



English Newsletter

February 2026

English Does



The UW Department of English welcomes its students, faculty, and staff back to Laramie after winter break. We look forward to the spring semester, which offers a chance to reconnect with familiar faces and carry on the critical and creative work unique to English.

This spring, the department continues its commitment to the public humanities—work that extends beyond the classroom and into the community by engaging in conversations about culture, history, literature, and social life. This includes our Public Humanities Lecture/Workshop series. Events will take people into the archives, build community through social practice art, and spark critical dialogue and reflection through lectures from scholars, writers, and artists. Re-Storying the West continues its “Keywords for the Public Humanities” speaker series. At these events speakers with a range of experiences and relationships to UW discuss key tenets of socially engaged intellectual practice.

The spring semester also brings more Department of English community partnerships. With the Laramie Plains Civic Center, the Department of English will sponsor the second

annual Laramie Zine Fest. This Laramie-wide event takes place at the end of the semester and builds community through creative world-making in which local writers, artists, and other creatives showcase their work. Other department collaborations will involve Visit Laramie, the Wyoming Women’s History House, and Humanities Summit 2.0.

All of this work is part of an ongoing effort to make humanities scholarship accessible and relevant to the world around us. Details will be announced as the semester unfolds. We encourage everyone to keep an eye on department communications for updates on upcoming events and involvement. Here’s to a productive and engaging spring!

HIGHLIGHT

Department of English Professor Scott Henkel heads this year’s Working-Class Studies Association Annual Conference as the conference committee chair. WCSA is an international, interdisciplinary organization. This year’s conference will be held at the Laramie Plains Civic Center and will feature a variety of presentations, panels, performances, and exhibitions from scholars, activists, and artists.. More info can be found [here](#).

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College of Arts and Sciences
Department
of English

English Does . . . Cultural Exploration!



English Professor Kelly Kinney with Professor Rob Colter, Chair of Philosophy and Religious Studies, and their 19 students at the ancient Agora in Athens, Greece, built around 6th century BCE.

Drs. Kinney and Colter traveled with their students to Athens and the surrounding area for their course “In the Footsteps of Socrates” during J-Term 2026. Students said that studying in place brings a whole new air of context to the course. Rather than just imagining what it was like to engage in the ideas in their readings, they could actually see where Socrates was imprisoned and drank, without regret, the hemlock as demanded by the state.

IMPORTANT DATES

● Love Data Week

February 9-13

Coe Library

English’s Dr. Nichole Nomura will speak during Love Data Week on where we find the data in literature and how we make it

● Keywords: Repetition & Rupture

February 18

12:00-1:30pm, Coe Library 506

Keywords for the Public Humanities is a series that examines important ideas in publicly engaged research and practice

● Megan Gogarty Visit & Performance

February 19

3pm, Hoyt Hall 012

Gogarty will give a talk titled “Your Story, Your Audience, Your Dime: How to Create and Perform Your Own Work”

● Seth Brady Tucker Reading

February 20

5:30pm, McMurry Reading Room, Coe Library

Tucker will give a reading from his latest book *The Cruelty of Virtues* followed by an author talk



Abdalrahim Abuwarda, Public Humanities PhD

Abdalrahim Abuwarda is a PhD student in English/Public Humanities and serves as a Media Intern for the department. He is originally from Palestine, Gaza. His work explores media representation, rhetoric, and public storytelling, with attention to how narratives shape public understanding during times of conflict and crisis.

As Media Intern, Abdalrahim helps develop the department’s social media presence, newsletter, and public-facing content. He also contributes to community-based projects such as Re-Storying the West, where he works at the intersection of archives, storytelling, and public engagement.

Alongside his academic work, Abdalrahim writes public essays that reflect on lived experience, displacement, and the role of narrative in moments of violence and uncertainty. His recent writing offers a Palestinian perspective grounded in personal testimony and critical reflection, aiming to humanize stories often reduced to headlines. You can read Abdalrahim’s published essays [here](#) and [here](#).

English Does . . . Tough Conversations



Undergraduate students in Dr. Tracey Patton’s Rhetoric & Social Justice course turned Mathison Library into a gallery space. Student projects were developed from deep critical examinations of a variety of social justice issues that have implications around the world and which affect all humans.