

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA (Hons) Creative Writing and English Literature
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time, September
QAA subject benchmarking group(s) :	English
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	Not applicable
Date of course validation/review:	February 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	April 2016
Valid for cohorts :	2016/17 level 4/5, 2017/18 level 4,5 and 6
Course Leader	Matthew Morrison
UCAS code and URL:	QW3V westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate

What are the minimum entry requirements for the course?

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

Aims of the course

The BA (Hons) English Literature/Creative Writing has been designed to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of key periods, themes, styles and techniques in literary studies, and the ability to utilise that learning in both creative and critical forms;
- integrate the two subjects to allow them to inform each other in learning and teaching;
- give a detailed and coherent sense of the current priorities and debates in each discipline;
- provide options of specialised study and practice that are drawn from research expertise; and
- develop advanced skills of research, analysis, evaluation and communication.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements of what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement and the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** you will gain from your course (KU).
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA).
- **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)
- **Key transferable skills** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 4 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of level 4 of this course you will be able to demonstrate:

- L4.1 That you have successfully made the transition from the expectations of the study of English and/or Creative Writing at level 3 to the expectations of the subject at university;
- L4.2 understanding of the characteristics of different literary forms and genres, and ability to utilise them in creative contexts;
- L4.3 ability to relate your own creative work to the history and traditions of English Literature;

- L4.4 competence in discussing literary works (including your own) in the context of theoretical debates;
- L4.5 clear and confident communication of ideas in a variety of written and verbal forms and in appropriate registers; and
- L4.6 developing research skills in an ability to locate, select and evaluate sources and to deploy basic bibliographic conventions particular to English.

Level 5 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of level 5 of this course you will be able to demonstrate:

- L5.1 Increased resourcefulness in relation to your studies that is evident in study choices and selection of assessment;
- L5.2 an ability to reflect critically on your own work and to use materials, concepts and techniques across modules in both creative and analytic fashion;
- L5.3 a detailed and sophisticated knowledge of at least one of the principal generic forms and at least one of the major historical periods of literature;
- L5.4 critical understanding of at least three specialised areas of literary study and practice;
- L5.5 active engagement with your own learning through the tutorial system and Seminar series; and
- L5.6 enhanced study skills, including written and oral expression, use of scholarly conventions and use of sources.

Level 6 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of level 6 of this course you will be able to demonstrate:

- L6.1 The development of your own specialised interests in literary study and practice;
- L6.2 ability to write at extended length, both creatively and critically, with fluency, clarity and confidence;
- L6.3 advanced independence of thought and critical judgement;
- L6.4 knowledge and understanding of current critical debates in the study of English;
- L6.5 advanced reflexivity as students, on the evidence of the ability to make the fullest use of feedback and guidance; and
- L6.6 preparedness for work or further study.

How will you learn?

The BA English Literature and Creative Writing is constructed around a clear and rigorous sense of the current state of each discipline. In keeping with this, innovative and imaginative methods of learning and teaching are used which will engage you and inspire in you a keen sense of the lively and mobile nature of your subjects. These methods are focused particularly in developing in you a critical self-reflexivity and an awareness of your own

learning experience throughout the modules, not just when engaging in summative assessments.

These learning and the teaching methods on the course vary according to the nature of the modules and their materials. This is to ensure effective development of knowledge and skills while being matched to the particular nature of the subjects. There are very few formal lectures and the principal mode of teaching and learning is in two-hour seminar sessions, in which groups of around 20 students participate in a flexible range of activities. This format allows for teacher and student presentations, for analysis, discussion, teacher and peer feedback, and group work and group debates, and you will find all these activities, and many others, in our literature seminars. Creative writing seminars are often in the form of a workshop on drafts of your writing. Many modules also arrange field trips to museums, galleries, libraries, or the theatre. In addition to these types of class, we also offer tutorials. These are very small group classes, of three or four students, in which you will be offered detailed, personalised help and support in the skills and topics that are central to success in your studies. At level 6, you will receive individual supervision for your writing project.

All modules employ the online learning system, Blackboard, for the dissemination of information, the accumulation of study materials, for assessment, and in some cases online discussion. Many modules will offer video, film or other recordings among their materials as well as links to other sources.

Contact time is designed to introduce new concepts and information, to help frame debates, to focus your analytical and critical skills, and to guide your own further study and to support your increasingly independent academic and intellectual development. The great majority of learning time takes place in guided and independent study beyond the contact time, both individually and in groups, whether in the well-resourced and newly refurbished library, at home, or via the online learning provision.

Assessment plays a central role in developing your learning and skills, rather than merely testing it. Formative assessments help you with feedback on your ongoing studies, while all summative assessments receive full, written and oral feedback which will enable you to improve your work.

How will you be assessed?

There are many different forms of assessment for our modules: coursework essays, creative exercises, critical analyses, reviews, examinations, presentations, journals, blogs and portfolios. They have been designed to match the content of the modules and to provide experience of different forms.

The variety of assessment is designed to help as well as to measure your academic development. It aims to enhance your learning, not merely to test it, and helps you to demonstrate what you have learned in particular modules and across the range of your degree. The assessments help you build up your knowledge and skills, linking issues and knowledge within and between modules, while also developing and reinforcing your independent study.

Synoptic assessments link work on more than one module, and so they encourage you to demonstrate your deeper understanding of the subject as a whole. You will also be given formative assessments, which means you will be given work to help you towards the module assessments that count. Those summative assessments, like all the other, will receive written feedback explaining the grade (where applicable), the strengths of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your work in the future.

Employment and further study opportunities

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Literate and effective communication
- Entrepreneurial attitude
- Global outlook and engagement with communities
- Social, ethical and environmental awareness

Graduates of the course go on to work in a wide variety of interesting fields, including further study at MA and PhD levels, teaching, arts organisations such as theatres and museums, charities, journalism, marketing and public relations., as well as going on to write and publish in their chosen literary forms.

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

The BA English Literature and Creative Writing course aims to create graduates who:

- Are able to engage in and promote informed, thoughtful dialogue about human life and society, both past and present;
- have a confident knowledge and understanding of key periods, themes, styles and techniques of literary and other writing;
- show creativity in analysis of works and ideas, and in the practical production of writing;
- can show highly advanced skills of research, analysis, evaluation and communication; and
- use the skills and knowledge that they have acquired for the betterment of themselves and others in their communities.

Course structure

This section lists the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. The course is not available in part-time mode. Diagrams showing the pattern of modules across the academic year are in the second part of this section.

Credit Level 4				
Code	Module title	Status	UK Credit	ECTS
4CREW002W	Beginnings in Writing	Core	40	20
4CREW001W	Reflective Writing 1 (<i>Writers Seminar Series</i>)	Core	20	10
4ELIT003W	What is Literature?	Core	40	10
4ELIT005W	Shakespeare and Performance	Option	20	10
4ELIT006W	Poetry and Politics	Option	20	10
4ELIT004W	Keywords For Literary Studies	Option	20	20
	Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of Certificate of Higher Education available				
Credit Level 5				
Code	Module title	Status	UK Credit	ECTS
5ELIT003W	The Novel	Option/Core	40	20
5ELIT004W	The Nineteenth Century	Option/Core	40	20
5CREW001W	Reflective Writing 2 (<i>Writers Seminar Series</i>)	Core	20	20
5CREW002W	Forms of Writing	Core	40	20
5ELIT005W	Writing Revolutions	Option	20	10
5ELIT006W	Travel Sickness: Narratives of Exploration and Disaster	Option	20	10
5ELIT007W	Making Memory: Culture History and Representation	Option	20	10
5ELIT008W	Monsters	Option	20	10
5CREW003W	Writing Life	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of Diploma of Higher Education available				
Credit Level 6				
Code	Module title	Status	UK Credit	ECTS
6CREW001W	Individual Writing Project	Core	40	20
6ELIT001W	English Literature Dissertation	Core	20	10
6CREW002W	Screenwriting	Option	20	10
6CREW003W	Special Topic: Genres in Writing	Option	20	10
6ELIT002W	Modernism	Option	40	20
6ELIT003W	Tragedy: Ancient to Modern	Option	20	10

6ELIT004W	What is the Contemporary?	Option	20	10
6ELIT005W	Issues in Theory	Option	20	10
6ELIT006W	Satire and the City	Option	20	10
6ELIT007W	Special Topic	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of BA available; Award of BA Honours available				

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

English Literature and Creative Writing

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core modules	
4ELIT003W What is Literature? (40)	
4CREW002W Beginnings in Writing (40)	
4CREW001W Reflective Writing 1 (20)	
<i>Westminster Writers Seminar Series</i>	
Options: choose one	
4ELIT005W Shakespeare & Performance	4ELIT006W Poetry & Politics
4ELIT004W Keywords (20)	
WMIN elective (20)	

Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core modules	
5CREW002W Forms of Writing (40)	
<i>Westminster Writers Seminar Series</i>	
5CREW001W Reflective Writing 2 (20)	
5ELIT003W The Novel (40)	
OR	
5ELIT004W The Nineteenth Century (40)	
Options: choose one	
5ELIT005W Writing Revolutions (20)	5ELIT006W Travel Sickness (20)
5ELIT007W Making Memory (20)	5ELIT008W Monsters (20)
5CREW003W Writing Life (20)	
One WMIN elective may be chosen instead of one option	

Level 6	
Semester One	Semester 2
Core modules	
6CREW001W Individual Writing Project (40)	
6ELIT001W Dissertation (20)	
<i>Westminster Writers Seminar Series</i>	
Options in Literature: choose minimum 20 credits from these	
6ELIT002W Modernism (40)	
6ELIT004W What is the Contemporary? (20)	
6ELIT005W Issues in Theory (20)	6ELIT007W Special Topic (20)
6ELIT006W Satire and the City (20)	6ELIT003W Tragedy (20)
Creative Writing Options	
6CREW002W Screenwriting (20)	6CREW003W Special Topic: Genres (20)
One WMIN elective or 6ENGL004W Work Experience may be chosen instead of one option	

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

Each module that you take has a module leader who is responsible for the management and the quality of the teaching and learning on that module, including the co-ordination of all staff who teach on it. The module leader's name is on the module outline, on SRSWeb and on Blackboard.

The modules belong to courses and each course has a course leader. The Course Leader for the BA English Literature and Creative Writing is Dr Matt Morrison. He is responsible for the day-to-day running of your course and he reports to the head of the department. The Head of Department is Dr Alexandra Warwick and she is responsible for all the courses in the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an orientation programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which gives detailed information about the course. You have a course leader, and you will be assigned to both an academic tutor to support you in your studies and a personal tutor who can provide guidance on other matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where you can access your course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend study skills workshops and one-to-one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group work, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. You can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the course. You can also securely connect your own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2015. The panel included internal peers from the University and academics from other universities. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts into place an action plan. This may, for example, include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course. There is an approval process for such changes.

A Course Review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers and to further study. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years, e.g. from Course Committees, is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader of the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which seeks the opinions of students about their course and University experience. Final year undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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