**Mission Statement**

The Stern College for Women’s English Department holds that the study of language, literature, and media is fundamentally important to an individual's personal development and successful functioning within society. The Department understands "acts of interpretation"—the study of texts and their contexts—to be aesthetic, philosophical, historical, political, and ethical. Consequently, our programs complement a Stern College student's knowledge of religious modes of interpretation. Through close collaboration with faculty, students develop individual projects and reflect critically on their learning.

The Department envisions the study of literature as an end in itself and as the means of developing essential analytic and imaginative training highly valued in fields such as communications and the new media, business, education, publishing, law, and medicine. A broad exposure to the literary productions of diverse time periods and cultures helps our students take their place in the global community of educated men and women of the twenty-first century. In addition to the major in Literature, we offer a track in Media Studies with a focus on one of four areas: Advertising, Creative Writing, Journalism, and Public Relations. We offer a minor in Literature and serve as “home base” for two interdisciplinary minors: American Studies and Women’s Studies. Our Department is also responsible for the required composition course that every student takes in her first year on campus at Stern.

**Program Student Learning Goals**

1. Students will be able to analyze a variety of texts and genres.
2. Students will be able to critically evaluate competing critical/theoretical arguments pertaining to given work(s).
3. Students will be able to communicate their critical thinking about literature and other media to diverse audiences both orally and in writing.
4. Students will able to take ownership over their learning experiences both in their course work and beyond.

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| **Program/Major Goals** | **SLOs** |
| 1**.** Students will be able to analyze a variety of texts and genres. Students will demonstrate attainment of this goal by being able to: | 1. interpret texts in relation to at least one specific philosophical, historical/cultural, literary, or theoretical context |
| 1. examine a variety of structures and styles in narrative, non-fictional prose, poetry and other forms of media expression. |
| 1. identify major literary themes and motifs in a given work |
| 2. Students will be able to critically evaluate competing critical/theoretical arguments pertaining to given work(s). Students will demonstrate attainment of this goal by being able to: | 1. analyze their own assumptions and views in light of the perspectives represented by or pertaining to the texts under consideration |
| 1. test and support claims with appropriate evidence and analysis |
| 3. Students will be able to communicate their critical thinking about literature and other media to diverse audiences both orally and in writing. Students will demonstrate attainment of this goal by being able to: | 1. write a clear thesis and supporting arguments backed with evidence |
| 1. present relevant information and ideas in an organized fashion both orally and in writing |
| 1. persuasively express their own informed perspectives on issues central to literary and media studies in various formats and genres |
| 4. Students will able to take ownership over their learning experiences both in their course work and beyond. Students will demonstrate attainment of this goal by being able to: | 1. develop and articulate a personal investment in achieving established learning goals and objectives |
| 1. flexibly apply reading and writing strategies in their courses to achieve learning goals and objectives |
| 1. independently research multiple sources of information relevant to their learning goals |
| 1. reflect on and self-evaluate their attainment of learning goals and objectives |
| 1. use this information to inform the setting of personal learning goals and objectives in the future |