa, Australia, or New Zealand or may focus on the comparative study of some of these literatures, considering the construction of Third World, diasporic, or settler-invader colonies, or writing and reading practices in colonial, neo-colonial, and postcolonial environments.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6412 Topics in Medieval/Renaissance Literature Unspecified [0.50]

An examination of the literature of Britain in the medieval and/or early modern periods. Topics may focus on a single author, a specific genre, or relationships between the literary and the cultural.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6421 Topics in 18-Century and Romantic Literature Unspecified [0.50]

A examination of the literature of Britain between the 17th century and the latter part of the 18th century. Topics may focus on a single author, a specific genre, or relationships between the literary and the cultural.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6431 Topics in 19-Century Literature Unspecified [0.50]

This course is a study of the literature of Britain, Canada, the United States, or another region from the late 18th century until the start of the First World War. Topics may focus on a single author, a specific genre, or a central critical question.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies
Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6441 Topics in Modern British Literature Unspecified [0.50]

A study of the literature of Britain in the twentieth century. This course includes a consideration of the interaction between literature and culture in the period - sometimes through the examination of a specific author, sometimes through the study of a particular genre or issue.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6451 Topics in American Literature Unspecified [0.50]

Topics may include a focus on a single region, such as the American West, on a single time period, such as the Civil War, on a specific genre, such as the novels of frontier women, or other issues in American literary studies.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6611 Topics in Women's Writing Unspecified [0.50]

In the past the course has dealt with Victorian women poets, with the place of women in the literature of the American West, and with other issues of interest to students of women's writing and the broader issues of feminist theory.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6621 Topics in Children's Literature Unspecified [0.50]

Past offerings have involved a focus on a specific author - such as Lucy Maud Montgomery - or on a specific kind of writing for or by children.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6641 Topics in Scottish Literature Unspecified [0.50]

Courses under this rubric are concerned with the various literatures produced by Scots both within and beyond the boundaries of Scotland. The course could involve the study of a specific genre, the investigation of a specific theme, or the examination of a particular author over the course of her/his career.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6691 Interdisciplinary Studies Unspecified [0.50]

Designed to provide the opportunity to explore alternative fields and modes of critical inquiry, this variable-content course will study the relationship between literary study and other forms of intellectual inquiry such as the relationship between literature and sociology, between critical theory and psychology, between literary history and historical fact.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6801 Reading Course I Unspecified [0.50]

An independent study course, the nature and content of which is agreed upon between the individual student and the person offering the course. Subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee and the graduate program committee.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6802 Reading Course II Unspecified [0.50]

An independent study course, the nature and content of which is agreed upon between the individual student and the person offering the course. Subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee and the graduate program committee.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6803 Research Project Unspecified [1.00]

An independent study course, the content of which is agreed upon between the individual student and the person offering the course. Subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee and the Graduate Program Committee. This course is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to conduct an extended research project that, while not as complex or as extensive as a thesis, still provides the student with training in research methodology.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

ENGL*6811 Special Topics in English Unspecified [0.50]

Depending on the research interests of the instructor, courses under this rubric explore topics in the study of literature that do not fall neatly under the rubrics above. In the past the course has dealt with literature and aging, and with issues in the field of popular culture.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

THST*6150 Theatre Historiography Fall Only [0.50]

This variable content course introduces students to the theory and practice of theatre historical analysis. The course is required of all students in the Theatre Studies MA Program.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

THST*6210 Devising Winter Only [0.50]

This variable-content course addresses creative practice in the theatre as a site for the production of knowledge. It examines the theoretical and social issues of contemporary theatre practice.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

THST*6220 Theatre Theory Fall Only [0.50]

This variable content course introduces students to a range of theoretical approaches and to advanced issues and methods within the fields of drama, theatre, and performance studies. The course is required for all students in the Theatre Studies MA Program.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

THST*6230 Performance and Difference Winter Only [0.50]

This variable-content course introduces students to the most recent theoretical and critical international developments in the field of Theatre Studies and investigates sites of cultural diversity and difference. It provides opportunities for culturally specific studies of dramatic literature and performance.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

THST*6250 Bodies and Space in Performance Winter Only [0.50]

This variable-content course introduces students to the social, ethical, phenomenological and environmental dimensions of the interaction of bodies and space in theatre practice and research. It provides a theorized context in which students may address questions of acting, directing, and design as research processes.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

THST*6280 Independent Reading Course Unspecified [1.00]

Independent Reading Course

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

THST*6500 Research Paper Unspecified [1.00]

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

THST*6801 Reading Course I Unspecified [0.50]

An independent study course, the nature and content of which is agreed upon between the individual and the person offering the course. Subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee and the graduate program committee.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph

THST*6802 Reading Course II Unspecified [0.50]

An independent study course, the nature and content of which is agreed upon between the individual and the person offering the course. Subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee and the graduate program committee.

Department(s): School of English and Theatre Studies

Location(s): Guelph