INTRODUCTION

The program in Literature (LITT) asks majors to consider diverse literary heritages: course offerings encompass British, European, American, and global literatures—from ancient Greece to the twenty-first century—as well as creative writing. The program is at once skills-based, emphasizing critical thinking and writing, and committed to the interdisciplinary study of literature as a serious intellectual pursuit.

WHY STUDY LITERATURE AT RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE?

Career opportunities: Employers today value strong writing, communication, and analytical skills. These skills are the foundation of a B.A. in Literature at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

The program prepares students for a range of career paths, including careers in education, law, journalism, publishing, web-based communications, advertising, public relations, civil service, and non-profit and higher education administration. The degree also prepares students for graduate studies in literature or creative writing as well as law or library and information science.

The Literature program encourages its majors to pursue at least one term of study abroad or one term of internship (e.g., the Washington Internship). Of schools not located in the District of Columbia, Stockton has the largest Washington Internship program of any college or university in the country. The full-semester internship for 12 credits can be a useful tool for gaining career experience and contacts. A sample of previous placements for majors in Literature includes internships with the United Press International’s Capitol Hill Investigative Reporter, The National Journal, The Hill Rag, and D.C. Public Defender, as well as congressional and executive offices.
A comparative, global curriculum: The Literature program offers students a relevant curriculum of courses, including creative writing as well as global, multicultural, and interdisciplinary offerings. We emphasize language and cultural studies.

Intellectual rigor and student success: The Literature program is proud to count a number of valedictorians, many recipients of Distinguished Student Fellowships, and published authors among its majors. The faculty is committed to each student’s success.

Texts and technology: Our program emphasizes digital media research and production and offers students innovative opportunities to participate in faculty-led digital scholarship, such as the Stockton Postcolonial Project (https://blogs.stockton.edu/postcolonialstudies/) and the Franz Kain Project (http://www.stockton.edu/franzkain/Franz_Kain/FK___Aust_Lit..html). Literature students are also encouraged to participate in the South Jersey Culture & History Center (http://wp.stockton.edu/sjchc/), devoted to the study and dissemination of texts connected with South Jersey, and the South Jersey Center for Digital Humanities (dh.stockton.edu), designed to facilitate participation among the Stockton community in the emerging field of digital humanities.

Active student engagement: Our program prides itself on involving students in writing and research. Many of our students give presentations at local and professional conferences. The program maintains an active chapter of the international honor society Sigma Tau Delta as well as the literature club, Idols of the Tribe. The program brings students, faculty,
and alumni together for career workshops, meet-and-greet information gatherings, graduate school application workshops, and the annual LITT Bash, a large party to honor outstanding student work and celebrate the completion of the academic year.

The Literature program also sponsors the Visiting Writers Series: public readings by poets, novelists, and non-fiction authors with local, national, and international reputations. Past visiting writers include Jeffrey Eugenides, Sharon Olds, Marilyn Nelson, Marie Howe, Tony Hoagland, Mark Strand, Alicia Ostriker, and Mark Doty. We also publish a student-run journal, Stockpot.

Our Facebook, The LITT Program at RSCNJ (https://www.facebook.com/LITTatStockton), and Twitter, @litrcnj, pages inform students and alumni of upcoming campus events and feature interesting information from the world of literature.

CURRICULUM ORGANIZATION

The program is composed of four concentrations: Literary Studies, Creative Writing, Theatre/English, and Secondary English Certification. Two core courses are common to all concentrations: Introduction to Research in Literature (LITT 2123) and Senior Seminar (LITT 4610). Additionally, all students take one designated “literary interpretation course” at Stockton. In all concentrations, students will learn how to read texts critically, how to identify the qualities of the traditional genres in Western literature, how to complete literary research using printed and electronic sources, and how to recognize continuity and paradigm shifts in literature. Most students will also study the three main streams of Western literature—European, British, and American. As juniors and seniors, students will enroll in several seminars where they will be asked to synthesize this knowledge. A Language or Cultural Studies component is required for the Literary Studies, Secondary Education English Certification, and Creative Writing concentrations. Detailed requirements can be referenced at http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/academicAdv/content/docs/HUM.pdf

The Literary Studies concentration: Literature is the focus of this concentration. The concentration prepares students for professions in which critical analysis, close reading, and strong writing skills are valued, such as publishing, advertising, journalism, education, business, web-based communications, civil service, and non-profit and higher education
administration, and for graduate work in English studies or related fields (cultural studies, library science, rhetoric and composition, library and information studies, law, etc.). The concentration is designed so such students receive a curriculum of breadth over all types and periods of literature and depth in various periods, authors, or theoretical approaches. All students in this concentration take at least one literary interpretation course, one course in American literature, one course in US Ethnic/Postcolonial literature, Shakespeare, one upper level course focused on pre-1800 literature, and one course in British literature.

The Creative Writing concentration: This concentration is designed for students who are interested in developing creative writing skills. Students choosing this concentration take, in addition to literature courses, a variety of creative writing courses to develop their style, technique, and range of writing. All students take Introduction to Creative Writing (LITT 2237), two creative writing electives, the Craft and Theory Workshop, and two advanced workshops in poetry and/or fiction. Some students may opt to do a creative thesis instead of senior seminar. Elective writing classes include travel writing, play writing, humor writing, creative non-fiction, speculative fiction, experimental writing, nature writing, flash fiction, and more.

The Theatre/English concentration: This concentration is designed for students wishing to combine the study of literature and the physical theatre. Students fulfill two sets of requirements: one in Literature (LITT) and the other in Theatre (THTR). Students wishing to teach high school English and drama should consult the School of Education about requirements for certification/endorsement in that area.

The Secondary Education English Certification track: This concentration is for students seeking a Literature degree with certification in English for secondary education. Degree completion with English certification requires a minimum of 130-143 credit hours. Students in this concentration satisfy both Literature Program and Teacher Education Program requirements. All students in this concentration consult a Literature and an Education preceptor for guidance.
Note about Education Certification: Students pursuing K-12 teaching certifications, whether in elementary/middle school instruction or in secondary English teaching, meet the requirements of both the LITT and the EDUC programs, along with other State-mandated requirements. See the School of Education’s website (http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=84&pageID=1) for complete requirements for teacher licensure.

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

The Literature program is open to any student with an interest in literature, creative writing, theatre, or secondary English certification. There are no specific entrance requirements beyond acceptance to the College. Students in the Secondary English certification concentration should consult with the EDUC program for complete application and licensure requirements.

The primary medium of the program is language; the faculty assumes that those wishing to pursue a LITT degree will be proficient in their own use of language—reading, writing, and speaking—since courses in LITT demand a substantial exercise of these skills.

Students wishing to major in the program are encouraged to declare their intentions by the beginning of their sophomore year if possible, but definitely before the beginning of their junior year. Students intending to major in Literature are encouraged to consult with a faculty member of the program. That person will describe requirements and may recommend a preceptor. For more information about the Literature program, visit our webpage at http://wp.stockton.edu/literature

THE MINOR

The Literature program offers a minor for students who are interested in literature but are majoring in another field. To minor in Literature, students complete five LITT courses with a grade of C or better: one course at the 1000 or 2000 level, one “literary interpretation” course, LITT 2123, and two courses at the 3000 level or above. Students consult with a faculty member of the program to review and help plan a coherent selection of courses.

SCHOLARSHIPS, CLUBS, AND HONOR SOCIETIES

The program maintains an active chapter of the international honor society Sigma Tau Delta as well as a non-honors literature club. Information regarding scholarship opportunities and participation in student clubs and honor societies is available at www.stockton.edu/arhu

www.stockton.edu/arhu
STOCKTON’S LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Living Learning Communities (LLCs) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey give students a unique, inclusive residential learning experience that connects classroom learning with residential life. First-year students enjoy all of the advantages of living on campus in a residence community, with the added benefit of living among a group that shares academic goals and interests. Stockton’s Living Learning Communities include: Honors, Nursing, Political Engagement, Sustainability, and Writing.
THE FACULTY

Deborah Gussman
Ph.D. (Rutgers, the State University)
Associate Professor of Literature: colonial and 19th-century American literature, American Indian literature, women’s literature and feminist studies.
609-652-4657
Deborah.Gussman@stockton.edu

Adalaine B. Holton
Ph.D. (University of California, Santa Cruz)
Associate Professor of Literature: 19th- and 20th-century American literature, African-American literature.
609-652-4594
Adalaine.Holton@stockton.edu

Lisa Honaker
Ph.D. (Rutgers, The State University)
Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities; Professor of Literature: 19th- and 20th-century British literature, detective fiction, rhetoric and composition, media analysis, environmental literature.
609-652-4505
Lisa.Honaker@stockton.edu

Marion Hussong
Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania)
Professor of Literature and Holocaust and Genocide Studies: genocide and literature, European literature, German and Austrian Literature, children’s literature, art and literature.
609-652-4554
Marion.Hussong@stockton.edu

Kristin J. Jacobson
Ph.D. (The Pennsylvania State University)
Associate Professor of Literature: 20th- and 21st-century American literature and culture, popular culture, feminist theory and pedagogy, environmental and geographical approaches to literature, ecofeminism.
609-626-5581
Kristin.Jacobson@stockton.edu

Cynthia King
Ph.D. (University of Cincinnati)
Associate Professor of Creative Writing: 20th-century American literature, Asian-American literature, poetry.
609-626-6089
Cynthia.King@stockton.edu
Thomas E. Kinsella
Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania)
Professor of Literature: Restoration and 18th-century British literature, Milton, history of the book, medieval Irish literature, grammar and punctuation.
609-652-4419
Kinsella@earthlink.net

Adeline Koh
Ph.D. (University of Michigan at Ann Arbor)
Assistant Professor of Literature: 20th-century British literature, postcolonial and Anglophone literature, Southeast Asian literature, international feminism, film and visual culture, digital humanities.
609-626-6845
Adeline.Koh@stockton.edu

Nathan A. Long
MFA (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Associate Professor of Creative Writing: creative writing, fiction, personal essay, autobiography, contemporary literature, flash fiction, queer literature and theory, gender and sexuality.
609-652-4887
longn@stockton.edu

Adam Miyashiro
Ph.D. (The Pennsylvania State University)
Assistant Professor of Literature: comparative medieval literature, Old and Middle English, Old French and Anglo-Norman literature, Mediterranean Studies, historiography, travel narratives, Arthurian literature, postcolonial theory.
609-626-6020
Adam.Miyashiro@stockton.edu

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Stephen Dunn
M.A. (Syracuse University)
Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing: poetry and fiction, contemporary world poetry, 20th-century American literature.

Kenneth Tompkins
Ph.D. (Indiana University)
Professor Emeritus of Literature: medieval literature, Chaucer, 15th- and 16th century literature, Shakespeare, computer 3D art, digital humanities.
Literature Program

For additional information and application materials:
The School of Arts and Humanities • www.stockton.edu/arhu
Phone: 609.652.4505
E-mail: ARHU@stockton.edu

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
The School of Arts and Humanities
Literature Program
101 Vera King Farris Drive
Galloway, New Jersey 08205-9441

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