

How to Choose an Introductory English Course

Most Yale College students take at least one English course at some point during their college career—and it is a great idea for everyone.

English courses provide many benefits to first-year students in particular.

1. It's good to get **extra writing support** at the start of your college career, and the English Department has a deep commitment to teaching writing. All English courses (except creative writing) carry the WR designation, and all English instructors are dedicated, experienced, talented teachers of writing, as well as writers themselves.
2. Introductory classes in English are **small, discussion-based seminars**. You will receive regular feedback on your writing and get to know your professor and classmates well. This can provide a welcome contrast to large introductory lectures.
3. English courses offer the chance to think in new ways about a wide variety of subjects while reading **some of the best writing in the English language**. Good readers make good writers; if you have an interest in writing in any field, there are few places better to start than the close and careful study of literature.

How should you choose the English course that is right for you?

The English Department offers a range of introductory courses appropriate for first-year students, ENGL 114-ENGL 130. Please read through the descriptions and choose the one that best serves your interests and goals.

ENGL 114 and ENGL 115 provide concentrated, nuts-and-bolts instruction in writing. They are seminars designed for the majority of first-years to introduce them to college-level critical analysis and modes of academic argumentation. Taking ENGL 114 or ENGL 115 in your first year will pay benefits to your writing throughout your Yale career.

ENGL 120-123 offer workshops in a range of creative and nonacademic genres and the excitement of writing in new modes. (ENGL 123 does not satisfy the WR.)

ENGL 125-130 provide wide-ranging introductions to literature and are designed for first-years who think they might go on to do advanced work in the humanities at Yale, whether as majors or nonmajors. ENGL 129-130 offer readings similar to DS Lit, without a commitment to the whole DS curriculum. ENGL 125-128 are especially recommended for students considering a major in English. Taking a foundational course will help you decide if the English Department is right for you—and, if you ultimately decide to major in English, the credit will help you fulfill your requirements.

For more information, see <http://catalog.yale.edu/first-year-student-handbook/academic-information/programs-study/english-language-literature/>