

# MAJOR NEWS!

Office of Undergraduate Studies  
Department of English

## A Note From The Director...

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Dear Students,

Registration is upon us! If you have an empty space in your schedule, keep reading to learn more about some of our great classes.

As the days get shorter, start thinking about ... summer! For members of **Sigma Tau Delta**, the honor society offers a paid internship - either virtual or in-person - at the [Library of Congress](#). Whether you want to be in DC physically or virtually, we encourage all of you to apply for this exciting chance to work at the world's largest library. (Even if you have no interest in the internship, check out the **Library of Congress** because it is one of the coolest things ever!)

We are always looking for writers and would love your feedback on how to improve the newsletter. Email us at [english@uic.edu](mailto:english@uic.edu).

Sincerely,

Kate Boulay, Ph.D.  
Director, Undergraduate Studies  
[kboulay@uic.edu](mailto:kboulay@uic.edu)

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## The English Club



Join us for our **last general body meeting of Fall 2024**. We meet in **UH 1850 at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, November 6**. Pizza will be served!

Join our [GroupMe](#) for updates on all events.

## Spring 2025 Courses

### KNOW ANYTHING.

(it's all there, you just have to find it.)



Examine how literary and visual art have blended to create an art form rich with history and social criticism.

#### GRAPHIC NOVELS

ENGL 237

#### ENGL 237 Graphic Novels

CRN: 48034

Day/Time: TR 2:00-3:15

Professor James Drown

This class in the graphic novel will begin by examining some basic questions such as, “What is a graphic novel,” and “How do we read and understand graphic novels.” We will begin by grounding our exploration with texts about comics, such as *Understanding Comics* by Scott McCloud and Comics. We will then move on and examine questions like, “How have graphic novels reflected our society,” “Is there a literary Canon of Graphic Novels,” and “Why and how have they become an important and recognized literary form?” Readings will focus on work produced since the 1960’s and include both full graphic novels and specific selections. Additionally, while we are mainly interested in American Graphic Novels, we will include some influential works from Japan and Europe. Examples of International graphic novels we may examine for the course include *Tintin* by Herge, works by Osamu Tezuka (*Astroboy*), and *My Brother’s Husband* by Gengoroh Tagame. American graphic novels will include both literary and populist works, such as *Maus* by Art Spiegelman, *Black Orchid* by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean, *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan, *Black Panther* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Cartoonist* by Adrian Tomine. Assignments will include online discussion boards, weekly journals, midterm and final, and an independent research paper/presentation examining a specific graphic novel.

Fulfills Creative Arts General Education requirement.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)  
Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)

**ENGL 238 Fiction, Sci-Fi, & Fantasy**  
**CRN: 48035**  
**Day/Time: MWF 12:00-12:50**  
**Professor Jennifer Lewis**

Snow White retold as a contemporary tale of family secrets and racial politics. A magical town in which incredible events are incredibly mundane. A post-pandemic world where our civilization has been obliterated and transformed. All of these are stories that fall under the umbrella of speculative literature. Speculative literature works by imagining or speculating about a world very different than our own, with different and sometimes inexplicable rules and features including things like magic, non-human characters, or advanced science. In this course, we will explore the stories described above in order to delineate the literary strategies that distinguish three sub-genres of speculative literature: fabulism, magical realism, and science fiction. And though the speculative is typically associated with fiction and storytelling, we will consider whether it might apply to poetry as well. In our exploration of poetry we will encounter poems that enter haunted houses, that use science as metaphors for political unrest, and that use magical thinking to make reality look like dreams. What will we read? A mix of novels, short stories and poetry by authors such as Helen Oyeyemi, Daniel Orozco, Kazuo Ishiguro, Ted Chiang, Mary Shelley, Zachary Schomburg, Colson Whitehead.

Fulfills Creative Arts General Education requirement.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)  
Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)

**IMAGINE A  
DIFFERENT WORLD.**  
(because you can.)

How do writers use speculative fiction to challenge what we know about the past and change the future? Join the conversation.

**SPECULATIVE FICTION,  
SCI-FI, & FANTASY**  
**ENGL 238**

# TESTIFY.

(girl what a beautiful day.)



Study the history of different English dialects like Spanglish, African American Vernacular English, Appalachian English, and American Creole.

## THE GRAMMAR AND STYLE OF NON-STANDARD ENGLISHES IN THE US ENGL 258

### ENGL 258 Grammar and Style of Nonstandard Englishes in the U.S.

CRN: 46502

Day/Time: TR 2:00-3:15

Professor Doug Sheldon

Are you interested in language and writing as a call for justice? Well ENGL 258 will give you the knowledge and skill to read, critique, and create writing that uses the history of “American Grammar” as your starting point. Come see how grammar evolved into a political animal and how it influences policy, education, and your daily communication!

This course is ideal for English, Pre-Law, Education, and Professional Writing, Language, and Communications Students.

Fulfills Individual & Society General Education requirement. Fulfills US Society General Education requirement.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to register? [Enroll here.](#)

## Sigma Tau Delta

Apply now for an internship stipend!

Sigma Tau Delta offers funding for current undergraduate student members accepting internships for which their expenses exceed what they will be paid. Sigma Tau Delta will not cover expenses related to tuition and/or student fees. The [Internship Stipend](#) is a competitive program providing a limited number of stipends of up to \$1,500 each.

Applications for the Internship Stipend will be accepted through **November 11, 2024, 4:00 p.m. CT.**



# UIC Student Affairs Scholarships

**UIC Student Affairs** has opened its application process for scholarships to **support continuing students during the 2025-2026 academic year**. Applications are now available for **over 30 competitive scholarships** for students across colleges and academic disciplines.

Students can log in to the [UIC SnAP portal](#) to review the specific requirements of each scholarship. Students must submit a [General Application](#) in the portal before addressing criteria specific to each scholarship. **The deadline for applications is Jan. 28, 2025**. It is recommended that students visit UIC SnAP well in advance of the deadline to participate in this scholarship process.

## **The UIC Student Affairs scholarship opportunities include:**

- \*David and Mary Keren Scholarship
- \*Dr. Thomas Beckham Memorial Scholarship
- \*Eileen and Michael Tanner Scholarship Award
- \*Eleanor Daley Scholarship
- \*Elise Malary Memorial Scholarship for LGBTQIA+ — Undergraduate Students Fund
- \*Ethel Bohlen Scholarship
- \*Fred Garcia Award
- \*Gordon J. Flesch Memorial Scholarship
- \*Hassan Mustafa Abdallah Memorial Scholarship
- \*Jim's Original Scholarship
- \*Michael J Lewis Scholarship
- \*Navy Pier Scholarship
- \*Noveline Delk Kennedy Scholarship
- \*Ram Lal Seekri Scholarship
- \*Rundgren Foundation Scholarship
- \*Supporting Excellence Endowment (S.E.E.) Scholarship
- \*Tadao Murata Undergraduate Scholarship
- \*Undergraduate — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship
- \*Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Scholarship

If you have questions about the scholarships or the application process, contact the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office at [scholarshiphelp@uic.edu](mailto:scholarshiphelp@uic.edu).

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## Arab American Cultural Center Film Series

NADI AL-CINEMA (FILM SERIES)



Arab American Cultural Center

JOIN US FOR FILM SCREENINGS AND DISCUSSIONS - FALL 2024

WED. Oct 23 @ 3 pm  
@ 101 TAFT HALL

*A Summer Not to Forget*  
صيف لا ينسى

A documentary film by Carol Mansour about the war on Lebanon in 2006



TUES. Oct 29 @ 5 pm  
@ 101 TAFT HALL

*FORAGERS* اليد الخضراء

A documentary film by Jumana Manna about the practice of foraging for wild plants in Palestine

in collaboration with  
The Global Middle East Studies Minor

TUES. Nov 12 @ 5 pm  
@ INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITIES - BSB 153

*A Feeling Greater than Love*  
شعور أكبر من الحب

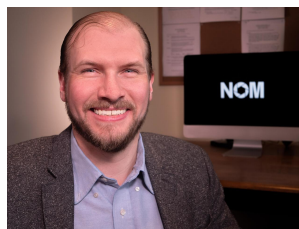
An essay film by Mary Jirmanus Saba about a forgotten revolution of the worker strikes at Lebanese tobacco and Gandour chocolate factories in the 70s.

in collaboration with  
Department of History &  
The Global Middle East Studies Minor



For questions and accessibility,  
email: [arabamcc@uic.edu](mailto:arabamcc@uic.edu)

## UIC English Alums



### Meet Nathan Oelker

Nathan Oelker graduated in December 2014 with a degree in English. Nearly a decade later, he runs his own business, Nathan Oelker Media, LLC, where he produces client and narrative media projects including

photoshoots, promotional videos, live events, and short films.

Early on, Oelker found he excelled at English and recognized its professional applications. Like many students looking to follow their dreams of working for themselves, he took ENGL 493: Media and Professional Writing, and completed the internship associated with the course. This was before the advent of the Professional Writing minor which, Oelker says, he would have selected had it been available. Instead, he made do with the Media, Rhetorical and Cultural Studies concentration where, alongside other English courses, he learned the research, analytical, and communication skills that have helped him dramatically in his career. He says, "If you can write an essay or sufficiently answer exam questions about Romantic literature, you can begin to understand what a client is talking about, distill their ideas into specific action steps, and teach yourself how to deliver their scope."

For English majors and minors soon to enter the workforce, Oelker cautions, "Don't restrict yourself to the academic or creative side of things, and learn as many business skills as you can, because they're easier to retain and use to your advantage than you might think." He adds, "Stay positive, don't beat yourself up over little things that won't matter, and keep all records (emails, receipts, contracts, etc.)"

Always open to networking, and ready to discuss his photography and video production business, Oelker can be contacted via his business website: [nathanoelkermmedia.com](http://nathanoelkermmedia.com).

## Calls for Writing



WE WANT YOUR  
VOICE

Send us your previously unpublished work.

DEADLINE:  
**DECEMBER 15**

Questions about submitting?  
Contact us at [lrr@uconn.edu](mailto:lrr@uconn.edu)

**Creative Writing Program**  
University of Connecticut  
215 Glenbrook Road, U-4025  
Storrs, CT 06269-4025

**lrr**  
Long River Review

 @lrr\_uconn

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 @longriverreview

Find us at [longriverreview.com](http://longriverreview.com)  
or on Submittable

## Mantis Seeks Submissions

*Mantis* is currently seeking submissions for their **2025** issue in five categories: [New Poetry](#), [Poetry in Translation](#), [The Materiality of Poetry](#), [The Formality of Poetry](#) and [DANCE-POEM-DANCE](#).

*Mantis* has produced 22 issues, establishing itself as an important venue for writers and readers of poetry around the world. Recent issues have featured work by Rae Armantrout, Franny Choi, Kenneth Fields, Chinua Ezenwa-

Ohaeto, Laura Reece Hogan, Salgado Maranhão, Heather Dohollau, Zeynep Köylü , Ma Yan, Franca Macinelli, and many more!

More information and submission details may be found on our [Submittable](#) page. Submissions close **November 15** (New Poetry and Poetry in Translations) and **December 1** (Special Sections).



## Outrageous Fortune Calls for Submissions

**Outrageous Fortune**, the country's first nationwide online literary magazine for and by undergraduates, is currently accepting submissions! We accept all areas of work, including digital files such as video-recorded spoken word and short films. Each semester we look for fiction, non-fiction, drama, film, art, photography, and poetry.

While we operate on a rolling submissions basis, we are accepting submissions for consideration to be included in our **Spring 2025 issue** until **March 24th, 2025**, to the email [outrageousfortune@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:outrageousfortune@marybaldwin.edu). Please feel free to browse our [website](#) as well as our [Submission Guidelines](#). We also encourage you to follow us on Instagram ([@outrageousfortune.mag](#)) for regular updates on the magazine and content.

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## About Major News

**Major News** is a newsletter for undergraduates and faculty of UIC's **Department of English**. If you have an event or issue of interest to our community that you would like us to consider including, please email details to [english@uic.edu](mailto:english@uic.edu). The deadline for inclusion in the current week's issue is **Wednesday at noon**. All materials received after this time and deemed acceptable for inclusion in **Major News** will appear in the following week's edition.

Thanks to all the contributors of this issue and our interns: Alejandra Jimenez, Makayla Goldman, Mia Goldman, Ness Gorlewski, Aliya Babar, Dante Hall.

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<https://engl.uic.edu/programs/undergraduate-studies>



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