

PART-TIME MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

# Literature

Choose from specializations in American literature; British literature; comparative and world literature; film, literature, and visual culture; and interdisciplinary studies



# Feed your brain.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE

**The part-time graduate program in creative writing provides students the opportunity to grow as artists within the specializations of fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction.**

Success in any career field depends not just on mastering the technical training specific to that field but also on the critical thinking skills that are best gained from literature.

Master of Arts in Literature (MALit) program students engage in advanced literary study and grapple with the thought and creative vision of the world's most remarkable minds: rediscovering and mastering classic texts while exploring exciting, contemporary works, diverse genres and cutting-edge ideas in narrative form and interpretation.

Graduates of this broad and stimulating intellectual program develop improved abilities to analyze complex information, challenge assumptions, weigh competing considerations and reach effective solutions. By dissecting the ideas and creative vision of the world's greatest writers, students can sharpen analytical and writing skills in preparation for application to PhD programs and build critical thinking and communication skills needed for success in diverse professional areas from advertising to law. For secondary-school teachers, the MALit program can create a competitive edge by deepening literary subject knowledge — a key distinction between the MALit program and more general graduate programs in education.

Seminar-style, small group discussions — not traditional lectures — form the core experience of the MALit program. Guided by distinguished Northwestern faculty, courses are designed around weekly readings drawn from a range of literary genres and periods, as well as critical and theoretical works. Explore classic and contemporary works as well as insights about literary form, narrative and meaning, and the shifting cultural contexts in which literary art is produced.

Written responses to course readings, along with valuable feedback from professors, can significantly elevate and refine students' writing skills — even those with prior professional or creative writing experience.

# Curriculum

Students must complete nine courses to complete their Master of Arts in Literature degree. Students must complete one core course (LIT 410 Introduction to Graduate Study), seven elective courses and a capstone project. Students may take elective courses that cover such topics as comparative literary studies, English, French and Italian, Slavic languages and literatures, and theatre.

## SPECIALIZATIONS

Students who wish to lend more structure to their MALit experience can elect to complete a specialization in:

- American literature
- British literature
- Comparative and world literature
- Film, literature and visual culture
- Interdisciplinary studies

A specialization may be especially beneficial to educators, students who are thinking of going on to a PhD program, or anyone who wants to focus their literary study more precisely. Students complete four thematically linked courses for a specialization.

## CAPSTONE PROJECT

1 COURSE

Students sign up for the final course in the program during the term in which they start their master's thesis. The capstone project for the MALit program is an essay of 45 to 75 double-spaced pages written under the supervision of an approved faculty member. The project presents an opportunity to research and explore a topic thoroughly. Students often elect to expand a seminar paper from a previous course. With the approval of the program director, students may create an interdisciplinary final project rather than a traditional thesis.

## ELECTIVES

7 COURSES

Students may take elective courses that cover such topics as comparative literary studies, English, French and Italian, Slavic languages and literatures, and theatre.

See [sps.northwestern.edu/malit](https://sps.northwestern.edu/malit) for course descriptions and schedules.

- 20<sup>th</sup>-century British & American Literature: Empire, War, Worldliness
- 20<sup>th</sup>-century Literature: James Joyce & Virginia Woolf
- Asian Religions in Literature and Film
- Bad Mothers: Ideologies of Female Failure in 20<sup>th</sup>-century Literature, Media, and Film
- Feminism as Cultural Critique: Utopian and Dystopian Novels of the Second Wave
- German Film: The City in Cinema, Cinema in the City
- Jane Austen and The Rise of The Novel
- Latin American and Latina/o Science Fi
- Popular and Literary Fiction: The Case of Anglo-American Mysteries
- Proust
- Race, Space, and Place in Chicago: Ghetto and Neighborhood, White Flight and Gentrification
- Studies in Contemporary Literature: The Jazz Age: Love and Art in the 1920s
- The Jazz Age: Love and Art in the 1920s
- The Seven Deadly Sins: Behaving Badly in Renaissance Thought, Art, and Literature
- Topics in Francophone Colonial and Postcolonial Studies: Indochine in Film and Fiction
- Travelers, Exiles, and Expats: Literature of Foreign Spaces
- Victorian Decadence: British Literature of the 1890s
- Victorian Travel and Crime Fiction
- Virtues and Vice in Renaissance Literature

## CORE COURSE

1 COURSE

- LIT 410 Introduction to Graduate Study

# Admission

For detailed admission and application information visit [sps.northwestern.edu/malit](https://sps.northwestern.edu/malit). For application assistance call 312-503-2579 or email [malit@northwestern.edu](mailto:malit@northwestern.edu).

**Application Deadlines** (accepted every quarter)

- **Fall:** July 15
- **Winter:** October 15
- **Spring:** January 15
- **Summer:** April 15

# Faculty



## FACULTY DIRECTOR

**Scott Durham** (left), Associate Professor of French at Northwestern, is the faculty director for the MALit program. He has taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in French and Comparative Literary Studies since 1992, with a primary focus on 20<sup>th</sup>-century literature, film and the relationship between literature and philosophy.

## CORE FACULTY

**Kate Baldwin**, Professor of Communication Studies, Rhetoric, and American Studies, is a 20<sup>th</sup>-century Americanist who specializes in comparative theories of gender, race, class, and ethnicity. Her work focuses on intersections between the mappings of identity and social history in a global context, with a particular focus on Russia and the former Soviet Union. She has published two books, *The Racial Imaginary of the Cold War Kitchen: From Sokol'niki Park to Chicago's South Side* (2016) and *Beyond the Color Line and the Iron Curtain: Reading Encounters between Black and Red, 1922-63*. Baldwin teaches frequently in the MALS/MALIT programs and enjoys working with adult students and introducing them to the rich academic and intellectual opportunities that Northwestern has to offer. In addition to her academic writing, Baldwin has published articles in, *The Hill*, *Truth-Out*, *Global Post*, and *Quartz*. Her PhD is from Yale University.

**Henry Binford**, Associate Professor of History, is a specialist in the study of cities and urbanization. He is the author of *The First Suburbs: Residential Communities on the Boston Periphery, 1815-1860*. He is near completion of a study of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Cincinnati. He has received the Weinberg College Outstanding Teaching Award, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Charles Deering McCormick Professorship of Teaching Excellence, and the National Faculty Award of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs. His PhD is from Harvard University. He is also a former Academic Director of the MALS program, and has enjoyed working with adult learners for more than thirty years.

**John Alba Cutler**, Associate Professor of English and Latina/o Studies, specializes in US Latino literatures, multiethnic American poetry, contemporary American literature, and print culture studies. His book *Ends of Assimilation: The Formation of Chicano Literature*, published by Oxford University Press, examines how Chicano/a (Mexican American) literary works represent processes of assimilation, and what those representations can teach us about race, gender, and the nature of literary discourse. Professor Cutler has published articles in *American Literary History*, *American Literature*, *MELUS*, and *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*. He is a member of the Executive Committee for the Latina/o Literature and Culture Forum of the Modern Language Association, and also co-directs the Newberry Library Seminar in Borderlands and Latino Studies. He received the Weinberg College Distinguished Teaching Award in 2013.

**Brian T. Edwards**, Crown Professor in Middle East Studies and Professor of English, Comparative Literary Studies, and American Studies at Northwestern, also serves as Director of the Program in Middle East and North African Studies. He is the author of *Morocco Bound: Disorienting America's Maghreb, from Casablanca to the Marrakech Express*, and *After the American Century: The Ends of U.S. Culture in the Middle East*, as well as numerous essays and articles in publications

including *Salon*, *The Believer*, *McSweeney's*, *Public Culture*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Foreign Policy*, *Bookforum*, and leading scholarly journals. Edwards is co-editor of *Globalizing American Studies* and editor of *On the Ground: New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies*. Educated at Yale University (BA, MA, PhD), Edwards has lectured extensively in the US and abroad, including in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, and India, and has been visiting faculty at University of Tehran, EHESS in Paris, and UC Dublin, as well as a Fulbright Senior Specialist at Cairo University and the University of Naples, Italy. He has taught in the MALit and MALS programs for several years and particularly enjoys working with adult learners.

**J. Michelle Molina**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, researches the Society of Jesus in the early modern period. She explores Jesuit spirituality in an effort to understand how individuals — both elite and commoner — approached and experienced religious transformation. In particular, she has been interested in examining the impact of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises — a meditative retreat geared toward self-reform — on early modern global expansion. Molina's book, *To Overcome Oneself: The Jesuit Ethic and the Spirit of Global Expansion* is published with University of California Press. Bearing witness to events in her own era, Molina has explained what it might mean that the new pope is a Jesuit. She has observed that it is best to situate this Jesuit pope in relation to the modes of self-formation found in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and, importantly, that this Catholic imperative to “know thyself” indicates that Pope Francis is well versed in what has been termed “philosophy as a way of life.” She enjoys teaching classes on colonial Mexican history, early modern globalization, existentialist film, including those of Woody Allen. Molina particularly appreciates the questions and the focus that adult learners bring to class discussions every week.

**Jane Winston**, Associate Professor of French and Gender and Sexuality Studies, has served in the past as the Director of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, and as the Jean Gimbel Lane Professor at the Kaplan Humanities Institute. Her primary interests are in literary and cultural studies, the politics of representation, gender and race studies, feminist thought and political theory and transnational and globalization studies. She is the author of *Postcolonial Duras: Cultural Memory in Postwar France* and coeditor of *Vietnam: Identities in Dialogue*. Winston received her PhD from Duke University.



“The job I was doing at the time was fine, but I didn’t find it all that challenging or fulfilling. I always looked forward to going to class and spending time doing the reading and the work. It was a total privilege.”

Paula Derdiger, PhD, Assistant Professor at University of Minnesota Duluth



“I worked closely with esteemed faculty and learned how to polish my writing and craft my argument.”

John Kerpan (MALit '14), winner of SPS 2014 Distinguished Thesis Award for Literatur

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