

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA English Literature and History The BA English Literature and History is a BA degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
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 start
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	English, History https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	N/A
Date of course validation/review:	February 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	April 2019
Valid for cohorts :	2019/20
Course Leader:	Dr Helen Glew
UCAS code and URL:	QV31 http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate

Admissions requirements

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.

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](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

Aims of the course

The BA English Literature and History course 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 critical form;
- develop a substantial body of knowledge and understanding of the modern history of London, Britain and Europe, including global contexts;
- give a detailed and coherent sense of the current priorities and debates in each discipline;
- integrate the two subjects to allow them to inform each other in learning and teaching;
- 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 on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement and the learning outcomes 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**. These 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 study 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, including citation practices, the management of source material and scholarly presentation;

- L4.4 command of a body of historical knowledge, in London, British, European and world history;
- L4.5 an ability to read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon secondary evidence, including historical writings and the interpretations of historians;
- L4.6 competence in discussing literary works in their social and historical contexts and in the context of theoretical debates;
- L4.7 clear and confident communication of ideas in a variety of written and verbal forms and in an appropriate academic register; and
- L4.8 developing research skills in an ability to locate, select and evaluate 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 an understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past and, where relevant, a knowledge of concepts and theories derived from the humanities and social sciences;
- L5.6 awareness of continuity and change over extended time periods;
- L5.7 active engagement with your own learning through the tutorial system; and
- L5.8 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 you will be able to demonstrate:

- L6.1 The development of your own specialised interests within the subjects of English Literature and History;
- 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 and of History;
- L6.5 advanced reflexivity as students, on the evidence of the ability to make the fullest use of feedback and guidance;

- L6.6 an ability to address problems in depth, to formulate your own questions and the critical use of contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature;
- L6.7 a command of comparative perspectives, including the ability to compare the histories of different countries, societies and cultures; and
- L6.8 preparedness for work or further study.

How will you learn?

The BA English Literature and History is constructed around a clear and rigorous sense of the current state of each discipline. 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.

The learning and teaching methods on the course vary according to the nature of the modules and their topics. 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 in English modules and the principal mode of teaching and learning is in two-hour seminar sessions, in which groups of around twenty students participate in a flexible range of activities. History modules adopt a more traditional lecture/seminar format. The seminar in both subjects allows for teacher- and student presentations, for analysis, discussion, teacher and peer feedback, and group work and group debates. Many modules also arrange study visits to museums, archives, galleries, libraries, theatre and other London locations. 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 dissertation.

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 class contact time.

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.

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.

How will you be assessed?

There are many different forms of assessment for our modules: coursework essays, critical analyses of primary texts, reviews, examinations, presentations, journals 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;
- an entrepreneurial attitude;
- a global outlook and engagement in 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, in arts organisations such as theatres and museums, charities, journalism, marketing and public relations.

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

The BA English Literature and History 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 extensive knowledge and developed understanding of key periods and movements in literature and history;
- show creativity in analysis of works and ideas, and in the relation of literature to its historical, political and social contexts;
- can show highly advanced skills of research, analysis, evaluation and communication;
- 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.

Credit Level 4				
Code	Module title	Status	UK cr	ECTS
4HIST001W	Blood and Iron. The Making of the Modern World Part One: 1750-1914	Core	40	20
4ELIT003W	What Is Literature? Genre Form History	Core	40	20
4ELIT002W	English Literature and History Tutorial 1	Core	20	10
4ELIT004W	Keywords For Literary Studies	Option	20	10
4ELIT005W	Shakespeare and Performance	Option	20	10
4ELIT006W	Poetry and Politics	Option	20	10
4HIST002W	Rule Britannia. Researching Britain and the Empire 1750-1914	Option	20	10
4HIST013W	History Matters	Option	20	10
4HIST005W	Swinging London: Revolution and Legacy	Option	20	10
4HIST006W	The Blitz: Image Impact Legacy 1940-1951	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of Certificate of Higher Education available				
Credit Level 5				
Code	Module title	Status	UK cr	ECTS
5HIST001W	Democracy and Dictatorship. The Making of the Modern World Part Two: 1914-1990	Core	40	10
5ELIT003W	The Novel	Core/Option	40	20
5ELIT004W	The Nineteenth Century	Core/Option	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
5HIST002W	New Liberals to New Labour: British Politics 1906-2010	Option	20	10
5HIST004W	Jack the Ripper: Myth Reality Culture and Popular History	Option	20	10
5HIST005W	Civil War to Civil Rights: Race Society and Politics in the USA 1850- 1970	Option	20	10
5HIST007W	Fenians to Free State: The Making of Modern	Option	20	10

	Ireland 1868-1923			
5HIST013W	The Cinema as a Source for Historians	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of Diploma of Higher Education available				
At Level 5 students will also take 5ELIT002W English Literature/History Tutorial 2. This is a zero credit core module. Teaching and learning takes place in small groups, with students meeting their tutor on a regular basis. The content of the tutorials will be tailored to the group but will be used to develop subject knowledge, study skills and work towards assessments.				
Credit Level 6				
Code	Module title	Status	UK cr	ECTS
6ELIT008W	English and History Dissertation	Core	20	10
6ELIT009W	The Modernist World	Option	20	10
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
6ELIT010W	Sexualities in Literature and Culture	Option	20	10
6ELIT007W	Special Topic	Option	20	10
6HIST004W	Divided Society: a Social History of Britain in the Twentieth Century	Option	20	10
6HIST005W	The Troubles: Britain and Northern Ireland 1968-1998	Option	20	10
6HIST006W	Vichy: War Occupation and the Holocaust in France 1940-44	Option	20	10
6HIST008W	Transatlantic Feminisms: the Women's Movement in Twentieth-century Britain and Canada	Option	20	10
6HIST013W	Unruly Colossus. Churchill: Politician and Writer 1874-1965	Option	20	10
6HIST009W	"Don't Mention the War!" Britain and Germany since 1945	Option	20	10
6HIST010W	New World Order: International Organisations in An Age Of Global Conflict And Change	Option	20	10
6HIST014W	Sex, Race and the Making of Modern Britain, 1900-1912	Option	20	10
6HIST015W	Archives and Museums Internship	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.

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 History is Dr Helen Glew. She is responsible for the day-to-day running of your course and she reports to the Head of the School of Humanities.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the site on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, to additional support available and to your Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course.

All students enrolled on a full-time course and part-time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at westminster.ac.uk/blackboard.

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Team 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 site 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 and Academic Services department provides advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, and specialist advice for international students. The Chaplaincy provides multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at westminster.ac.uk/student-advice. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at westminster.ac.uk/students-union.

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, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and its continued relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the College 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 evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

A course revalidation 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. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years 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 student-engagement activities at course/module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected 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.
- there are also staff-student exchange meetings that enable wider discussions across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College 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 on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced;
- 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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