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unl.edu/english/advising-office



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ENGLISH AT NEBRASKA

AN EDUCATION IN IMAGINATIVE REASONING



Andrews Hall, home to the Department of English

WELCOME to the DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The English first-year mentoring program is a joint effort between the English Undergraduate Advising Office and the English Student Advisory Board. All first-year English and Film Studies majors are encouraged to participate by enrolling in the 1-credit English 298 First-Year English Experience course. Through this course and related first-year events, English and Film Studies majors will develop a sense of belonging and learn about academic expectations in the major as they concentrate on their academic success.

The English mentoring program promotes success early on in the college experience by encouraging participation in academic activities and engagement in the department's mission of imaginative reasoning.

Imaginative reasoning is the ability to use the imagination to think hypothetically about the world in all its diversity—the past, present, and future, the local and the global. Such an ability, we believe, enables all of us to engage critically with

social and political phenomena because it allows us to re-envision what is possible and to dream up audacious solutions to seemingly insoluble problems, solutions that might at first seem implausible but, once dreamt up—once imagined—suddenly seem possible.

By participating in the peer mentoring program in the first year, undergraduates will have many opportunities to build strong relationships with faculty and with their English & Film Studies peers. Additionally, students will learn how to contribute to the intellectual life and creative activities of the department.

More on our mission:
[www.unl.edu/english/
mission-statement](http://www.unl.edu/english/mission-statement)

“It was the first time in my life someone had taken a sustained, focused interest in my intellectual life. As if I might have something worthwhile to say.”

—From “Where the Story Begins and Ends: Practically a Fairy Tale”, an essay on mentorship by Professor Joy Castro

“The challenge, these days, is to be somewhere as opposed to nowhere, actually to belong to some particular space, invest oneself in it, draw strength and courage from it, to dwell not simply in a career or a bank account but in a community.”

—bell hooks, **Belonging: A Culture of Place**

ENGL 298 FIRST-YEAR ENGLISH EXPERIENCE (1cr.)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- ☛ Read texts by the 2018-2019 visiting writers closely and attentively.
- ☛ Consider the significance of new ideas, texts, and literary practices in the context of your own life and the world, including your personal, academic, professional, and civic goals and purposes.
- ☛ Study the Dept. of English mission and understand how to take an active role in the work of the department.
- ☛ Consider the importance of cultural differences between yourself and your peers as well as those represented in the texts you study.
- ☛ Understand expectations for writing, critical thinking, participation, and engagement in English and Film Studies classes.
- ☛ Learn how to set educational goals and reflect on your own learning.
- ☛ Identify and take critical positions on texts and literacy practices with an understanding of what is at stake in assuming those positions.
- ☛ Develop appropriate vocabularies to present ideas in clear ways to peers and to faculty.
- ☛ Reflect on the value of mentorship.
- ☛ Attend required events for student engagement and development in English.

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Pursuing social justice
- Affirming diversity
- Engaging with a broad array of real and imagined communities based on empathetic understanding
- Fostering a sense of belonging
- Instilling a desire for civic engagement

KEY FEATURES OF BELONGING:

- Fostering an inclusive and welcoming department culture
- Involvement in department and campus activities
- Community investment in individual students
- Individual students reinvestment into the community

“College [is] about young people from scattered origins converging to live together... At the heart of this “collegiate way” [is] a concept of what might be called lateral learning—the proposition that students have something important to learn from one another.”

-Andrew Delbanco, College: What It Was, Is, and Should Be



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: REQUIRED EVENTS

First-year students enrolled in ENGL 298 and the English Freshmen mentoring program are required to attend four fall events:

✍ ESAB Freshmen Mentoring Welcome

August 24th
2:30-3:20pm

229 Andrews Hall (Bailey Library)
*Event held during ENGL 298 Class

✍ Roxane Gay Reading

October 4th
7:00pm

Nebraska Union: Centennial Room
<https://events.unl.edu/english/2018/10/04/126747/>

✍ Freshmen Advising for Spring

October 24th
3:00-6:30pm

229 Andrews Hall (Bailey Library)

✍ End-of-Semester Celebration

November 30th
2:30-3:20pm

229 Andrews Hall (Bailey Library)
*Event held during ENGL 298 Class

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED EVENTS:

Department Welcome

August 22nd

11:30-1:30pm

229 Andrews Hall (Bailey Library)

*Pick up free department t-shirt

Preparing for Graduate School: Application Ins & Outs

September (Date TBA)

12:30-1:30pm

229 Andrews Hall, Bailey Library

Resume Workshop

October 10th

5-6pm

229 Andrews Hall, Bailey Library

Humanities on the Edge Presents Kent A. Ono

October 11th

5:30-7:00pm

Sheldon Museum of Art

Study with ESAB

December 7th

3:45-5:00pm

229 Andrews Hall (Bailey Library)

*Event set after ENGL 298 Class

Knoll Lecture: Rigoberto Gonzales

March 12th

5:00-7:00pm

229 Andrews Hall (Bailey Library)

<https://events.unl.edu/english/2019/03/12/130090/>

Natasha Trethewey Talk

April 4th

7:00pm

<https://events.unl.edu/english/2019/04/04/129074/>



Amzie Dunekacke working on her undergraduate research in British Literature with Professor Laura White.

MEET OUR FACULTY COORDINATOR



Robert Lipscomb, PhD

English Student Advisory Board Faculty Coordinator
Dr. Lipscomb is a lecturer in literature and critical theory. Originally from Texas, he came to the University of Nebraska in 2011 after earning a BA and MA from the University of Texas at Arlington. His interests include twentieth and twenty-first century literature and critical theory with an emphasis on queer theory. In addition to his academic work, Dr. Lipscomb has invested in working with undergraduates in English. He is the recipient of the Chancellor's award for Outstanding Contributions to the GLBT community and has earned University and college teaching awards. He is proud to support this exceptional group of undergraduate mentors.

MEET OUR MENTORS



Hailey Fischer

Senior Film Studies major

Hailey is a senior English and Film Studies double major and Business minor from Loveland, Colorado. Two classes that helped define her major decision and career aspirations were English 239 Film Directors with Professor Gwendolyn Foster and English 355 The Editing and Publishing Industry with Dr. Beverly Rilett. Some of her faculty mentors are Kelly Payne, Dr. Beverly Rilett, and Prairie Schooner managing editor Ashley Strosnider. This will be Hailey's third year as a mentor, and she is really looking forward to meeting incoming English and Film Studies students as she enjoys helping

This year marks Hailey's third year as a mentor. Hailey can almost always be found studying and working around the Department of English's home, Andrews Hall.

them feel at home in Andrews and on campus. Hailey has interned for the Heritage Room for Nebraska Authors and Prairie Schooner. This summer she will intern for Brandt and Hochman Literary Agents in New York City. She plans to pursue a career in publishing after graduation, but her back-up plan is to become Batman.

Stay on top of the latest English News issues! Visit go.unl.edu/englishnews



Zainab Saleh

Senior English major

Zainab is a senior Pre-Law English major and a Psychology minor. When it came to choosing English as her major, Chicano/Chicana Literature (taught by Dr. Amelia Montes at the time) convinced her that English is her passion. Learning about ethnicity through literature is something Zainab is passionate about and hopes to use when mentoring freshmen. Dr. Kelly Payne has been a mentor throughout the course of her junior year, allowing her to serve as the Spring 2018 English Advising Intern. Zainab is currently continuing her love for English as the student worker for the English Advising Office. She is looking forward to finishing her senior year English studies and finding out which law school she will be attending. She hopes to attend law school in the fall of 2019 to become an immigration or family lawyer. In her free time, Zainab enjoys reading and watching Grey's Anatomy (for the seventh time). She also looks forward to welcoming English and Film Studies students into the department!

This fall will be Zainab's second semester as a mentor. Zainab's favorite place to study on campus is outside of Love Library under the trees. Close to Andrews Hall, the green area serves as a quiet space to get work done.



Kelsey Conrad Junior English major

Kelsey is a junior from Papillion, Nebraska majoring in English with minors in Digital Humanities and French. She loves reading and writing, and after graduation she hopes to work as a literary agent. Her favorite book is *The Princess Bride*, and she firmly believes that coffee deserves to be recognized as its own food group. So far, her favorite class that she has taken has been Being Human in a Digital Age. Kelsey thinks the best way to experience college is to be as involved as possible. She has edited with Laurus, interned with the Heritage Room, played trumpet for Big Red Express and the Cornhusker Marching Band, and she is also in Kappa Kappa Psi. Kelsey feels lucky to have several mentors from the English department at UNL who can point her toward ways to gain experience. She is excited to work with first-year students who are looking to make the most of their time at UNL!

This fall will be Kelsey's second semester as a mentor. Kelsey's favorite study spot happens to be in the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center. There's a great view of the Green Space and comfy chairs all around.



Lee Kenny Senior English major

Lee is a senior English and Psychology major with a minor in Math. She hopes to pursue a career in helping disadvantaged youth, whether through teaching, writing, or social work. She stays busy serving as the Vice President of Operations for Kappa Delta, working at the Writing Center, copy-editing at the Daily Nebraskan, volunteering with the Writers Lincoln Initiative with Mark of Honor, and loving leadership as a senior

This fall will be Lee's third semester as a mentor.

counselor for NHRI. In her free time, she loves to watch Parks and Recreation. Her friends describe her as “a weird combination between Leslie Knope and April Ludgate.” Her favorite classes have been Composition and Rhetoric classes taught by Katie McWain and Dr. Shari Stenberg. She encourages all students to get to know their professors, because her professors have given her many opportunities and taught her to love fields of English she had not even considered! As a peer mentor, she is excited to form relationships with students in the department and encourage learning to accomplish her favorite part of the English department’s mission statement — “we help students develop their capacities in imaginative reasoning so that in their lives as citizens of the world and members of their local communities they can discern connections and synthesize across seemingly incommensurable ideas or beliefs.”



Alexandria Ahlers-Prince Senior English major

Alex is a senior this year, finishing up with both of her English and Film Studies majors, as well as a minor in Business. After graduating, Alex is considering pursuing careers in the Non-Profit realm, particularly organizations focusing on film. She came to UNL knowing she wanted an English degree. It was after taking Intro to Film in her sophomore year that she felt a double major would suit her best. In her free time, Alex enjoys watching films and reading books from her never-ending to watch/read list, as well as traveling whenever she gets a chance. She is very excited to be able to work with freshmen as they begin their college career.

This fall will be Alex's first semester as a mentor. Alex's favorite study spot is the second floor of Love Library. It is a quiet space that has comfy chairs to help students feel productive.



Mitchell Evans

Junior English major

Mitchell is currently a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is currently studying English with a minor in Psychology. He is from Grand Island, Nebraska and came to the university his freshman year to study Education, but switched to English the second semester of his freshman year so that he could foster his love for English. One of his favorite classes is LGBT Literature and Film, taught by one of his favorite professors, Robert Lipscomb. After graduation, Mitchell plans on working either in the journalism field or for a publishing house. When he isn't in class, he's either at work, in the library, or at an event somewhere in Lincoln. His hobbies include being at the rec center, reading, listening to or practicing music, and watching Netflix. Mitchell likes to surround himself with people who are as enthusiastic about literature as he is!

This fall will be Mitch's first semester as a mentor. Mitch's favorite study spot is in Love Library South. The busy environment and Dunkin' Donuts is a popular study spot for many students.



Olivia Schmitz

Sophomore English major

Olivia is a sophomore English major with a minor in Japanese. She is originally from Traverse City, Michigan but has grown up a Cornhusker her whole life. Fiction writing is her passion, but really she just loves anything to do with words and/or stories! In her free time, she loves to watch movies, play video games, hang out with friends, and play tennis. Some of Olivia's favorite UNL English classes so far include Science Fiction (ENGL 206) and Intro to English Studies (ENGL 200). If she could marry a book, she would marry *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak. Olivia is super excited to meet new Film Studies and English majors and geek out together.

This fall will be Olivia's first semester as a mentor. Olivia's favorite study spot is using one of the reservable study rooms in the Learning Commons. "My friends and I utilize them often so that we can study together without disturbing others. When the weather's nice, though, I enjoy sitting outside of Love Library and soaking in the sunshine."

STUDY SPOTS AND RESOURCES FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS:

‡ UNL Writing Center: <https://www.unl.edu/writing/home>

‡ Learning Commons: <https://libraries.unl.edu/learning-commons>

‡ Love Library Study Places (Quiet and Talkative Areas): <https://libraries.unl.edu/love-study-places>

‡ UNL City Union: <https://unions.unl.edu/city>



Vanessa Tym

Sophomore English major

I'm from Bristol, Wisconsin studying English with three minors in Theatre, History, and Medieval & Renaissance Studies. This was the correct path because when taking English 252, I was allowed to explore my abilities as a writer. (I was told what I was doing correctly and what I could change to further enhance my stories.) Other English contacts who significantly

This fall will be Vanessa's first semester as a mentor. Vanessa's favorite study spot is on the green in front of the City Union, a place to study on nice Nebraska days!

helped me throughout my freshmen year was my English Mentor, Gabby. She worked with me and got to know me and my goals. I look forward to knowing students who are as passionate as I am about their studies and ambitions in life. I wish to get to know more individuals and grow myself because of them. During the summer, I work as an actor at the Bristol Renaissance Faire and in my free time, I like to read and write fiction, watch Netflix, draw, play soccer, or listen to music.



This fall will be Simone's first semester as a mentor. Simone's favorite study spot is in the basement of Love Library. The quiet work and study area helps students get their studying done with no distractions. Also, who doesn't love coffee and a quiet space?

Simone Droge

Junior English major

I am a third-year student from Madison, SD, majoring in English and History and minoring in Women's and Gender Studies and Digital Humanities. In the future, I hope to go to law school. Throughout my time here, I have found a second home in the English department. I have had the privilege of learning from several department faculty members who are highly respected in their field and am particularly close with some—including Dr. Shari Stenberg. This past year, I have been working in the Writing Center and this next year I have been given the opportunity to work in the Willa Cather Archives. Having a mentor was so valuable to me as a first-year student, and I

am looking forward to mentoring students myself. During my free time I enjoy going to local coffee shops, binge-watching the first seasons of Netflix series, and going to concerts.



This fall will be Joseph's first semester as a mentor. Joseph's favorite study spot is near the fountain in front of the Nebraska City Union. There's a great view of the ducks and the water is calming when students are studying!

Joseph Ambbs

Junior English major

I'm an English and Film Studies major in my second year at Nebraska. I'm from the small town of Manchester nestled in the rolling hills of Maryland. I love stories, which is why I am so drawn to reading and film. I love to travel around and immerse myself in nature. In the summer I often take 3-or 4-day hikes in the mountains of Pennsylvania. After I graduate here I plan to go to grad school and pick up my masters. I'm very much looking forward to next year, meeting new people, being exposed to challenging ideas, and of course learning new and interesting things. If you like film, history, outdoors, or rugby then we will probably be best friends.



Cassidy Gillespie

Junior English major

I come from small town Battle Creek, Nebraska and first attended the University of Nebraska as an undecided student. After realizing that studying English was my true passion, I declared it as my major. I am also pursuing minors in psychology and business. Taking Engl 300 with Kelly Payne really confirmed my decision.

This fall will be Cassidy's first semester as a mentor. Cassidy's favorite study spot is the south side wall of Love Library where the bookshelves hide study desks/cubbies that look out onto downtown. "You get your own space, which I think is very relaxing and helps you actually get work done!"

The class explored various professional practices and career fields open to majors and shared the stories of past students. As a mentor, I look forward to sharing my own story to help students explore their interests and develop skills. This summer I'm interning abroad in London and can't wait to experience the city and its culture. In the future I plan on going into publishing, but right now I'm focused on exploring more of the amazing opportunities the English department has to offer. To no one's surprise, I enjoy reading (especially YA series) and watch way too much TV (Supernatural). I am also a Marvel movie maniac and can talk about it for hours.



Nina Hjermsstad

Senior English major

I was raised in a small town called Louisville, Nebraska. I am an English major and an Art History minor. My favorite classes include those involving creative writing and critical theory. Throughout my academic career Professor Shari Stenberg and Professor Kelly Payne have been my most supportive faculty mentors, helping me to gain recognition for my writing and to find opportunities such as speaking at conferences and studying abroad. As a mentor, I hope to help other students

recognize their passions and set goals to achieve during their time at UNL. When I'm not writing, I'm playing roller derby, crocheting something nerdy, or rock climbing at the Outdoor Adventure Center.

MORE FIRST YEAR RESOURCES

Department of English

202 Andrews Hall
Lincoln NE 68588-0333
402-472-3191

College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center

107 Oldfather Hall
Lincoln NE 68588-0312
402-472-4190

First-Year Experience and Transition Programs

Love South 127
Lincoln, NE 68588-4109
402-472-1880

Career Services

225 Nebraska Union
Lincoln, NE 68588-0451
402-472-3145

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

1500 U St.
Lincoln, NE 68588-0618
402-472-5000
uhc@unl.edu

***If you are experiencing a mental crisis, calls CAPS for a crisis appointment or call 911, or campus police at (402)-472-2222.**

“Mentoring is associated with positive personal and career outcomes... Mentored individuals also are more likely to mentor others.”

-W. Brad Johnson & Charles R. Ridley, The Elements of Mentoring

