

MUNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

NEW ENGLAND LITERATURE PROGRAM



IT'S NOT JUST FOR ENGLISH MAJORS

...woodstoves, poetry, mountains, common writing, typewriters, islands, rain...

SPRING TERM IN NEW ENGLAND EARN 8 CREDITS

THIS SPRING YOU CAN LIVE AND LEARN IN A VERY DIFFERENT PLACE.

WHAT IS NELP?

(New England Literature Program)



NELP is a University of Michigan academic program that takes place off campus during the Spring half-term. U-M faculty and other instructors teach the courses, and students earn regular U-M credit.

The program takes place at Camp Wohelo on Sebago Lake in Maine. For six and a half weeks, 40 students and 13 U-M instructors live and work together closely, reading New England authors, writing, and exploring the New England countryside, its people, culture, and history.

In addition to formal academic work in literature and writing, instructors and students offer non-credit instruction in canoeing, camping, art, and nature studies. Students teach or co-teach classes as part of their NELP experience.

NELP also includes trips to places of natural and cultural interest, including several three-day hiking and camping trips. We climb at least three mountains during the program. These climbs are physically challenging for most people, but can be accomplished by nearly everyone with the right frame of mind.

Camp facilities are simple, though there are showers and toilets. Cabins are unheated, but a heated area is available for reading and classes. The weather is cold when the program begins, but by the time NELP ends in mid-June, the weather is warm, and summer has started.

Educational Philosophy

Aristotle says that learning is one of life's greatest pleasures, and we at NELP believe that diverse kinds of learning are all valuable and pleasurable. Accordingly, we provide opportunities for NELPers to learn about things as different (or similar) as the rhythm of a poem and the song of a bird, the shaping of a piece of pottery and the shaping of a novel, the seasoning of a stew and the seasoning of a style. We believe that intellectual and physical challenges are often parallel and that each kind of learning reinforces other kinds. We try to respond to students' interests and to draw on students' abilities, harmonizing special interests with the central purposes of the program. Each year NELP is different because of the interests and talents of the participants.

Learning at NELP is steeped in nature rather than in the constructed environment of Ann Arbor. Communal living—where students and teachers share work, recreation, and academic experiences—further intensifies learning.

QUOTES/NOTES:

—We have the ability to teach each other. This is truly special.





Educational Philosophy (continued)

NELP is a cooperative community. All NELPers belong to work groups. Work responsibilities rotate among the groups, which prepare meals, wash dishes and pots, and clean bathrooms and other common areas. NELP begins with a work day during which equipment is unpacked and camp set up, and it ends with another work day to pack it all up again.

At NELP life is unified, and its rhythms are dictated by that fact, not by the demands of one or more separate parts. We live, work, relax, and study together. Life there is full, but the frantic "all nighter" is as out of place as the frenetic Ann Arbor party.

We have classes every day, but we also have opportunity for communing with nature, for quiet conversations with other NELPers, and for solitude. NELPers can find the right balance between solitude and group activity.

QUOTES/NOTES:

—Discussions often went beyond class—to dinner, to the mountain, by the fire under the stars.

Academic Program

NELP students earn 8 hours of credit. Although NELP's academic work is taught as a single integrated academic experience, the credits appear on transcripts as three separate courses:

COURSE	TITLE	CREDITS
English 473	Topics in American Literature	(3 cr.)
English 317	Literature and Culture	(2 cr.)
English 328	Writing and the Environment	(3 cr.)

The program emphasizes a slightly different set of authors and readings each year. In the past several, we've studied the writings of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Emily Dickinson, Frederick Douglass, Sarah Orne Jewett, Robert Frost, Louise Glück, Wallace Stevens, Carolyn Chute, Ruth Stone, Elizabeth Bishop, as well as other 18th through 20th century writers of various backgrounds.

NELP offers creative writing workshops, but most writing is done in a journal. Journal writing is required and is central to NELP education. The journals are both personal and academic. Every NELPer belongs to a journal group, which meets twice a week for discussion and sharing. Writing assignments of various sorts are connected with the readings, and they are supplemented by writing on topics of the students' own choosing. Student writing often explores creative expression, the natural world and the New England environment, and the writer's response to the NELP experience.

NELP courses are graded. The academic program requires completion of a reading list, active work in the journal, and vigorous participation in classes and in the journal group. For English majors, NELP satisfies the American literature requirement. And, of course, NELP is open to English majors and non-English majors alike—our students always bring a variety of interests and disciplines to the program.



Drug and Alcohol Policy

The University of Michigan requires a drug- and alcohol-free workplace and study environment. This policy applies to NELP, even though many NELPers are of legal drinking age.

NELP has additional reasons for enforcing this policy: Swimming, boating, and hiking can be dangerous, and it is crucial that participants not have impaired judgment or impaired physical abilities. NELP and our host camp could both be seriously damaged by incidents that involve the use of drugs or alcohol. Further, drug or alcohol use would create divisions in our small community.

If you cannot support this policy, do not apply to NELP.

QUOTES/NOTES:

—No substance use here. This policy is fabulous! ...of integral importance. I didn't miss alcohol...NELP is intoxicating enough as it is!

—The Drug and Alcohol Policy is fantastic—everyone is here, and thinking, and being observant. We are all engaged.

Other Aspects of Community Life

Since NELP is isolated and committed to generating its own activities, we leave radios, TVs, CD players and MP3 players, cell phones, and video cameras back in Ann Arbor. However, we enthusiastically encourage NELPers to bring musical instruments.

The telephone at camp is to be used for emergencies only. You'll rediscover the pleasurable art of letter writing.

You can expect physical as well as intellectual challenges at NELP. Living conditions are rustic, and hiking trips can be rigorous; but both kinds of challenge can nourish the joys of learning in a beautiful environment and a close community.

QUOTES/NOTES:

—Strong hiking experiences opened the window to what kind of beauty struggle can prove.



Equipment and Clothing

A complete equipment and clothing list will accompany each acceptance letter. Expensive items are a sleeping bag, hiking boots, and a backpack. The secret to effective dressing at NELP is layers. Style isn't important at NELP; warmth is. There are ways to be thrifty when getting together your equipment for NELP, and it's also easy to spend several hundred dollars—most students, though, can plan to spend at least \$200-300 on the required items. There might also be opportunities to borrow or buy used equipment from previous NELPers.

QUOTES/NOTES:

—I have never had such a complete learning experience. It nourished my creative side, made me a curious reader, honed my analytical skills, deepened my appreciation for other minds, challenged my fears and boundaries, showed me natural beauty, carried me up mountains, made me proud of my work, gave me friends of the heart, taught me how to survive, let me cook, allowed me to teach, and delivered this revised soul with true care.



Who Can Apply?

All University of Michigan students are eligible to apply for NELP, as are special students, international students, and students from other colleges. Some seniors participate in NELP after their final year at U-M. You need not be an English concentrator to apply.

NELP is an intense, small, short-term community. Because every day counts for a great deal, NELP requires continuous participation. If you have an important family event, a summer job, or another obligation that conflicts with any part of NELP's schedule—from May 4 through June 19—you should not apply to NELP this year.

QUOTES/NOTES:

—I fell in love with poetry because of this place and the people in it.

*—NELP helped me become, actually be, the person I've imagined I was for so long.
Thank you!*



Approximate Costs & Financial Aid

Information in this section is approximate. Exact costs and detailed financial aid information will be provided in acceptance letters. There are two costs:

1. NELP program fee, which covers food, lodging, transportation, and textbooks

\$ 2200

2. U-M tuition, for Spring half-term

(Exact tuition figures will be released by the University in March, 2009. Below are last year's figures, which will give you a sense of what to expect.)

2008 In-state:		2008 Out-of-state:	
Lower division	\$ 2612	Lower division	\$ 4012
Upper division	\$ 2944	Upper division	\$ 4344

Students who would qualify for U-M financial aid during a Spring half-term on campus will most likely qualify for a similar financial aid package when participating in NELP. NELP also offers some jobs for people with work-study awards. Financial aid applications for the Spring half-term will be available from the Office of Financial Aid around the first of February, and the deadline for these applications is in the first week of March.

NELP alumni have provided some funds for separate NELP scholarships and loans. Details about applying for these small awards will be included with acceptance letters.

Out-of-state students should note the reduction in the cost of out-of-state tuition for students at NELP (made possible by a special arrangement with the College).

Important Dates

NELP XXXV May 4-June 19, 2009

Mass Meeting and Slideshow (Alternate Informational Meeting)	Tues. (Wed.)	November 11, 2008 (December, 10, 2008) 7:00 p.m.	1324 East Hall (3222 Angell Hall)
Applications due (with \$35 non-refundable application fee)	Thurs.	January 8, 2009	3187 Angell Hall
Orientation	Sat.	March 28, 2009 2:00—9:00 p.m.	Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Final Ann Arbor meeting	Mon.	April 20, 2009 6:00—7:00 p.m.	3222 Angell Hall
Vans leave Ann Arbor	Mon.	May 4, 2009 8:00 a.m.	
Vans arrive in Maine	Tues.	May 5, 2009	
Vans leave Maine	Thurs.	June 18, 2009	
Vans arrive in Ann Arbor	Fri.	June 19, 2009	



NEW ENGLAND LITERATURE PROGRAM



Julia D. Darlow, Ann Arbor; Laurence B. Deitch, Bingham Farms; Olivia P. Maynard, Goodrich; Rebecca McGowan, Ann Arbor; Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor; Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Park; S. Martin Taylor, Grosse Pointe Farms; Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor; Mary Sue Coleman (ex officio)

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For more information or to download an application
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