

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA (Hons) 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	Nigel Mapp
UCAS code and URL:	Q300 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 course has been designed to develop your understanding and knowledge of English literature to an advanced level. The degree will develop your general analytical skills and critical thinking and bring you to a sophisticated level in your use of academic English in both spoken and written contexts. The degree offers an opportunity to examine literary and non-literary works of all periods from Shakespeare to the present day, taking in a wide range of authors and themes, and gives a detailed and coherent sense of the current priorities and debates in the discipline. It offers a full and balanced coverage of dramatic, poetic and prose works, including many from outside the usual literary canon. The degree is particularly distinctive in that students consider the wider historical and political contexts in which literary works have been produced and received, and relate the works both to intellectual history and to work in other arts and media, such as architecture and the visual arts. To this end, the course makes extensive use of London, its galleries, libraries and museums, for its learning environment. The course will also give you the opportunity to consider the theoretical tools of literary analysis in detail. Students on this degree therefore develop advanced skills: first, in reading and interpreting literary texts in their cultural contexts; second, in analysing the specific genres and forms of a variety of significant creative works and, third, in relating their readings to contemporary critical writing and larger cultural currents and controversies. Overall, the course aims to prepare articulate, discerning and critically aware scholars of English literature and its cultural contexts.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements on 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 you will be able to demonstrate:

- L4.1 That you have successfully made the transition from the expectations of the study of English literature at level 3 to the expectations of the subject at university;
- L4.2 recognition of the characteristics of different literary forms and genres, and understanding of the significance of these characteristics;

- L4.3 confident use of the full range of bibliographic conventions particular to English, including citation practices, the management of source material and scholarly presentation;
- L4.4 competence in discussing literary works in their social and historical contexts and in the context of theoretical debates;
- L4.5 clear and confident communication of ideas in a variety of written and oral forms and in an appropriate academic register; and
- L4.6 developing research skills in locating, selecting and evaluating sources.

Level 5 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of level 5 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 use materials and concepts across modules;
- 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 an ability to use a thematic approach that goes beyond classroom discussion and set texts;
- L5.5 active engagement with your own learning through the tutorial system; and
- L5.6 enhanced study skills, including written and oral expression, use of scholarly conventions and handling of sources.

Level 6 Learning Outcomes

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

- L6.1 The development of your own specialised interests within the subject;
- L6.2 ability to construct complex and sophisticated arguments across extended length 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 literature;
- 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 (Hons) English Literature is constructed around a clear and rigorous sense of the current state of the discipline. In keeping with this, innovative and imaginative methods of learning and teaching will engage you and inspire in you a keen sense of the lively and mobile nature of your subject. 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. A distinctive feature of the degree is that it encourages you to make connections between the various modules you take.

These learning and teaching methods vary according to the nature of the modules and their materials. This is to ensure effective communication of knowledge and skills while being closely responsive to particular student interests and needs. Some larger formal lectures are offered (and are available also in recorded form) where that is an appropriate means for presenting issues and information. The timetable for all modules is primarily centred on two-hour seminars, 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. 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. The tutorials will also help you integrate your studies across the modules. At level 6, you will receive individual supervision for your dissertation.

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 feedback which will enable you to improve your work.

How will you be assessed?

The course offers a variety of assessment to students in order to nurture as well as assess your academic development. Assessment helps you to demonstrate what you have learned in particular modules and across the range of your degree. There are many different forms of assessment for our modules: coursework essays, critical analyses, examinations, presentations, journals, portfolios, dissertation. The assessments all aim to enhance your learning, not merely to test it. They help you build up your knowledge and skills, linking issues and knowledge within and between modules, while also developing and reinforcing your independent study initiative. 'Synoptic' assessments link work on more than one module, and so they encourage you to demonstrate your deeper and more connected grasp of the subject as a whole. You will also be given 'formative' assessments, which means you will be given guided work to help you towards the module assessments that count. 'Summative' assessments 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. Formative assessment may receive written or oral feedback as appropriate.

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 in communities
- Social, ethical and environmental awareness

Graduates of the course go on to work in a wide variety of fascinating fields, including further study at MA and PhD levels, teaching, arts organisations such as theatres and museums, charities, journalism, marketing and public relations.

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 course aims to create graduates who are highly articulate in formal, academic English and who are able to read and interpret in critical and sophisticated fashion a variety of literary and non-literary texts and media. Graduates of this degree therefore have an array of important transferable skills: a sophisticated use of written and spoken English; an advanced critical ability in the use of theoretical perspectives; facility and precision in the use of analytical tools; and strong skills and initiative in collecting and organising complex materials and writing up clear, well-presented reports or fluent critical arguments on their basis. The student's detailed, historical knowledge of the social and cultural importance of particular creative forms ensures that she or he is an engaged, critical, independent and self-reflective citizen.

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				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4ELIT001W	Literature Tutorial 1	Core	20	10
4ELIT003W	What is Literature?	Core	40	20
4ELIT004W	Key Words for Literary Studies	Core	20	10
4ELIT005W	Shakespeare and Performance	Option	20	10
4ELIT006W	Poetry and Politics	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of Certificate of Higher Education available				
Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5ELIT001W	Literature Tutorial 2	Core	0	0
5ELIT003W	The Novel	Core	40	20
5ELIT004W	The Nineteenth Century	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
Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available				
Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6ELIT001W	Dissertation	Core	20	10
6ELIT002W	Modernism	Core	40	20
6ELIT003W	Tragedy: Ancient to Modern	Option	20	10
6ELIT004W	What is the Contemporary? The Novel in Time After 1945	Option	20	10
6ELIT005W	Issues in Theory	Option	20	10
6ELIT006W	Satire and the City	Option	20	10
6ELIT007W	Special Topic	Option	20	10
Award of BA available				
Award of BA Honours available.				

English Literature

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core modules	
4ELIT001W Literature Tutorial 1 (20)	
4ELIT003W What is Literature? (40)	
4ELIT004W Keywords for Literary Studies (20)	
4ELIT005W Shakespeare and Performance (20)	4ELIT006W Poetry and Politics (20)
One WMIN elective may be chosen instead of 4ELIT005W or 4ELIT006W	

Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester Two
Core modules	
5ELIT001W Literature Tutorial 2 (0)	
5ELIT003W The Novel (40)	
5ELIT004W The Nineteenth Century (40)	
Options: choose 2	
5ELIT005W Writing Revolutions (20)	5ELIT006W Travel Sickness (20)
5ELIT007W Making Memory (20)	5ELIT008W Monsters (20)
One WMIN elective may be chosen instead of one option	

Level 6	
Semester 1	Semester Two
Core modules	
6ELIT001W Dissertation (20)	
6ELIT002W Modernism (40)	
Options: choose three	
6ELIT004W What is the Contemporary? (20)	
6ELIT005W Issues in Theory (20)	6ELIT007W Special Topic (20)
6ELIT006W Satire, Morality and the City (20)	6ELIT003W Tragedy (20)
One WMIN elective or 6ELLN008 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

The degree has a designated course leader, Dr Nigel Mapp, whom you will meet during Orientation Week and who is available for consultation either by email, during weekly office hours throughout the year, or by appointment. During March of the first and second year, you will have the opportunity to choose your option modules for the following year after consultation with academic staff. Individual modules each have a module leader who is responsible for the smooth running of that module. Module leaders are available during term-time in their office hours or by appointment. The degree is part of a suite of BA Hons degrees in the department of English, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies and all courses in the department are under the overall responsibility of the Head of Department, Dr Alexandra Warwick. At levels 4 and 5 of the course (years 1 and 2), you will have a designated academic tutor to whom you may turn for academic advice and a level tutor for advice on personal matters. In the final year, you will be provided with a supervisor on your dissertation module with whom you will have individual supervisions.

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 to 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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