

May 2011

English Major

Over the past two years at Williams, I have taken a number of classes that focused on the visual arts and literature. I've always been a lover of words and the English language, but beginning freshman year in my Intro. to Video Production class, I developed a fascination with the notion of constructing a story through the use of images. I explored this interest further this past fall in Professor Edwards' Visible Culture course, which examined the potential of the moving image versus the written word and expounded on the desire we have to create a narrative. In the spring, I continued to explore this relationship between words and images in Professor Murphy's Graphic Storytelling class. Furthermore, both New Poetry and Modern Drama served as yet another way to develop my interest in performance art and the written word. I hope to reach a better understanding of this relationship by enrolling in a film theory class, which would simultaneously allow me to fill the major's criticism requirement.

For my remaining time at Williams I plan to build on what I've learned so far, but also explore different areas of interest. Up until now I have had a solid exposure to the more avant-garde areas of the major, but have not had much experience with literature from older eras. I, thus, hope to take courses that will allow me to explore literature from a broad range of historical periods. Although I'll be abroad next fall, I will be back on campus in the spring. While abroad I will complete my elective requirement; when I return, I will still have to fill three 300 level courses, one criticism course, and two literary history courses. The spring 2011 courses which particularly interested me include: English 321 Samuel Johnson and Literary Tradition; English 304 Dante; and English 315 Milton.