English

Program-specific competencies

Competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience. UVic students in the English program develop the following program-specific competencies.

English language

Demonstrates professional-level proficiency with the English language

- Demonstrates professional-level written and oral skills for the discipline of English
- Uses grammar and punctuation correctly and appropriately
- Demonstrates knowledge of the development of the English language
- Demonstrates awareness of historic varieties of English
- Demonstrates awareness of the diversity and global dispersion of contemporary varieties of English

English literature

Demonstrates knowledge of English literature from the medieval period to the present

- Demonstrates knowledge of literature in English outside Britain, including Canadian, American and postcolonial literatures
- Demonstrates knowledge of the literary canon including Chaucer and Shakespeare
- Demonstrates awareness of literary history and periodization
- Demonstrates awareness of genre and form

Literary interpretation

Critically reads works of literature in English and describes how literary texts generate meaning

- Demonstrates awareness of major issues in literary criticism
- Demonstrates knowledge of, and ability to read literature, in relation to literary theory
- Exercises close reading skills and demonstrates ability to read a text using appropriate literary terminology, including metre, figurative language, speaker/persona, tone and voice
- Determines the critical questions to be asked of a body of material

Historical, social and cultural perspective

Understands works of literature in their historical, social and cultural contexts

- Identifies the historical, social and cultural context in which a text is produced
- Understands how historical, cultural and social contexts impact the production and interpretation of literary texts
- Demonstrates intellectual curiosity to explore historical, social and cultural perspectives
- Reflects on issues such as nationalism, imperialism, militarism, politics, religion, ethnicity, race, gender and class in the context of literary production

UVic Co-op and Career worked with the Department of English to develop this competency document.

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