

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course Record Information	
Name and level of final & intermediate Awards	BA (Hons) English Literature
Awarding Body	University of Westminster
Location of Delivery	University of Westminster, Regent Site
Mode of Study	Full-time
UW Course Code	SSL ENQ LITSLIT
JACS Code	Q320
UCAS Code	Q300
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	English
Professional Body Accreditation	None
Date of initial course approval/last review	2009
Date of Programme Specification	2009

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The University will admit students to its courses on the basis of the following principles:

- i. reasonable expectation that the applicant will be able to fulfil the objectives of the course and achieve the standard required for the award;
- ii. students would normally be admitted at the start of the course only;
- iii. the University's specific requirements for admission to the programme leading to a particular award;
- iv. the University will seek at all times to ensure equality of opportunity for all applicants, and will act within the law at all times.

In considering individual applicants for admission to a course the University will seek evidence of personal, professional and/or educational experience that provides indications of ability to meet the demands of the programme.

The numbers of students admitted to a specific course, or programme of study, will be determined by the resources allocated to the course so as to ensure that both academic standards and the interests of those students enrolled are safeguarded.

General Entry Requirements

These regulations define standard minimum entry requirements for awards of the University, based on nationally recognised formal minimum levels of attainment. These should be seen as benchmarks only. The University recognises that a wide variety of other qualifications and learning may provide appropriate evidence of an applicant's suitability for admission. The University will use its discretion to interpret such formal minimum attainment levels in terms of equivalence, with advice from external agencies where appropriate. The University will continue to take cognisance of new developments in secondary and further education in considering applicants for admission.

The University wishes to encourage applications from non-traditional students, including mature students, and course-specific entry requirements will be framed to encourage such applications.

The University will consider applications for deferred entry.

General minimum entry requirements expressed in terms of standard UK academic qualifications:

University of Westminster Award	General Minimum Entry Requirements
Certificate of Higher Education	As for Bachelors degree
Diploma of Higher Education	As for Bachelors degree
Bachelors degree with honours/ Bachelors degree	Two GCE A level or Vocational A level passes, plus three GCSEs at grade C or

above (including English Language and Mathematics)

Or

Three GCE A level or Vocational A level passes, plus one GCSE at grade C or above (including English Language and Mathematics)

Or

Five passes in the Scottish Higher certificate of Education, of which three are at Higher grade (including English Language and Mathematics)

Or

Four passes in the Scottish Higher certificate of Education, all of which are at Higher grade (including English Language and Mathematics)

Or

Advanced General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ)

Or

International or Welsh Baccalaureate

Two Advanced Supplementary or Advanced Subsidiary (AS) passes will normally be regarded as the equivalent of one A level pass; four AS passes may be offered in lieu of two A level passes.

Applicants should not normally be required to offer more than five different subjects in all at A level (often referred to as A2), AS, GCSE, and Scottish Certificate of Education Qualifications.

Key Skills will be taken into account as part of a candidate's application but certification will not normally be a requirement for entry.

Other qualifications that will be accepted for entry include:

- NCVQ recognised awards, including relevant GNVQ at level 3
- BTEC/SCOTVEC normally at Higher National level
- Irish Leaving Certificate Higher Certificate with passes in five subjects at Higher level
- Passes in Open University courses
- Pass in a recognised Access course
- Pass in a recognised Foundation course
- Advanced Modern Apprenticeship with level 3 qualifications

International/Overseas qualifications may be accepted in accordance with guidance from the National Academic Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (NARIC), as indicated in the University's prospectuses.

A variety of vocational, professional and other qualifications are acceptable for entry purposes, as is uncertificated prior learning or prior experiential learning, provided

that, in the view of the staff responsible, the applicant has demonstrated the potential to succeed.

English Language Proficiency

Candidates for admission to courses validated by the University or offered on its behalf by another institution should have sufficient command of the language(s) in which the course is taught to meet all the requirements of the course. New undergraduate students who have not had their secondary education in the medium of English should have attained the equivalent of IELTS 6.5 for admission to English Literature or Linguistics, and IELTS 7 for admission to English Language.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The English Literature course aims to:

- provide a broad and balanced knowledge of English literature, including a substantial number of authors and texts from several different periods of literary history and from the principal genres of fiction, poetry and drama;
- develop knowledge of the relationships between texts and the cultural and socio-historical contexts in which they are produced and read;
- develop knowledge of the role of critical and theoretical traditions in shaping literary history;
- enable students to engage in independent critical thinking and judgement;
- engage students imaginatively in the process of reading and analysing complex and sophisticated literary texts;
- provide a basis for further study in English or related disciplines and for teachers of English at all levels;
- provide an intellectually stimulating and satisfying experience of learning and studying;
- consolidate a knowledge of useful and precise critical terminology;
- enhance awareness of how literature and language produce and reflect cultural change and difference;
- produce the ability to select, evaluate and deploy critical frameworks in the analysis of texts;
- develop critical skills in the close reading of texts;
- encourage a responsiveness to the role of language in the creation of literary meaning;
- extend skills of clear and effective communication, both oral and written;
- develop skills of reasoning and the construction of argument;
- foster the bibliographic skills specific to English, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of bibliographical conventions;
- enhance the ability to process diverse and complex information in a structured way;
- consolidate competence in planning and execution of essays and project work;
- provide opportunities to develop the ability to work with, and in relation to, others;
- develop research skills to a high level;
- develop information-technology skills such as word-processing and electronic data access information.

EMPLOYMENT AND FURTHER STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- career development skills are embedded in all courses;
- opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students;
- staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision;
- staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will then inform the service delivered to students.

English is widely recognised by employers as a desirable degree subject for graduates as it fosters skills in clear and effective communication, independent thought and critical judgement, research and presentation and a wide-ranging cultural and historical awareness. Although all modules foster these transferable skills, they are specifically highlighted in the level 4 module *Introduction to Literary Studies* and there is a specific work placement module available in level 6. These skills are also appropriate as preparation for further study, and both MA and PhD programmes are offered in the department.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes are statements detailing what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. They are threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

These are the learning outcomes of the English Literature degree:

Knowledge and Understanding

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of English literature, including a substantial number of authors and texts from several different periods of literary history and from the principal genres of fiction, poetry and drama;
- show a detailed and flexible knowledge of the relations between texts and their cultural and socio-historical contexts;
- show a detailed knowledge of the role of critical and theoretical traditions in shaping literary history;
- show a detailed awareness of how literature and language produce and reflect cultural change and difference.

Specific Skills

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- identify, evaluate, select and deploy precise and appropriate critical frameworks and terminology;
- demonstrate sophisticated critical skills in the close reading of texts;
- discuss in detail the role of language in the creation of literary meaning;
- fully and confidently utilize the bibliographic skills specific to English, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of bibliographical conventions.

Key Transferable skills

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- engage in independent critical thinking and judgement at a high level;
- communicate clearly and effectively in a variety of oral and written formats, in a sophisticated academic register;
- demonstrate advanced skills of reasoning and the construction of complex argument;
- present diverse and complex information with clarity;
- exhibit high competence in planning and execution of essays and project work;
- work with, and in relation to, others in a reflective fashion;
- demonstrate advanced research skills;
- demonstrate clear ability in the use of information-technology, including word processing and electronic data access information.

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

A number of different teaching styles may be expected, according to the nature of the subject matter covered in the different modules. Each of the modules on the programme conforms to the general emphasis on seminar and tutorial-based activities. However, within that general approach, individual modules have their own characteristic features of delivery, depending on their focus. While occasional lectures will be used to provide a common framework and foundation, the emphasis within the teaching is student rather than teacher-centred.

Assessment methods also vary, but include short and extended essays, textual analysis, oral presentations, reviews, case studies and some formal unseen examinations.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year.

All courses offered at the University of Westminster are modular. A module is an area of study such as *British Theatre*, *Critical Theory*, or *Modernism*.

The degree normally lasts for 3 years:

LEVEL 4	First year
LEVEL 5	Second year
LEVEL 6	Third year

Each year is divided into two semesters:

Semester One September to December

Semester Two January to June

There are twelve learning and teaching weeks in each semester. These may consist of different activities – some will be seminar sessions, others will be lectures or workshops or tutorials. For each module, there is also a programme of independent study devised by the module leader.

Modules in English Literature are worth either 30 credits (eg 1ENL460: *Introduction to Literary Studies*, 1ENL560: *Critical Perspectives*) or 15 credits. In any year of your degree you will normally take modules making a total of 120 credits.

You are able to take English Literature as a single subject, or as a Major, Joint or Minor combination with any of the following subjects:

Linguistics

English Language

History

A Modern Language (possible combinations depend on the languages and levels that are being offered in any year).

If you think that you have chosen a combination inappropriate for you, you should see the Course Leader immediately as it may be possible to change your programme.

The course structure and available modules for the different combinations are summarised in diagrams below.

There are two types of module on the English Literature programmes: cores and options.

CORE modules are those that you must take; OPTIONS are those that you choose.

The number of these core and option modules that you will take in English Literature depends upon whether you are doing a Single, Major, Joint or Minor degree.

University of Westminster Elective Modules

Students can select an Elective module at an appropriate Level from a number of modules from any course, Department or School across the University. In addition, the University offers Polylang modules, a University-wide scheme aimed at providing wider access to language modules for all undergraduate students. All Polylang language modules have been designed by a team of specialists for non-specialists from other disciplines. Details are available from your Course Leader or the Polylang Office at Regent Street. Please see *Essential Westminster 2011-2012: The Student Guide* for details.

Some modules are not available as Elective modules. Timetabling constraints, pre-requisites and limited availability of places may further restrict choice. You may select additional course specific option modules from your own course as Elective modules. The structure of the course is summarized in diagrams on the following pages.

Single Honours English Literature

LEVEL FOUR CORE MODULES	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL460 Introduction to Literary Studies	
1ENL461 The Victorians	
1ENL462 Renaissance	1ENL463 Introduction to Poetry
LEVEL FOUR OPTION MODULES choose one in each semester	
1ENL464 Arts and Culture	1ENL465 Introduction to Theatre Studies
1ENL466 Writing Contemporary Britain	1ENL467 Shakespeare and His Contemporaries

LEVEL FIVE CORE MODULES	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL560 Critical Perspectives	
1ENL561 Modernism and Early-twentieth Century	
LEVEL FIVE OPTION MODULES choose two in each semester	
1ENL562 Reading Women	1ENL563 Rise of the Novel
1ENL564 Travel Writing	1ENL565 Romantic Writings
1ENL566 Reading Gothic	1ENL567 Early Modern Identities
1ENL568 American Dream	1ENL569 Post-colonial Literature

LEVEL SIX CORE MODULES	
1ENL655 Dissertation/Project	
LEVEL SIX OPTION MODULES Choose three in each semester	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL660 Writing Sexuality	1ENL661 Other Worlds
1ENL662 Studies in British Theatre	1ENL663 Special Topic
1ENL664 Tragedy	1ENL665 Literature and Psychoanalysis
1ENL667 The Uses of Memory	1ENL668 Cultural Criticism
1ENL669 Romantic Explorations	1ENL670 Modern Poetry
	1ENL695 Internship

Major English Literature

LEVEL FOUR CORE MODULES	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL460 Introduction to Literary Studies	
1ENL461 Victorians	
1ENL462 Renaissance	
LEVEL FOUR OPTION MODULES	
choose one *	
	1ENL463 Introduction to Poetry
1ENL464 Arts and Culture	1ENL465 Introduction to Theatre Studies
1ENL466 Writing Contemporary Britain	1ENL467 Shakespeare and His Contemporaries

* which can be from either semester, depending on your minor subject choices

LEVEL FIVE CORE MODULES	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL560 Critical Perspectives	
1ENL561 Modernism and Early-twentieth Century	
LEVEL FIVE OPTION MODULES	
choose one in each semester	
1ENL562 Reading Women	1ENL563 Rise of the Novel
1ENL564 Travel Writing	1ENL565 Romantic Writings
1ENL566 Reading Gothic	1ENL567 Early Modern Identities
1ENL568 American Dream	1ENL569 Post-colonial Literature

LEVEL SIX CORE MODULES	
1ENL655 Dissertation/Project	
LEVEL SIX OPTION MODULES	
Choose two in each semester	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL660 Writing Sexuality	1ENL661 Other Worlds
1ENL662 Studies in British Theatre	1ENL663 Special Topic
1ENL664 Tragedy	1ENL665 Literature and Psychoanalysis
1ENL667 The Uses of Memory	1ENL668 Cultural Criticism
1ENL669 Romantic Explorations	1ENL670 Modern Poetry
	1ENL695 Internship

Joint Honours English Literature

LEVEL FOUR CORE MODULES	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL460 Introduction to Literary Studies	
LEVEL FOUR OPTION MODULES choose one 30 credit or two 15 credit	
1ENL461 Victorians	
1ENL462 Renaissance	1ENL463 Introduction to Poetry
1ENL464 Arts and Culture	1ENL465 Introduction to Theatre Studies
1ENL466 Writing Contemporary Britain	1ENL467 Shakespeare and His Contemporaries

LEVEL FIVE CORE MODULES	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL560 Critical Perspectives OR	
1ENL561 Modernism and Early-twentieth Century	
LEVEL FIVE OPTION MODULES choose one in each semester**	
1ENL562 Reading Women	1ENL563 Rise of the Novel
1ENL564 Travel Writing	1ENL565 Romantic Writings
1ENL566 Reading Gothic	1ENL567 Early Modern Identities
1ENL568 American Dream	1ENL569 Post-colonial Literature

* You may choose both 1ENL560 and 1ENL561 if you wish, but no options.

LEVEL SIX OPTION MODULES Choose two in each semester	
Semester One	Semester Two
	1ENL656 Short Dissertation*
1ENL660 Writing Sexuality	1ENL661 Other Worlds
1ENL662 Studies in British Theatre	1ENL663 Special Topic
1ENL664 Tragedy	1ENL665 Literature and Psychoanalysis
1ENL667 The Uses of Memory	1ENL668 Cultural Criticism
1ENL669 Romantic Explorations	1ENL670 Modern Poetry

* You may only take one dissertation module, either in Literature or your other joint subject.

Minor English Literature

LEVEL FOUR MODULES	
Semester One	Semester Two
Choose one 30 credit or two 15 credit modules	
1ENL460 Introduction to Literary Studies	
1ENL461 Victorians	
1ENL462 Renaissance	1ENL463 Introduction to Poetry
1ENL464 Arts and Culture	1ENL465 Introduction to Theatre Studies
1ENL466 Writing Contemporary Britain	1ENL467 Shakespeare and His Contemporaries

LEVEL FIVE MODULES	
Choose one 30 credit or two 15 credit modules	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL560 Critical Perspectives	
1ENL561 Modernism and Early-twentieth Century	
1ENL562 Reading Women	1ENL563 Rise of the Novel
1ENL564 Travel Writing	1ENL565 Romantic Writings
1ENL566 Reading Gothic	1ENL567 Early Modern Identities
1ENL568 American Dream	1ENL569 Post-colonial Literature

LEVEL SIX MODULES	
Choose two modules	
Semester One	Semester Two
1ENL660 Writing Sexuality	1ENL661 Other Worlds
1ENL662 Studies in British Theatre	1ENL663 Special Topic
1ENL664 Tragedy	1ENL665 Literature and Psychoanalysis
1ENL667 The Uses of Memory	1ENL668 Cultural Criticism
1ENL669 Romantic Explorations	1ENL670 Modern Poetry

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Academic regulations for students at Levels 4 and 5, see [Appendix 1](#).

Academic regulations for students at Level 6, see [Appendix 2](#).

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

On arrival, an orientation programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the site on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the School Registry. Students will be given essential information for their course (full course and module handbooks available at www.wmin.ac.uk/SSHRegistry) and

are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes the Library which, across its four sites, holds print collections of 356,000 printed books, 29,000 print and e-journals, over 45,000 electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Access to all resources is facilitated through Library Search, a new online service.

There are over 3,500 computers spread over the four University sites available for students use. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students can access course materials and communicate with staff and other students via message boards.

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

REFERENCE POINTS FOR THE COURSE

Internal

Primary internal reference points for teaching, learning and assessment policies on the BA English Literature are the University Handbook of Academic Regulations, the Quality Assurance Handbook, and the Guide to Higher Education and Career Management Skills produced by the Educational Initiative Centre (EIC).

The course structure meets the requirements of the modular frameworks and the academic regulations of the University, as well as of the School Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy. At the same time, it is designed to take account of both the University Policies on skills development and employability.

External

The primary external reference point for the academic infrastructure of the course is the Quality Assurance Agency (www.qaa.ac.uk); in particular, the Code of Practice for the assurance of quality and standards, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ), and the details of programme specifications. For credit level descriptors, the reference point is the South England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (www.seec-office.org.uk). Reference may also be made to the materials provided by the English subject centre of the Higher Education Academy (www.heacademy.ac.uk).

QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

Course Management

The Course is hosted in the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, one of the Departments within the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and

Languages on the Regent site. The Course is directly managed by a Course Leader within the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, and each module on the course also has a designated Module Leader responsible for the administration and monitoring of its design and delivery.

The course teaching team consists of staff from the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies. Key members of the course team meet regularly each year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of the course. Staff undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by colleagues leading to staff development through course attendance and/or research and scholarly activity. Staff teaching on the course also attend events organised by the School Academic Standards and the School Teaching and Learning Groups around current teaching, learning and assessment issues.

Course approval, monitoring and review

The course is monitored each year by the School 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 each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from External Examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the School action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee which is in on-line form for all the undergraduate courses in the department. All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the Module Leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which provides valuable feedback about a range of University services.

Students meet with Review Panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from Course Committees are part of the Schools' quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course, please see:

www.westminster.ac.uk/schools/humanities/english,-linguistics-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-study/ba-honours-english-literature

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.