Rutgers Newark English Master’s Degree Program
Learning Goals and Modes of Assessment

For All English MA Students

Learning Goal 1:
Possession of broad knowledge of English, American, and Anglophone literatures and their interpretation from periods before 1800 to the 20th and 21st centuries in their historical, political, and cultural contexts; specific knowledge of literary and other cultural texts, writers, movements, trends, and attendant cultural debates; and familiarity with issues in translation, the history of the discipline, and the role of interdisciplinarity in ‘English.’

Learning Goal 2:
Possession of more than passing familiarity with classic philosophy of literature and the major contemporary critical theories, including an understanding of their limits and strengths, and the ability both to apply critical theory to texts under study with appropriateness, rigor, creativity, and critical thought, and to perform close readings of texts, with command of the lexicons for identifying formal elements in various genres.

Learning Goal 3:
Familiarity with issues in biographical and textual scholarship; the ability to conduct advanced literary research, making critical use of available tools in the field (print, electronic, and archival) and developing the qualities of personal discipline and attention to accuracy this research requires; and the ability to consolidate findings effectively in extended academic writing projects that are clear, verbally precise, well-supported and -organized, and follow Modern Language Association standards for documentation.

Learning Goal 4:
The ability to present ideas orally with clarity and poise, to engage collegially in academic dialogue, to collaborate in learning, to conduct independent study of material not covered in classes, and to exit the program prepared to apply for positions in various professional fields, including teaching.