ENGLISH, B.A. (BEHREND)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Erie

Spring 2024 Curricular Update: The program description, entrance requirements, and program requirements detailed on this page are effective beginning Spring 2024. To learn more about what approved curricular changes take effect in Spring 2024, please visit the Changes to the UG Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/using-this-bulletin/#changestotheugbulletintext). To view the requirements in effect for Fall 2023, please visit the 2023-24 Undergraduate Bulletin PDF (https://bulletins.psu.edu/pdf/undergraduate.pdf).

Program Description

This major offers courses in literary and cultural studies, and in various forms of writing. It provides a sound foundation in the liberal arts and opportunities to develop creative and analytical skills, as well as to cultivate an appreciation for literary expression. Students will develop a broad understanding of the ways in which literature works in various critical and cultural contexts. Majors can concentrate on literary and cultural studies or professional and media writing based on their interests and career goals.

Students will learn to communicate in diverse ways, using different technologies and forms of writing to convey their ideas. English majors will be able to reason critically, write cogently, construct and deconstruct ideas and arguments, and verbalize opinions and judgments. In addition, students will become adept researchers, learning how to find information and assess its quality. They will also master skills that will prepare them for success in a variety of careers and graduate programs, including translating technical information into accessible English, managing teams and organizing teamwork, and collaborating efficiently with individuals from different cultural backgrounds. The English major provides an excellent foundation for a variety of postgraduate programs in the humanities and beyond, including law, marketing, administration, education, public relations, and publishing.

What is English?

English refers to a broad field of study related to literature, professional writing, creative writing, and rhetoric. Majors develop critical thinking skills and produce influential academic, creative, professional, and digital texts. They learn to analyze genres, texts, and contexts that involve, for instance, race, class, gender, sexuality, and nationality. They also learn how various texts communicate value, meaning, and social and cultural critique.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You like words.
- You enjoy reading, writing, and editing.
- You love a good argument, a good book, a good play, or a good film.
- You're looking for a degree that can lead to many different career paths.

Spring 2024 Curricular Update: The program description, entrance requirements, and program requirements detailed on this page are effective beginning Spring 2024. To learn more about what approved curricular changes take effect in Spring 2024, please visit the Changes to the UG Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/using-this-bulletin/#changestotheugbulletintext). To view the requirements in effect for Fall 2023, please visit the 2023-24 Undergraduate Bulletin PDF (https://bulletins.psu.edu/pdf/undergraduate.pdf).

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in English, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>39-42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Per Senate Policy 83.80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned.

Requirements for the Major

Each student must earn at least a grade of C or above in all courses required under Common Requirements, Prescribed, Additional, and Supporting courses.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Critical Reading</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
ENGL 312  Globality and Literature  3
ENGL 482W  Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory  3

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
ENGL 443  The English Renaissance  3
or ENGL 444  Shakespeare
ENGL 494  Senior Thesis in English  3-6
or ENGL 495  Internship
Select 3 credits from the following:  3
APLNG 210  Global English
ENGL 100  English Language Analysis
LING 100  Foundations of Linguistics

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
In consultation with adviser, select 6 credits from the Professional Writing course list. At least 3 credits must be at the 400 level.  6
In consultation with adviser, select 6 credits from the American Literature course list. At least 3 credits must be at the 400 level.  6
In consultation with adviser, select 3 credits from the Gender and Sexuality course list at the 300/400-level.  3
In consultation with adviser, select 3 credits from the Racial and Ethnic Diversity course list at the 400-level.  3
Select 3 credits at the 200 level or below from CMLIT or ENGL courses (except ENGL 50).  3

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)
• Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
• Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)
• Arts (GA): 3 credits
• Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
• Humanities (GH): 3 credits
• Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
• Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

Integrative Studies
• Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain): 6 credits

Exploration
• GN, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
• GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses. This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student’s degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
• United States Cultures: 3 credits
• International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/).
**B.A. Fields** (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

**Other Cultures** (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

**Program Learning Objectives**

- Apply critical, theoretical, and/or disciplinary approaches to the reading and analysis of texts in multiple genres and/or media.
- Analyze the aesthetic and/or cultural significance of the ideas, values, conventions, forms, and genres associated with texts.
- Gather, evaluate, and employ an array of research materials in support of critical studies, and/or creative activity, in ways consistent with standards of academic integrity.
- Demonstrate writing and rhetorical skills appropriate to critical and/or creative tasks in a variety of media and genres.
- Analyze representative literary, theoretical, and cultural texts within significant historical, geographical, and cultural contexts.

**Academic Advising**

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

**Erie**

Janet Neigh, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of English; Program Chair of English
124 Kochel
Erie, PA 16563
814-898-6447
jnn29@psu.edu

**Suggested Academic Plan**

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2023-24 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

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**English Literature, Film and Culture Option: English, B.A. at Erie Campus**

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30H†‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>200-level or lower ENGL or CMLIT (except ENGL 50)*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Foreign Language (Level Two)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language (Level One)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td><strong>16</strong></td>
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**Second Year**

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
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<td>ENGL 403*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 312*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 202B†‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100†‡</td>
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<td>200-level or ENGL or CMLIT (except ENGL 50)*</td>
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<td>General Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language (Level Three)</td>
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<tr>
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**Third Year**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 443 or 444†‡</td>
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<td>ENGL 482W</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 409</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Supporting Course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 150N, INART 5, or INART 110</td>
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<td>BA Knowledge Domain</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
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<td>General Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Cultures</td>
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<td>ENGL 420</td>
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**Fourth Year**

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<th>Credits</th>
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<td>400-Level ENGL Additional Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 494</td>
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<tr>
<td>400-Level ENGL Additional Course</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Knowledge Domain</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CMLIT 453 or COMM 453</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BA Knowledge Domains</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
†‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/).
# English Professional Writing Option: English, B.A. at Erie Campus

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<td>General Education</td>
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<td>ENGL 100</td>
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<td>3 ENGL 403*</td>
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<td>ENGL 312*</td>
<td>3 ENGL 202C or 202D†‡</td>
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<td>CAS 100†‡</td>
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<td>COMM or MKTG Support Course</td>
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<td>3 ENGL 482W*</td>
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<td>3 200-300 level COMM or ENGL Additional Course</td>
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**Fourth Year**

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<td>ENGL 417</td>
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<td>400-level ENGL Additional Course</td>
<td>3 ENGL 418 or 419</td>
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**Total Credits 121**

1. Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

## University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

### Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate-general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/).

1. Arts, Humanities, or Social and Behavioral Science
2. Student need 6 credits on GA, 6 credits in GH, and 6 credits in GA. Course may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major
3. Quantification or Natural Science
4. Student need 6 credits in GQ and 9 credits in GU, one Natural Science (GN) course must include a laboratory component.
5. Foreign Language (Level One)
6. This requirement is governed by a placement policy dictated by the number of levels of foreign language completed prior to admission to college.
7. 400-level ENGL Additional Course
8. Additional Courses: Select 12 credits from the following, with at least 9 credits at the 400 level: COMM 260W (3), COMM 315 (3), ENGL 262 (3), ENGL 263 (3), ENGL265 (3), ENGL 415 (3), ENGL 420 (3), ENGL 425 (3), ENGL 439 (3), ENGL 479 (1-3)
9. ENGL 482W
10. W and Y are codes used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirements.
11. BA Knowledge Domains
12. Students are permitted to complete all 9 credits in an one of the six domains or a combination thereof, but courses may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major. The six domains are Arts (GA), Humanities (GH), Social & Behavioral Sciences (GS), Natural Sciences (GN), Quantification (GQ), and Foreign Language if the coursework is in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit proficiency of the first foreign language.
Addition Notes

- GWS, GHW, GQ, GN, GA, GH, and GS are codes used to identify General Education requirements.
- US, IL, and US;IL are codes used to designate courses that satisfy University United States/International Cultures requirements.
- Both US (United States Cultures) and IL (International Cultures) must be completed within the degree requirements.

Scheduling patterns for courses not taught each semester: ENGL 200, 312, 443/444 & 417 are only offered in the fall; ENGL 403, 420, 418/9, & 482W are only offered in the spring.

Program Notes: Students can double count US & IL requirements for general education courses but not for the Other Cultures requirement.

Academic Advising Notes: The course series listed above is only one of many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The number of electives required varies per student. Please be sure to consult with an adviser about your intended plan.

Career Paths

Penn State Behrend encourages practice of your professional skills. As an English major, you can write, edit, photograph, or sell advertising for The Behrend Beacon newspaper, or write, produce, or host a show on BVZ Radio or PSB-TV. Or join the editorial staff of Lake Effect, an international literary journal that publishes poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Behrend has a comprehensive support system to help you identify and achieve your goals for college and beyond. Meet with your academic adviser often and take advantage of the services offered by the Academic and Career Planning Center beginning in your first semester.

Careers

An English degree fosters a diverse set of skills that prepare you to thrive in many career fields. These can include education, research, digital media planning, advertising, social media management, professional and technical writing, journalism, publishing, copywriting, public relations, medicine, and law. To help you tailor your degree to your career interests, you’ll pursue one of two options within the major: Literature, Film, and Culture or Professional Writing.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

A B.A. in English can be the starting point for graduate-level education in ... nearly everything! The critical thinking, research, and interpretive skills you’ll learn are valued in any type of post-graduate education. Frequently pursued graduate degrees are the M.F.A. in creative writing, Ph.D. in literature, and teaching certification, but your options are limited only by your imagination. Are you thinking about advanced education in law, advertising, public relations, finance, medicine, journalism, digital media, politics, nonprofit management, the fine arts, counseling, or social work? English can make that happen.

Contact

Erie
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
170 Irvin Kochel Center
4951 College Drive
Erie, PA 16563
814-898-6108
HSSOffice@psu.edu

https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences