



Mississippi College

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Department of English

Graduate Guide

2013-2014

WELCOME

The English Department at Mississippi College is pleased to welcome you to its graduate studies program. Be assured that you are a valued colleague in our joint effort to pursue what Matthew Arnold calls the “best that has been thought and said in the world.” Your studies here will ideally continue your ascending movement into new levels of scholarship. We hope that your experience provides you with enrichment in great reading and scholarship and with a sense of community among your fellow students and faculty. To those ends, the following material is designed to acquaint you with some of the basics of our program and to help ensure that your plan of studies is both successful and rewarding.

Dr. Jim Everett (Jennings 313, 601-925-3937, everett@mc.edu) is the director of graduate studies for the English department and serves as advisor for the Master of Arts (MA) in English and the Master of Liberal Studies (MLS). Dr. LuAnn Marrs (Jennings 312, 601-925-3335, marrs@mc.edu) serves as advisor for the Master of Education in English (MED). The Graduate Office (Nelson 202, 601-925-3225) is your expert source of advice and a friendly place to visit as well. You may contact them directly or work through your departmental graduate advisor.

I. MISSION

The English department offers programs leading to a Master of Arts (MA) in English, a Master of Education (MED) in English, and a Master of Liberal Studies (MLS). As the undergraduate English program trains students in the communication and interpretation of ideas, the graduate program fosters mastery in the professions of scholarship and teaching by deepening students’ literary knowledge and enhancing their facility in written and oral communication.

Graduate studies in English reflect Mississippi College’s goal of advancing the genuine well-being of our community and promoting Christian values. The department faculty is committed to excellence in preparing graduate students not only for the usual career goals of college or secondary school teaching but also for other fields which value the critical thinking and communication skills provided by graduate study in English. These may include positions in publishing, advertising, public relations, program development, administration, and technical writing, to name a few.

Within the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, these graduate programs reflect the broad liberal arts tradition that seeks to inspire, liberate, and transform by promoting knowledge of the best that has been thought and said in the world.

II. THE BASICS

The Graduate Catalog, published annually at the MC homepage (<http://www.mc.edu/>), provides the most current information about your program; you should read it carefully and be aware that this department guide supplements the catalog and does not replace it. This department guide concentrates on information applicable to English graduate students in particular. Be sure to check MC's homepage for general information about items such as student ID cards, withdrawal policy, transfer credit, incomplete grades, and other campus-wide material pertaining to all graduate students. Another important source of current information is the Graduate Studies site at the MC homepage (<http://www.mc.edu/academics/graduate/>), where you will find links to various forms and a helpful list of Frequently Asked Questions.

Whichever program you choose, plan on working closely with your graduate advisor. Before your graduate coursework begins, schedule an initial meeting with your advisor to ensure that you have a completed status sheet on file. This meeting should be before the end of the first week of classes in your first semester. The status sheet is a summary—in graphic form—of the Graduate Catalog's listing of requirements for your program and serves as an ongoing guide that will be updated as you complete each semester (see the blank status sheet at the end of this guide). You should meet with your advisor periodically, at least once during the academic year, but feel free to contact your advisor whenever you have questions or issues to discuss. Your degree completion is your responsibility; the department will provide guidance and advice to steer you through the requirements, but you should actively monitor your current status so that you do not miss any deadlines.

III. HOW TO APPLY

A quick review of the application process: go to the MC homepage (www.mc.edu) and then to "Graduate Studies" under "Academics." You will find a description of graduate programs there and a link to "Graduate Admissions" where you can begin the online application process. The graduate catalog and class schedules are also online: you can access them through "Quick Links" at the homepage or through the administrative database Banner, located in the top right corner of the homepage. The online application for graduate school is easy to complete; the requirements for each program are listed in the section below. The English department requests that you begin the application process at least three weeks before the start of classes each semester (see Academic Calendar at the homepage) in order to allow timely submission of official transcripts and other information that the Graduate Office needs to determine the status of your admission. However, quicker processing of applications at the department level is possible when necessary; contact the graduate advisor.

Once you have completed the application, the Graduate Office will forward an assessment form to either Dr Everett (for the MA or MLS) or Dr Marrs (for the MED). If you lack any requirements (two years of foreign language, for example, or the GRE or sufficient undergraduate prerequisites), we will mark the form as "provisional." Your

status will change to “full admission” once you have met those requirements, but you can go ahead and enroll in courses (at the graduate and undergraduate level) while you are fulfilling those requirements (see the catalog for further details, or ask your advisor). After the Graduate Office receives the assessment form from us, they will send you a letter about your admission status.

When you have been admitted into a graduate program, the Registrar will issue a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to your advisor, who will then give it to you. Once you have the PIN, you may go online and register for courses. Print out a copy of your schedule so that you can take it to the Campus Bookstore and purchase your books. If the bookstore does not have books listed for your particular course, further information will be available from your professor at the first class meeting. Be sure to check MC Moodle (on the homepage at <http://moodle.mc.edu/>) and the professor’s faculty webpage (on the homepage at <http://www.mc.edu/faculty/index.php/members/>) for the most current information about your course.

IV. PROGRAMS

MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

The MA in English provides students with a thorough preparation in literary studies and is considered the stepping stone toward completion of a PhD in literature or composition and rhetoric. As a preliminary step toward doctoral studies the MA often leads to careers in college teaching, but the degree develops professional skills in secondary education as well and, in fact, in any field where advanced facility in writing and speaking is essential. Admission requirements for the MA program are as follows:

- Meet the undergraduate course requirements for English: 18 undergraduate semester hours of upper-level English courses beyond the core curriculum level of introductory composition and literature surveys.
- Submit critical writing sample with application for admission.
- Meet GRE requirements: **A scoring range of 146-150 or greater on the verbal section, a 140-141 or greater on the quantitative section**, and a 2.5 on the writing assessment of the GRE General Examination.
- Have 12 semester hours (or 2 high school credits plus intermediate level at university level) of course work or the reading knowledge of one foreign language as certified by CLEP or other official agency.
- Half of the coursework required for any degree program must be completed in the 6000-level courses. During the semester of graduation, students must pass written and oral examinations over all coursework in their degree program.

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN ENGLISH

The MED in English, consisting of 24 hours of English courses and six hours of Education courses, is designed for those who intend to teach at the secondary level throughout their career. The program requires a class “A” secondary school teaching certificate before admission. Completion of the MED upgrades the “A” certificate to “AA” level. (Upgrade to “AA” level may also be achieved by completing the MA if you already have an “A” license and a degree in the appropriate content area for your teaching field; the MED is no longer required for “AA” certification.) For the MED you need the same undergraduate requirements as above (the 18 hours of upper-level English courses). But you do not need the GRE or the foreign language for this degree, and you do not write a thesis.

MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES

The MLS is a 36-hour program designed for students who want to learn more about a variety of humanities fields but who do not need a thesis or any sort of education certificate. Since no thesis is required, the MLS is not suitable for someone planning on going on toward a PhD. The MLS is intentionally broad and diversified in its scope; students take a variety of courses from the different humanities departments (Art, English, Music, Communications, History and Political Science and Sociology and Social Work). No more than 12 hours from each field is the guideline, but students can appeal to have more courses in a certain field, as long as there is still a variety characteristic of a master's in liberal studies. See the current online graduate catalog for more specific details.

For admission, students must have the GRE scores listed under the MA above, must submit a writing sample, and must have an undergraduate degree in an appropriate field. For example, someone with a degree in biology would need to take a number of undergraduate prerequisites before taking graduate courses in English or history. Each department sets guidelines for what undergraduate prerequisites are required. As above, to take graduate courses in English, the student must have had 18 hours of upper-level undergraduate courses in English.

The English department recognizes that not all prospective teachers wish to choose between the two options of teaching at a four-year college or in a secondary school system. Therefore, MLS students may petition to complete 18 hours in one field during their program, surpassing the catalog limitation of 12 hours in any one department or field. Since the MLS program emphasizes flexibility across a wider spectrum of fields, this request is most often approved for students who choose not to complete a thesis but desire 18 hours in one field in order to meet requirements for teaching at the two-year college level. This option also provides an avenue for further learning beyond the baccalaureate level for those who want to continue their education but who do not require the specialization of more traditional thesis programs such as the MA. Students are

reminded that they must have completed any required undergraduate courses in the appropriate field before taking graduate courses in that field. A graduate advisor in the appropriate department will determine what undergraduate courses are required.

V. PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

All three programs require the student to assemble a review committee composed of a chair from the English department and two other faculty readers, both usually from the English department unless specific aspects of the subject justify need for a faculty member outside the department. MLS review committees will be composed of faculty members from the departments of the student's selected fields. In their last semester of enrollment, candidates for the MLS must take an oral comprehensive examination based upon course work used to satisfy degree requirements. MLS review committees reserve the option to also require a written comprehensive examination or final project. If judged unsatisfactory, all or part of the examination or project may be retaken once in the following semester or summer term. Consult the graduate advisor for further details regarding examinations.

Candidates for the MED must complete and defend a final project that will incorporate research on current practices and theory in language arts, and preparation of lesson plans that incorporate a range of literature for specific units. Proposal for this project will be part of the course requirements for ENG 6569; completion of this project and defense will be part of the course requirements for ENG 6570. Candidates who do not successfully complete and/or defend the project will receive an "Incomplete" in ENG 6570 and must complete all requirements in the next semester.

Completion requirements for the MA include oral and written comprehensive examinations and a thesis. The examinations are based upon both course work and a departmental reading list (available in the department office). The oral examination will also include a defense of the thesis. If judged unsatisfactory, all or part of the oral and/or written examination may be retaken once in the following term or summer semester.

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL GUIDELINES APPLY TO MA STUDENTS:

MA candidates can sign up for Thesis I in their last semester of coursework (you may also choose to sign up for Thesis I in a term by itself after you have finished all your coursework). Thesis I consists of meeting with your thesis director and turning in a prospectus (see the department files for a sample prospectus); there are no scheduled class times. Once your prospectus is finished, you should sign up for Thesis II for the next term. You will be assigned a "PR" (progress) for Thesis I. Once your thesis is completed, a grade will be assigned for Thesis II and that same grade will be posted to replace the PR for Thesis I. If you do not finish the prospectus in the term in which you take Thesis I, the PR will be extended into Thesis II and Thesis Maintenance. For every

semester over the two in which you take Thesis I and II, you will sign up for Thesis Maintenance (the fee of about \$100.00 is all you pay each time for those semesters of thesis maintenance).

There are several options regarding when to take the comprehensive exam: you can take the exam soon after you have finished all your coursework or you can wait and take it closer to when you will finish your thesis. Since the thesis requires an hour and a half oral defense, some students prefer completing the written exam close to when they finish the thesis. The oral examination will call for a defense of your thesis and also of your written exam answers (both during that hour and a half, with the thesis usually taking up more of the time). Other students prefer to get the written exam out of the way early and then concentrate on writing the thesis. It is up to you.

The written exam in Fall semesters is usually in the first week of October. For Spring semesters, the written exam is usually in the first week of April. In the summers, there can be more variation in the date for the exam, but it is usually at the end of June or at the beginning of July. Review sessions for the written exam are scheduled a week or two before the exam each semester, usually at 6pm on a Wednesday night. The written exam is usually from 1 to 4 pm on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon, so for this and for your oral defense you will need to have time available during regular business hours. We try to schedule all orals to be conducted within at least three weeks before graduation date, but orals are not scheduled until the student has passed the written comprehensive examination and has completed the thesis approval stage (see timeline below).

MA students who do not make satisfactory progress in completing the thesis (see timeline below) may elect to change their program to the MED or MLS as long as they meet requirements for entry into one of these programs.

THESIS COMPLETION TIMELINE

There are three stages in the thesis project:

Prospectus Stage:

- begins when the student enrolls in ENG 6563, Thesis I
- requires a written proposal explaining the goals of the thesis, accompanied by an annotated bibliography of sources (prospectus guidelines are found under “Forms” and “Thesis Manual” at the Graduate Studies homepage (<http://www.mc.edu/academics/graduate/forms/>); a sample prospectus is included at that location and a sample of a completed prospectus is available in the English department office)
- requires the student to select a thesis director and two thesis readers (the thesis director’s field of expertise should match the subject of the thesis; the two readers may be chosen in consultation with the thesis director)
- concludes when the thesis director and the Dean of the Graduate School have approved the prospectus in writing

Draft Stage:

- begins when the both the thesis director and the Dean of the Graduate School have approved the prospectus in writing (may begin, then, during Thesis I; the student will sign up for Thesis II in the semester following Thesis I and for Thesis Maintenance in each subsequent semester)
- may extend through multiple semesters, but the student must ensure that the thesis is successfully defended within six years of the start of graduate course work
- requires the student to prepare and submits drafts of small sections (normally chapters or subdivisions of chapters) to the director
- requires the thesis director's prior permission for simultaneous submission of multiple chapters
- allows a two-week response time in which the thesis director will read and comment on each chapter
- continues until all chapters have been submitted and revised in response to the thesis director's comments

Defense and Final Revision Stage:

- begins when the thesis director has read and approved a fully assembled version of the entire thesis
- requires the student to present this fully assembled version by the fourth week of classes (**for Fall 2013, by Sep 25; for Spring 2014, by Feb 3**) in the semester in which the student plans to graduate
- requires the oral defense to be scheduled for a date no later than mid-semester (**for Fall 2013, by Oct 16; for Spring 2014, by March 5**); the entire committee will offer suggestions for revision at the defense
- concludes when the student has completed final revisions and has submitted three copies of the thesis in final manuscript form to the Graduate School no later than three weeks before graduation (**for Fall 2013, by Nov 29; for Spring 2014, by Apr 21**)

Oral defenses are difficult to schedule for summer terms and will not be scheduled beyond the end of the first summer term. Students who plan to graduate in August must ensure that the thesis is in final revision stage by the first week of classes in the first summer term. Exceptions to these deadlines must be approved by the thesis director in consultation with the director of the English graduate program.

VI. GRADUATION AND ASSESSMENT

All graduate students must have at least a 3.0 GPA in order to graduate (see graduate catalog for details concerning academic suspensions and appeals).

All graduate students must achieve at least a “C” on exit requirements that are graded (the MA thesis and the MED final project) and must achieve a “pass” in areas rated as pass/fail (MA written exam and oral defense; MED oral; MLS oral and written exam). Students are reminded that “C” grades must be balanced by higher grades in order to reach the required GPA of 3.0 at the time of graduation. Final grades and pass/fail status will be based on overall quality of work, timeliness of submissions, and appropriateness of student response to revision.

All graduate students must apply for graduation and pay applicable fees at the beginning of the semester before the one in which the student plans to graduate (application deadlines for each semester are always announced in the academic calendar). In the event the student does not graduate in the planned semester, the application information and any paid fees will be carried over until the semester of graduation (students will not have to pay fees more than once).

VII. PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

M.Ed. Final Project

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Candidates for the M.Ed. in English must complete and defend a final project that will incorporate research on current practices and theory in language arts, and preparation of lesson plans that incorporate a range of literature for specific units. Proposal for this project will be part of the course requirements for ENG 6569; completion of project and defense will be part of the course requirements for ENG 6570. If the candidate does not successfully complete and/or defend the project, he or she will receive an “I” in ENG 6570 and must complete all requirements in the next semester.

RATIONALE AND GOALS:

The English Department believes that the most effective teachers are also competent scholars—and that students benefit when their teachers’ scholarly pursuits and pedagogical approaches intersect. Accordingly, our M.Ed. program in English emphasizes the ways in which literature, theory, pedagogy, research, and writing inform and influence one another, and M.Ed. students are encouraged to develop an awareness of the teaching implications associated with all elements of their graduate work.

The overarching goals, therefore, of the M.Ed. Final Project are for the student to demonstrate: 1) in-depth knowledge related to English course content and research, and 2) an ability to apply that knowledge effectively in other teaching contexts. More specifically, the M.Ed. Final Project requires the student to explicitly demonstrate and apply (within the context of a hypothetical English course) at the graduate-level:

- Knowledge of specific literary texts representing a variety of genres and created by authors representing multiple nationalities and ethnic backgrounds
- Understanding of major literary periods and movements
- Understanding of critical theory and methods of critical analysis
- Understanding of literary concepts and discipline-specific terminology
- Understanding of effective research skills and methods
- Understanding of pedagogical theory, approaches, and concerns
- Understanding of effective course design, assignment construction, and assessment
- Writing skills, including ethical, discipline-specific documentation methods
- Analytical skills
- Oral communication skills

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS:

Keeping in mind the above goals, design an English course emphasizing both literature and writing for students in middle or high school. Your work must adhere to the following guidelines and must include each of the required project components described below:

Course Length, Schedule and Level	
Duration	Your course should be designed to fill one full semester. You may wish to divide your semester into two nine-week or three six-week segments.
Class Schedule	You may design your course around a five-meetings-per-week format or you may opt to use a “block” schedule in which classes meet on alternating days for a longer time period. You are encouraged to use a schedule with which you have prior experience.
Course Level	You determine the grade/level for your course. For example, you may design a course for “regular” ninth graders, for accelerated eleventh graders, for advanced placement seniors, etc. You may wish to pinpoint students of specific gender, racial, ethnic, and/or socio-economic groups, as well.

Text Selection	
Choose an appropriate amount of reading for your students	<p>Literary texts must represent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authors from at least two continents • at least two novels • at least two genres, including the novel • at least two literary periods <p>In addition to literary texts, critical, historical, and cultural readings may be included.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Only one major text should be selected from among those you usually teach. Your text selection must be approved by the M.Ed. Graduate Project Committee. The committee may require that you add or replace texts.</p>

Required Project Components	
Statement of Teaching Philosophy	This document offers a portrait of you as a teacher, including your personal theories of teaching and learning, overarching goals for your courses and students, intended methods for achieving those goals, and the rationale underlying your positions. Your Teaching Philosophy should be no longer (and not much, if any, shorter) than one single-spaced page. Students will be introduced to and will begin drafting this document in English 6569.
Overall Course Approach, Goals, and Rationale	<p>In approximately two single-spaced pages, articulate the following:</p> <p>Overall Course Approach: Around which specific parameters is your course designed? For example, your course might examine ethnic women writers' texts examined through feminist and new historical lenses, or you might explore a specific topic (such as religion, relationships, freedom, etc.) within various genres and periods. Note that the possibility of dividing your semester into sections allows you, if you wish, to create two or three separate-but-compatible approaches. (The first nine weeks might emphasize social commentary in American literature, while the second nine weeks might emphasize social commentary in British or World literature.)</p> <p>Goals: Articulate all overarching goals for the course, both in terms of content/knowledge acquisition and skill development. Consider beginning these statements with "The student will be able to . . .," and incorporate grade-appropriate state competencies for Mississippi as appropriate. (State competencies can be found at http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/ID/Curriculum/LAER/outline.html.) Remember that authentic assessment comes in a variety of ways and needs to be tied to the unit's objectives; your assessment materials, described below, must therefore be linked explicitly to course goals/objectives.</p> <p>Rationale: Explain why both your goals and your overall course approach are useful and appropriate.</p>
*Annotated Bibliography #1: Course Texts for Students	This annotated bibliography includes all texts selected as student readings for the course. Annotations offer a descriptive summary/overview of the text and an explanation of why the text is appropriate for and useful to the course.

<p>*Annotated Bibliography #2: Informing Texts</p>	<p>This annotated bibliography includes all texts informing the teacher’s negotiation of the course: theoretical and critical texts read by the teacher (but not by the students), texts influencing pedagogical approaches, and other resources included in the appendix. Annotations offer a descriptive summary/overview of the text and an explanation of how the text specifically informs course content and/or pedagogy.</p>
<p>Detailed Course Plan and Materials (including Goals; Teaching Notes, Activities, and Assignments; Rationale and Expected Responses; and Assessment Materials)</p>	<p>These materials should be organized in a day-by-day progression, with a separate set of documents for each day. Each day’s set of documents should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Goals</u>: Begin each section by describing your specific goals for that particular class period. • <u>Teaching Notes, Activities, Assignments</u>: Describe your plan for class. What activities will you engage in? For how long? If you plan lectures, include your lecture notes; if you plan class discussion, include questions you’ll ask; if you plan individual or small group activities, describe them in detail, etc. Include descriptions of how you’ll negotiate all activities (What will you do to make sure that small groups work efficiently? How will you be sure large-group discussions involve all students? What will make your lecture effective?). Include any handouts you plan to use. • <u>Rationale and Expected Responses and Outcomes</u>: For each activity and assignment, offer a rationale: What do you expect your students to gain from completing the activity or assignment? How is the activity or assignment designed to help meet your class goals for the day (and/or the overarching goals for the course)? For discussion questions and other appropriate activities, describe the responses you expect your students to give—and what you intend to “do” with those responses in class. • <u>Assessment Materials</u>: Include an explanation of how, specifically, you plan to assess your students’ performance each day. For example, students may engage in low-stakes writing assignments, small group class summaries, quizzes, exams, etc. Describe both what you will assess and how. Make certain that your assessment is explicitly linked to specific course and assignment goals/objectives.
<p>Sample Response to Written Assignment / Exam / Project And Model Assessment of Sample Response</p>	<p>Create a sample response for at least one major writing assignment (essay, project, exam) included in the course plan. In addition, offer a sample assessment to demonstrate your approaches to responding to and grading student materials. Make certain that your assessment is explicitly linked to specific course and assignment goals/objectives.</p>

Researched Critical Essay(s)	Create a graduate-level researched critical essay (or essays) demonstrating your ability to analyze and connect the texts included in your course based on the theoretical and/or thematic approaches your course emphasizes. Your essay(s) should fill approximately 15 total pages, double-spaced.
Reflective Summary and Conclusion	In two or three single-spaced pages, summarize your main goals, how your course is designed to help you achieve those goals, what the major strengths of your course are, what troubles you might encounter in implementing the course, how your graduate work has influenced your course, and how your course design reflects and adheres to your philosophy of teaching.
Appendix	<p>Append the following documents (and include entries/annotations for each in the appropriate Annotated Bibliography):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of specific assignments completed for English 6569. (The instructor will indicate which materials to include.) • Copies of work completed for or received in any other graduate courses (in English and/or in Education) that relates to your project (i.e., seminar papers, exams, bibliographies, handouts, lecture or class notes, etc.). • Copies of any web-based materials your project borrows from or is informed by. When appropriate, include proof of your having secured the author's permission to use materials in your project / course.

* There is no set number of required annotated bibliography entries. Bibliography #1 should suggest an appropriate amount and type of content for the hypothetical course, and Bibliography #2 should demonstrate ample breadth and depth of knowledge related to your project. The M.Ed. Project Committee may ask that you add or replace texts in either bibliography.

M.A. and M.L.S.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION CRITERIA

- Students will successfully answer 3 of 4 questions on the exam and must pass at least one question from each of the two sections (British and American). A score of “Pass” must be decided by at least two of three professors on the student’s committee.
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with the English Department Graduate Reading List by addressing 7-8 of the listed works in each section of the exam.
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with major authors as represented in the Reading List, referring to styles, impact, influences, criticism, etc., in both sections of the exam.
- Students will demonstrate ability to synthesize texts from various literary periods, uniting the texts according to the suggested theme in the question. When the question does not present a basis for synthesis, the student must demonstrate a reasonable basis for linking the texts.
- Students will demonstrate comprehension of basic literary movements, eras, styles, genres, and figures, referring to such elements in at least 3 of 4 questions.
- Students will demonstrate competence in the use of grammatical conventions in standard edited English.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of their written examination during the oral examination, answering at least three quarters of oral questions successfully.
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with their course material during the oral examination and will successfully relate course material to the written and oral examinations.
- Students defending theses will satisfy committee questions throughout the defense and will demonstrate familiarity with related research and with how the present project connects with other work in the field.

MA criteria for Thesis I:

- The student will continue to develop skills learned in ENG 6576, Bibliography and Research.
- The student will apply methods of research learned in ENG 6576 and will demonstrate proficiency in completion of a full annotated bibliography in support of thesis topic.
- The student will apply critical and literary theory to the thesis as needed and as determined in consultation with the thesis director.
- The student will demonstrate independence and motivation in pursuing scholarship toward completion of the thesis.
- The student will demonstrate a working knowledge of each stage of the thesis, preferably arranged by chapter; the thesis director will measure this progress in meetings well before the midpoint of the semester.

The student's primary requirement will be to write a detailed prospectus outlining the thesis in its entirety. This prospectus should be from 12-15 pages long and will include an annotated bibliography and a chapter-by-chapter breakdown of the thesis. The student will also produce a timeline of completion objectives and will show initiative in arranging regular consultation with the thesis director. At the end of the course, the prospectus will be submitted through the thesis director to the Dean of the Graduate School for final approval.

The student's active participation in this course will have a significant impact on the final grade to be assigned for Thesis II. Attendance of meetings arranged by the thesis director is required. Final grade will also be affected by absences and tardiness for meetings and by failure to complete stages of the project by prearranged deadlines. Late work will not be accepted. (See appendix for handout on department policies for upper-level courses.)

MA criteria for Thesis II:

- The student will demonstrate mastery of academic writing in successfully proposing and arguing a unified response to an issue considered significant in the field of literary scholarship.
- The student will apply methods of research learned in ENG 6576 and will demonstrate proficiency in completing incremental stages of the thesis according to the schedule established in the pre-project meeting.
- The student will apply critical and literary theory to the thesis as needed and as determined in consultation with the thesis director.
- The student will apply and synthesize literary and critical texts and ideas throughout the completed thesis in response to a central scholarly concern established early in the first chapter.
- The student will demonstrate a working knowledge of each section of the thesis in an oral defense of one and a half hours and will respond to all revision suggestions so that the complete thesis is ready for final review at least one month before date of graduation.

The thesis shall be prepared in accordance with both current MLA guidelines and the MC Thesis Manual at the Graduate Studies homepage (<http://www.mc.edu/academics/graduate/forms/>).

VIII. DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS PROGRAM

Assistantships are available on a competitive basis for qualifying graduate students in the Master of Arts program. Since most assigned duties would correspond with daytime classes, applicants for the teaching assistantships must be available during regular work hours and sometimes in the evenings as needed (i.e., for assistance with the Writing Proficiency Examination and occasional department events). Further information and applications for teaching assistantships are available from the departmental graduate director (Dr Jim Everett, Jennings 313, Everett@mc.edu, 601-925-3937/3215).

Please refer to the campus M-drive for the following information: Grad Asst General Info, Hiring Procedures for Graduate Assistant, and New Grad Asst Packet. The information provided in this departmental graduate guide is designed to supplement, not replace, currently existing university information and policies.

The graduate teaching assistantship is designed to be a two-year program requiring from 15 to 20 hours of work per week; during the first year, teaching assistants (TA's) will be designated "GTA I" and will work closely with one or two mentoring professors from the department who are teaching the initial composition courses (ENG 101) or sophomore literature surveys (ENG 211, 212, or 213). TA's will not be automatically moved to "GTA II" status but may, based on teaching performance and evaluation by their mentoring professors, move to that level at the completion of the first year if departmental vacancies exist. Duties for GTA I include assisting the professor in preparing examinations and quizzes, grading papers, preparing class lectures, maintaining records, making class presentations, conducting lectures, and leading discussion groups. Additional duties for first-year TA's may include conducting research based on professor requests, assisting in departmental preparation for upcoming events, maintaining departmental records, proctoring Writing Proficiency Exams, and assisting in the Writing Center as needed. In order to be considered for GTA II status, TA's must complete 18 hours of graduate English credit by the beginning of their second academic year (in other words, by Fall semester of the second year in the program).

At the end of the TA's first year, the mentoring professor may nominate a GTA I for a GTA II position if the department has existing vacancies. Since availability of slots will vary from year to year based on university budget and departmental needs, movement to GTA II status should not be seen as automatic; hence, staying at GTA I level should also not be seen as indicative of any failure or lack of advancement on the part of the TA since the needs of the institution determine availability of positions. Duties of the GTA II may include any of the GTA I duties listed above but will also include teaching one or two classes for credit as instructor of record and/or as the person primarily responsible for assigning grades.

The departmental graduate director will monitor progress of all TA's and may call meetings or hold training sessions from time to time. These meetings should be seen as mandatory and will be based as reasonably as possible on schedule availability. In

addition, a second-year TA (or GTA II) will serve as primary point of contact for all TA's in GTA I status and will assist the graduate director in assigning research projects and departmental projects. This second-year TA will work in a liaison capacity to balance and distribute workload and requests from the graduate director and other department faculty.

First-year TA's will be assigned to mentoring faculty in the weeks before each Fall semester. Each TA will design and present a one-hour class unit for at least one class during the first semester and for at least three classes during the second semester. The mentoring professor will evaluate the TA's performance in the primary class of assignment for the first semester; for the second semester, the evaluation will extend also to the TA's visit to at least two additional class sessions in other sections in the department. The goal for the first-year TA program is to build up the TA's sense of comfort in their own classroom but also to initiate exposure to other classes and to other teaching styles.

The departmental graduate director will work closely with the department chair in assigning TA's to mentoring professors. The graduate director will work closely with the lead second-year TA in facilitating visits of TA's to various sections taught by other professors in the department.

IX. GRADUATE FACULTY

Dr. James Everett

Associate Professor of English and Director of Graduate Studies, English Department; B.A., B.S., M.A., M.S.C., Auburn University; Ph.D., University of Washington. Areas of Interest: Victorian Literature, Film, Travel Writing, literary theory.

Dr. Kerri Jordan

Associate Professor of English and Writing Program Director; B.A., M.A. Mississippi College; Ph.D., Louisiana State University. Areas of Interest: Composition theory and pedagogy, writing center theory and administration, creative writing, 20th Century Literature.

Prof. Susan Lassiter

Assistant Professor of English; B.A., M.A., Mississippi College. Areas of Interest: Short Fiction, "The Lost Generation": American Literature 1920-1945, Detective Fiction.

Dr. LuAnn Marrs

Associate Professor of English; B.A., M.A., University of Oklahoma; Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Areas of Interest: Restoration and 18th Century British Literature with specialization in the Age of Johnson, creative nonfiction, composition.

Dr. Kristi Richard Melancon

Assistant Professor of English; B.A., University of New Orleans; Ph.D, Louisiana State University. Areas of Interest: African American literacy, rhetoric and race, composition studies, periodical studies, civic engagement, curriculum theory.

Dr. David Miller

Associate Professor of English; B.A., Nyack College; M.A., Ph.D., Baylor University. Areas of Interest: Early American Literature, American Nineteenth Century, British Romantics, British Victorians, bibliography and research, creative writing, literary theory.

Dr. J.B. Potts

Associate Professor of English; B.A., University of Mississippi; M.A., University of Central Florida; Ph.D., University of South Carolina. Areas of Interest: Faulkner, Southern Literature, Modern/Postmodern Avante-Garde, African-American Literature.

Dr. Steven Price

Associate Professor of English and Director of the Writing Center; B.A., University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh; M.A., Arizona State University; Ph.D., Louisiana State University. Areas of interest: composition/writing center pedagogy and theory, discourse analysis, writing across the curriculum, eighteenth-century British literature.

Dr. Jonathan Randle

Associate Professor of English and Chair, English Department; B.A., Mississippi College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Cambridge. Areas of Interest: Old English Language and Literature, Middle English Language and Literature, Chaucer, epic literature.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Contact Information

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Dr. Jonathan Randle	Chair, Department of English	601.925.3215	randle@mc.edu	Jennings 301
	Graduate Office	601.925.3325	graduate@mc.edu	Nelson 202