The English Community at West Point

Zengerle Family Lecture in the Arts and Humanities
Creative Arts Project
Partnership with Hudson Valley Shakespeare Company
Evening Drama Performances
AIADs (various global locations and themes)
Circle in the Spiral (Cadet Creative Writing Publication)
Undergraduate Conferences
West Point Writing Center Fellows Program
African American Arts Forum
Creative Writing Forum
Elsie Sannes-Pinnell Art Appreciation Forum
Trip Sections to NYC (Libraries, Theaters, etc)
Works in Progress Colloquium
Social Events for English Majors and Faculty

Our English Faculty have studied at:

The University of Pennsylvania
Stanford
Columbia
The University of Virginia
The University of Edinburgh
Notre Dame
Loyola
The University of Texas
The University of Michigan
Yale
The University of Tennessee
NYU

"It is to the skills and lessons I acquired in the study of art, philosophy, and literature that I turned most frequently and used each and every day to understand, to communicate, to educate, and to motivate others in helping me accomplish my military responsibilities."

GEN(Ret) Eric Shinseki, ’65, former Chief of Staff of the Army and former faculty member of the Department of English and Philosophy.

"My time at Duke [studying literature] was an intellectual oasis after a long march. It allowed me time to broaden my perspective from the confines of military life and open it to another world, full of new ideas, viewpoints, issues and stories which helped me develop."

GEN(Ret) Martin Dempsey, ’74, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and former faculty member in the Department of English and Philosophy.

Visit us online at: http://www.usma.edu/dep/SitePages/default.aspx
Or on Facebook: Department-of-English-and-Philosophy-USMA

The Major in English

United States Military Academy
West Point, New York
**Why Major in English?**

With a true appreciation of our diverse world, English majors are prepared to negotiate the problems facing twenty-first-century leaders. The study of literature moves beyond simple awareness of other perspectives and equips students with the skills they need to engage with other cultures. The resulting understanding of humanity and culture is a vital contributor to success in the military profession. The study of literature fosters essential leadership skills including critical thought, clear and persuasive communication, creativity, and ethical awareness. By engaging with the diversity that characterizes the human condition, English majors are ready to solve problems creatively and also to communicate their ideas and solutions clearly and persuasively — talents essential to a meaningful life of service.

**Literature Matters.**

From issues of civic responsibility to the lasting impact of colonial rule to current race relations, the range of topics in English is boundless. Armed with a variety of critical lenses through which to examine literature, English majors not only solve problems but do so creatively. Not only do majors gain an ability to interpret a variety of texts, but they engage with vital cultural, sociological, and political issues represented in literature.

**A Sample of Course Offerings**

- Ancient to Early Modern Literature
- Contemporary Literature
- Literary Methodologies
- Film and Film Theory
- American Literature I and II
- British Literature I and II
- World Literature
- War Literature
- Romanticism
- Violence and Irish Literature
- Literature and the Great War
- The Novel
- Power and Difference
- Criticism
- Shakespeare
- Drama
- Poetry
- Senior Seminar
- Senior Thesis I and II