

Stanford University

# English

“In the long run, a people is known, not by its statements or its statistics, but by the stories it tells.”

Flannery O'Connor



*Literature lies at the heart of human experience.* Whether you're deciphering 14th-century poetry or interpreting the inky panels of a graphic novel, in English classes you learn the history and practice of the creative process itself. This exploration inspires empathy with the feelings and experiences of others and an understanding of the fundamental driving forces of human culture and consciousness.

*Unlock your skills of analysis  
and verbal communication.  
And release your powers of artistic  
invention and personal expression.*

As you develop the ability to analyze stories, you can also learn how to craft your own. Our faculty are both intellectual leaders in literary studies and acclaimed writers across genres. In lectures, seminars, and workshops, they will help you master the power of language.

## **Build a Foundation**

*How did literature evolve from Chaucer to Toni Morrison, from a time before the printing press to our modern digital landscape?*

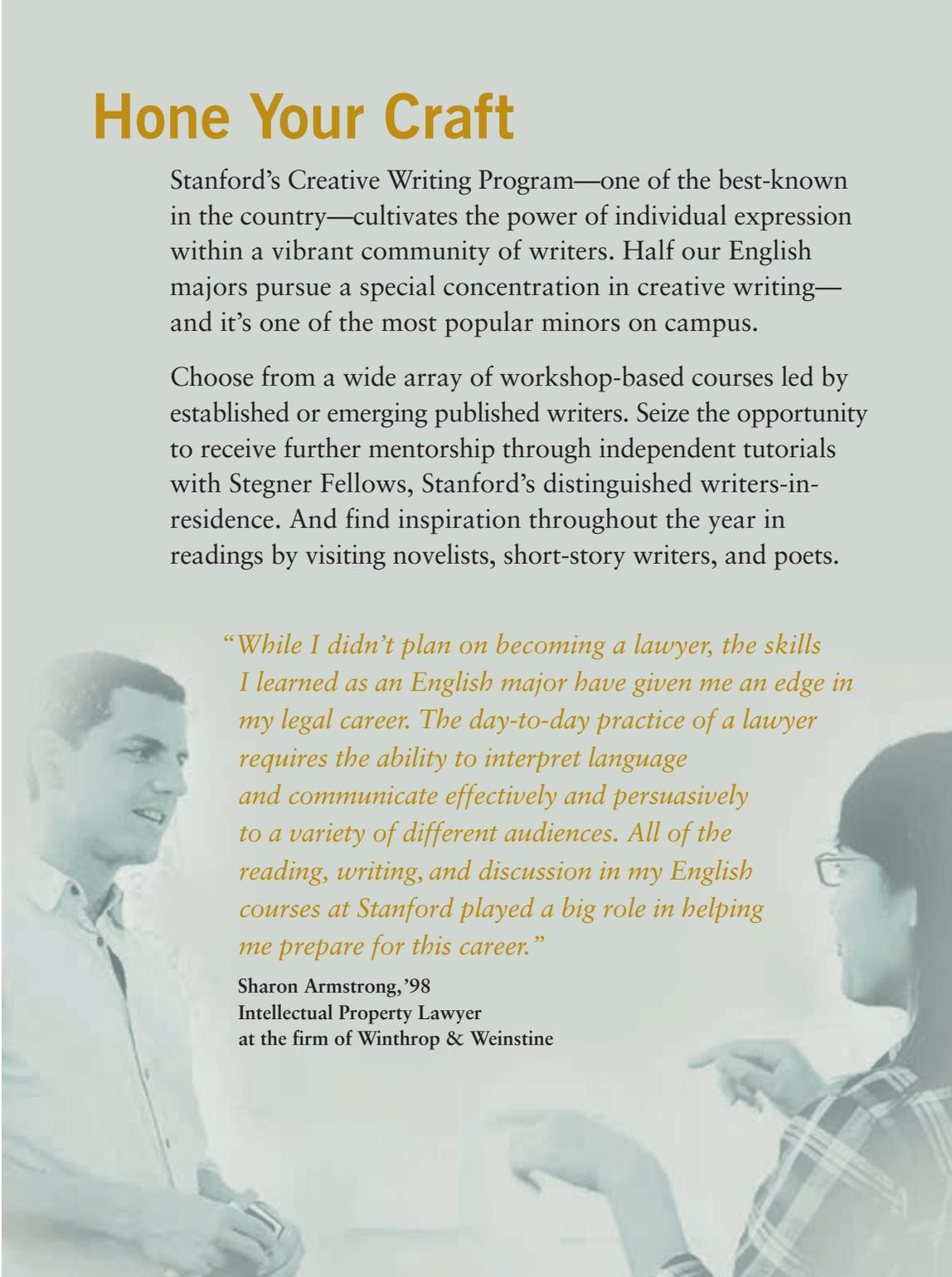
Stanford's English curriculum features a team-taught, yearlong core sequence that traces the big picture of literature's development from the Middle Ages to the present. Each class offers a lively exploration of key literary themes, movements, and innovations.

English majors also learn critical tools for analyzing literature through three broad course requirements, in poetry, narrative, and methodology. Students gain a contextual framework and are prepared to take the department's wide range of electives.

# Hone Your Craft

Stanford's Creative Writing Program—one of the best-known in the country—cultivates the power of individual expression within a vibrant community of writers. Half our English majors pursue a special concentration in creative writing—and it's one of the most popular minors on campus.

Choose from a wide array of workshop-based courses led by established or emerging published writers. Seize the opportunity to receive further mentorship through independent tutorials with Stegner Fellows, Stanford's distinguished writers-in-residence. And find inspiration throughout the year in readings by visiting novelists, short-story writers, and poets.



*“While I didn’t plan on becoming a lawyer, the skills I learned as an English major have given me an edge in my legal career. The day-to-day practice of a lawyer requires the ability to interpret language and communicate effectively and persuasively to a variety of different audiences. All of the reading, writing, and discussion in my English courses at Stanford played a big role in helping me prepare for this career.”*

Sharon Armstrong, '98  
Intellectual Property Lawyer  
at the firm of Winthrop & Weinstine



# The Graphic Novel Project

*Searching for an unparalleled opportunity to tell real-world stories and give voice to those who might otherwise go unheard?*

Collaborate with a team of student writers, artists, and designers to create and publish a full-length graphic novel. Past projects tell the powerful stories of a Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivor, the first female park ranger in war-torn Congo, and an acid attack victim in Cambodia. Hundreds of illustrations, hours of research, and countless ink stains later, you'll not only have learned about narrative from the inside out, but also have created a book that can be a vehicle for social change.

# Beyond the Classroom:

Explore your passions for literary study

*Join* the Literary Lab, an experimental research group that bridges the humanities and technology divide by bringing computational analysis to literary interpretation. Work on a variety of projects that investigate the new face of literature in this age of big data and digital mapping.

*Participate* in the Center for the Study of the Novel, which sponsors an undergraduate colloquium designed to introduce students to discussions of the history and theory of the novel.

## Innovative Electives

- *Literature and the Brain*
- *The Renaissance: Art, Science, Magic, and Love*
- *Angelheaded Hipsters: Beat Writers of San Francisco and New York*

*“As an English major, I was trusted to try to change some of the best minds in the world. Professors encouraged me to contradict and surprise them. I can't think of too many disciplines, or even too many English departments, where that kind of dialogue is the expectation rather than the exception.”*

Miles Osgood '11, Assistant Editor at Oxford University Press

Stanford's English Department is among the very best in the world. It was second in the nation according to the most recent rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*.

## A Successful Future

*Critical thinking. Creativity. Interpretation.*

Studying English prepares you for a diverse range of professional fields, including teaching, journalism, law, publishing, medicine, business, and the fine arts. English majors also pursue careers in tech companies and other startup ventures—in Silicon Valley and beyond. Whether as copywriters or social workers, entrepreneurs or filmmakers, alums are applying their studies at Stanford to every corner of the world.



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STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
*School of* **Humanities**  
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