

**M.A. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**  
**Literature Track, *Thesis Option***  
**(36 semester hours)**

The thesis option is recommended for students who want the experience of research and writing for an extended period of time (at least two-three semesters) on a focused question or problem. Although some doctoral programs value applicants who have completed a thesis, others prefer students with the broader knowledge that additional course work provides.

**I. Required Core Courses for all English MA Students (6 semester hours)**

1. ENG 500 – The Discipline of English Studies
2. ENG 501 – Critical Theory

**II. Required Courses for Literature Track, thesis option (15 semester hours)**

1. One course in literature before 1660
2. One course in literature between 1660 and 1900
3. One course in literature between 1900 and the present
4. ENG 550, History, Form and Ideology
5. ENG 560, Locating Literature

**III. Electives (9 semester hours)**

Students are to select two electives from among courses in the following categories: General Topics and Theory, English Literature, American Literature, Comparative Literature, Composition and Rhetoric, and Research and Special Topics. For course categories, see the *Graduate Catalog* or *Handbook for English Graduate Students*.

Students are to select one free elective chosen from among all ENG categories, including those listed in the paragraph above and in the categories of Language, Teaching Skills, Creative Writing, and PWP courses (The Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project).

**IV. Required Capstone Experience (6 semester hours)**

ENG 610, Capstone Writing and Research Seminar  
ENG 620, M.A. Essay (thesis)

**V. Additional Requirements**

*American literature requirement:* At least one course must be taken in American literature. Although it is not limited to these, “American literature” includes courses in the literature of various populations that contribute to the diversity of U.S. culture: African-American, Native American, and Asian American, among others.

*Non-canonical requirement:* At least one course must be taken in a topic addressing writing, literature, and/or pedagogy relating to under-represented groups.

ENG 610 is to be taken prior to ENG 620.

## COURSE SELECTION WORKSHEET

### M.A. in English, Literature Track, Thesis Option (36 semester hours)

Student's Name:

Dates of Conferences:

#### I. Required Core Courses for all English MA Students (6 semester hours)

Requirement	Semester Completed
ENG 500 – The Discipline of English Studies	
ENG 501 – Critical Theory	

#### II. Required Courses for Literature Track, non-thesis (15 semester hours)

Requirement	Course Name and Number	Semester Completed
1 course before 1660		
1 course between 1660-1900		
1 course 1900-present		
ENG 550	History, Form, and Ideology	
ENG 560	Locating Literature	

#### III. Electives (9 semester hours)

Course Name and Number	Semester Completed	Free Elective? (yes/no ) (one free elective is allowed)
1.		
2.		
3.		

#### IV. Capstone Experience (6 semester hours)

Requirement	Semester
ENG 610 – Capstone Writing and Research Seminar	
ENG 620 – MA Essay	

Thesis Director:

Thesis Proposal Approved:

Thesis Approved:

#### V. Additional Requirements

(Courses that satisfy the requirements listed above can also be used to satisfy these requirements.)

Requirement	Course Name and Number	Semester Completed
Course in American Literature		
Non-canonical		

Cleared for graduation (date): \_\_\_\_\_