

Literary Studies

"Not a day goes by that I don't use the writing skills—and the analytical and organizational skills that inform good writing—that I was continually pushed to develop at Bethel."

—Karen Siebert '90,
community relations
manager, Harvesters
Food Bank,
Kansas City, Mo



Question

How will I know if this is the right major for me?

Answer

From the start, your faculty advisor will work with you to set up a course schedule and help you explore options available in Literary Studies as a major (or minor). With its wide range of subject areas and applications, Literary Studies attracts students for many reasons. Do you love language? Do you like to read and write? Do you enjoy fiction, poetry, journalism or writing? Are you drawn to the expression and analysis of ideas? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be well-suited to major or minor in Literary Studies at Bethel College. Whatever your interest, you will learn to integrate a variety of skills and understandings. As part of its strong liberal arts foundation, Bethel's Literary Studies program includes a strong multicultural curriculum, which examines ethnic, political and gender dimensions of literature in various contexts.

Question

What courses are part of the Literary Studies major at Bethel College?

Answer

Literary Studies courses include:

- Reading Race and Gender
- Literatures of the Spirit
- Diasporic Literatures
- Literatures, Cultures, and Communities
- Structure and Development of the English Language
- Modern Critical Theory
- Studies in Drama
- Poetry OR Fiction Writing
- Senior Thesis

 *Bethel*

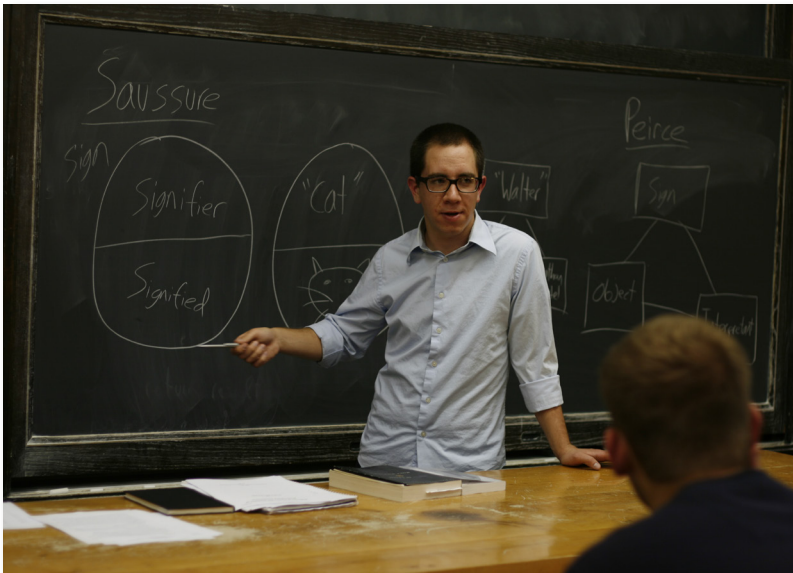
Seek.
Serve.
Grow.

Question

What kind of practical experience will I get as a student?

Answer

Literary Studies majors have plenty of opportunity to apply their learning in practical ways. Because of the faculty's emphasis on teaching and the small size of the classes, you will be able to do extensive writing. As an Literary Studies major, you will graduate from Bethel with a large portfolio of writings that can pave the way to employment or graduate school. The Senior Seminar is particularly important in fostering your abilities to conduct research, think creatively and complete a large project under deadline. Outside the classroom, practical opportunities include *Lines*, the campus creative-writing journal; *The Collegian*, the campus newspaper; and student assistantships.



Question

What can I expect after graduation?

Answer

Recent Literary Studies majors have entered a variety of fields, some immediately following graduation from Bethel, others after graduate school.

Among them are:

- Teaching
- Journalism
- Public relations
- Law
- Poetry writing
- Literature
- Cultural studies

"A Literary Studies degree involves much more than reading and writing. It demands that we answer fundamental questions about the nature of communication. It readies us to meet and engage the world that we might better understand and be understood."

—Nathan Bartel '02, fellow, Provincetown (Mass.) Fine Arts Work Center; winner 2004 Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship, Assistant Professor of Literary Studies at Bethel College

"The [Literary Studies] major is a statement of belief in the value of listening to and understanding others and in the value of understanding yourself."

—Bryn Gribben '96, doctoral student in English, University of Washington, Seattle



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