

Programme specification

BA (Hons) English Literature and Film Studies

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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

<i>School:</i>	School of Humanities, Religion & Philosophy		
<i>Entry from:</i>	2019	<i>in:</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>			
<i>Exit awards:</i>	BA (Ord) English Literature and Film Studies Diploma of Higher Education English Literature and Film Studies Certificate of Higher Education English Literature and Film Studies		
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>			
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>			
<i>QAA benchmark group(s):</i>			
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study for 3 years ¹ Full-time		
<i>Language of study:</i>	English		
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes		

Introduction and special features

The partnership between English Literature and Media Studies continues and draws upon the rich legacy of cultural studies that explores the interdisciplinary relationships between the subjects. This includes examining the interconnected theoretical approaches to these subjects and the key schools of thought which relate to these areas. Film Studies can be studied alongside Media, American Studies and English Literature in carefully designed and innovative pairings. The pairing of English Literature and Film Studies develops skills in critical thinking and analysis in response to a range of different types of texts. Film is beneficial as mode of engagement and inquiry in relation to literary texts, and literature can help film specialists to analyse different forms of text and adaptation. You might find yourself referring to film sources as part of your literary studies, as well as reading literary texts as a way of developing your understanding of film and film history. Studied together, these subjects allow students to gain a detailed understanding of communication in all its forms, from historical sources and documents, to contemporary literary texts, documentaries, and film adaptations.

English Literature is a rich and vibrant area of study. At YSJU, we are a dynamic, engaged, and research-active team who are committed to providing our students with a cutting-edge education. By studying English Literature, you will have the opportunity to learn about a range of different genres, historical periods, and literary forms. Our philosophy is simple: *words matter*. Words shape the world we live in (books can and have changed the world) and the connections between the written page and the concerns of the 'real' world are a crucial part of the programme. Overall, the degree will enable you to develop your expertise as a reader and critic of a range of literary materials, whilst also supporting you in the development of a portfolio of professional skills which will aid you in the wider job market. As you become adept at independent learning, you will become a more sophisticated reader of texts, and you will find that your confidence as a writer and as a critic will increase as your degree progresses.

Through the course of a wide-ranging suite of modules, you will develop an extensive knowledge of both classic and contemporary texts, and will have the opportunity to gain some professional experience on our dedicated employability module, 'Literature at Work'. The choice

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

of modules on offer will help you to develop your own interests and allow you to shape your degree accordingly. For example, students can choose to follow an historical pathway that might include modules such as 'Revolution and Response', which examines writing from the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, or 'The Victorian Novel', which focuses on nineteenth-century fiction. In addition, students can focus on other specialised areas represented by modules including 'Mapping America', 'Sick Novels: Literature and Disease', 'Science Fiction for Survival', and 'Gothic Origins'. We pride ourselves on a diverse and stimulating syllabus, and you might find yourself studying Native American writing, prison narratives, radical poetry, avant-garde writing, political polemics, Civil Rights literature, speculative fiction, LGBT rights literature, experimental writing, and literature of the Caribbean, as well as canonical writers such as Shakespeare, Dickens, and Austen, all as part of your English Literature degree.

A team of research-active academics who are all recognised in their respective specialisms will facilitate and guide your learning. We use a variety of assessment methods to help you develop different types of learning. You will not sit any traditional exams as part of your degree in English Literature, and instead you will be encouraged to try new forms of writing. In addition to more traditional assessments such as the essay, you might be asked to write a blog post, to compile a research portfolio, or even to curate an online exhibition. Field trips are an integral part of the programme, and students in recent years have had the opportunity to visit London, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Whitby, as well as local sites including Castle Howard and York Theatre Royal.

During your degree, you will develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills. As well as having the opportunity to become an adept reader, critic, writer, and researcher, you will also become highly skilled in critical thinking, problem solving, constructing and developing an argument, time-management, public speaking, and project management. These skills are all valued highly by employers, and you have the chance to develop more professional skills on our bespoke employability module 'Literature at Work'. On this module, you will be able to experience an external work placement, or choose to work on a team project (such as designing a publication or curating a small exhibition). Students regularly contribute to our popular Literature blog, *Point Zero*, which is an excellent way to gain relevant professional experience and exposure for your critical and creative perspectives.

The Film Studies Programme at York St John University is made up of exciting and cutting edge Joint Honours pathways which represent the changing nature of the subject area and the links between film and other disciplines.

A number of key strands can be found in the programme:

- The recent "de-Westernisation" of Film Studies and the growing body of academic research and scholarship into Transnationalism in Cinema
- The trans-media emergence of "Screen Studies" as a discipline which incorporates the changes in media where film culture has blended with televisual forms and digital media such as video game and animation
- An incorporation of non-fiction film forms and Documentary Studies
- The developments of scholarly approaches to wider film culture, fandom, user generated content and convergence culture
- Curricula which encourage students to get involved in field trips (partly subsidised by the programme) to, for instance, film festivals
- Modules which require students to engage in enterprise activities such as organising and promoting film themed events and film publications.

We are also dedicated to student enhancement strategy which includes:

- The further integration of the *Neutral* project as an e-publication driven by the talent and dedication of our students (see our latest edition here: www.neutralmagazine.com)

- A further development of part subsidised excursion events which allow students to explore film cultures on a local national and international level
- Dedicated mentoring across levels from professional designers and experts who will help you to develop your technical ability
- Opportunities to engage with alumni who have successfully completed the programme
- A healthy roster of visiting speakers, industry experts and academics who will enrich the discourse of the programme and provide practical insight into Film in a commercial and creative context.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aims

1. To encourage students to develop an informed and critical understanding of key themes and debates within English Literature;
2. To provide students with a comprehensive grounding in the concepts, theories, methodologies, issues and debates on the subject of Cinema and Screen Studies;
3. To enhance students' development as independent learners and literary critics;
4. To examine the evolution of Film as cultural expression and as a medium in dialogue with other form;
5. To support students in developing a range of transferable skills to equip them for employment and lifelong learning;
6. To enable students to develop key academic, generic, cognitive and technical skills which will enhance employment potential;
7. To develop an ability to reflect critically on the process of researching, writing, analysing, and forming an academic argument;
8. To provide a supportive learning environment that meets the needs of a diverse set of learners;
9. To enhance students' development of appropriate skills in communication, analysis, collaboration, research, and self-management
10. To engage with the discipline as a de-Westernised subject and explore the ways in which film operates in a global and transnational contexts;
11. To encourage students to explore the implications of their academic study in the wider society to which they belong.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 1.1 Demonstrate awareness of key concepts in English Literature, including historical and theoretical perspectives.
- 1.2 Identify and practice the key elements for both short-term and long-term academic development.
- 1.3 Demonstrate awareness of foundational conceptual, theoretical and historical perspectives relating to cinema and its social and cultural contexts
- 1.4 Demonstrate awareness of formal and generic conventions.
- 1.5 Demonstrate competence in the analysis of a variety of texts.
- 1.6 Demonstrate competence in the analysis and evaluation of film texts.
- 1.7 Communicate effectively using a range of basic skills appropriate for the audience and purpose.
- 1.8 Demonstrate a range of basic key transferable skills (including those for lifelong learning) appropriate for further study and future employment.
- 1.9 Demonstrate competence in applying critical and theoretical approaches to literary texts.
- 1.10 Evaluate their research, analysis, and writing process.

Level 5

- 2.1 Demonstrate a critical understanding and knowledge of English Literature, including an enhanced appreciation of historical and theoretical perspectives.
- 2.2 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key theories, debates and concepts relating to film and screen studies.
- 2.3 Demonstrate critical awareness of research strategies particular to English Literature.
- 2.4 Apply theoretical perspectives and concepts to a range of different texts.
- 2.5 Effectively communicate information, ideas, arguments, and interpretations in a manner appropriate to the task and audience.
- 2.6 Make appropriate selections of materials and use them analytically and critically in the exploration of cinema.
- 2.7 Demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively in decision making in the context of growing maturity as an independent learner.
- 2.8 Demonstrate transferable skills including organisation, time-management, decision-making, and the ability to construct a coherent argument.
- 2.9 Demonstrate effective research skills in preparation for dissertation scale study.
- 2.10 Develop professional and career skills, and utilise key skills in the context of work related learning.

Level 6

- 3.1 Demonstrate a systemic understanding of English Literature, underpinned by a detailed awareness of historical and theoretical perspectives.
- 3.2 Synthesise and apply relevant critical and theoretical perspectives to their own research practice.
- 3.3 An ability to deploy an advanced conceptual understanding of the application of research skills and theoretical approach to English Literature.
- 3.4 Deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry to the key strands of the degree, cinema, power and society, film and audience, genre fiction; transnationalism.
- 3.5 Work autonomously within a structured environment.
- 3.6 Manage and reflect critically upon individual learning.
- 3.7 Devise and sustain arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts and effectively engage with such matters as a critical thinker.

- 3.8 Demonstrate transferable skills to an advanced level that prepares them for employment or further study.
- 3.9 demonstrate a systematic understanding of subject-relevant information, ideas and arguments effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 3.10 Design and undertake a piece of extended independent research that demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of a specific area of English Literature or Film Studies.

N.B: 3.10 is compulsory for the award of BA (Hons) English Literature and Film Studies. Students enrolled on a Joint Honours degree may choose to write their dissertation in either subject.

Programme Structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
1FS101	4	1	Filmmakers on Film	20	C
1CP203	4	1	Media Research	20	O
1EN600	4	1	Introduction to Literary Studies I	20	C
1EN601	4	1	Writing, Research and Literature	20	O
1FS100	4	2	Film and its Audiences	20	O
1AS202	4	2	Cinema and Society	20	O
1EN602	4	2	Introduction to Literary Studies II	20	C
1EN603	4	2	Theorising Literature: Power and Identity	20	O
1EN604	4	2	Canonicity	20	O
1FS103	4	2	Cult and Extreme Cinema	20	O
2FS103	5	2	European Cinema	20	O
2FS100	5	2	Independent Cinema	20	O
2FS101	5	1	Film and the American Imagination	20	O
2FS102	5	2	Gothic and Horror	20	O
2CP205	5	2	Media Enterprise	20	O
2FS104	5	1	Imaginary Worlds: researching science fiction	20	O
2EN600	5	1 or 2	Civil War to Civil Society: British Literature, 1640-1740	20	O
2EN470	5	1	Adaptations	20	O
2CW100	5	1	Writing Fiction	20	O
2CW101	5	1	Writing Reality: Creative Non-Fiction	20	O
2EN450	5	1 or 2	Literary Theory	20	O
2EN602	5	1	Mapping America	20	O
2EN603	5	1 or 2	Revolution and Response: British Literature, 1740-1840	20	O
2EN604	5	1 or 2	Sick Novels: Literature and Disease	20	O
2EN511	5	2	Conflicting Words	20	O
2EN605	5	1 or 2	From Harlem to Hip-Hop: African American Literature and Culture	20	O
2EN606	5	1 or 2	Shakespeare: Perspectives	20	O
2EN510	5	2	Literature at Work	20	O
2CW103	5	2	Writing Poetry	20	O
2CW104	5	2	Scriptwriting	20	O
3FS101	6	1	Documentary Film Studies	20	O
3FS100	6	1	Animations	20	O
3EN290	6	2	Gender and Sexualities	20	O

3FS102	6	2	Transnational Cinema (including a field trip)	20	C
3CW100	6	1	Writing Genres	20	O
3CW101	6	1	Experimental Writing: Theory and Practice	20	O
3EN996	6	1 & 2	Literature Dissertation (JH/SH)	20	CA if taken
3CP202	6	1	Special Study	20	CA if taken
3CP203	6	1 & 2	Special Study	40	CA if taken
3CW204	6	1 & 2	Creative Writing Dissertation (40 credits)	40	CA if taken
3EN600	6	1 or 2	The Victorian Novel: Realism, Sensation, Naturalism	20	O
3EN601	6	1 or 2	The Experimental Century: Cultural Change in the Twentieth Century	20	O
3EN602	6	1 or 2	Gothic Origins	20	O
3EN603	6	1 or 2	The Making of Modern Drama	20	O
3EN608	6	1	Research Now 1	20	O
3EN270	6	1 or 2	Writing the Caribbean	20	O
3EN605	6	1 or 2	American Radicals: Outside the Canon	20	O
3EN606	6	1 or 2	Cultures of the Now: Contemporary Writing	20	O
3EN609	6	2	Research Now 2	20	O

***C**: Compulsory, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

Please note: all modules are subject to staffing and timetable availability each year, in accordance with CMA regulations.

Level 4 choices

Students must select 6 modules, with a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits in each subject.

Level 5 choices

Work-related learning: students must select one of the employability modules, either 2EN510: Literature at Work or 2CP205: Media Enterprise.

Students can choose a maximum of 20 credits from 2CW100: Writing Fiction, 2CW101: Writing Reality: Creative Non-Fiction, 2CW104: Scriptwriting and 2CW103: Writing Poetry.

Students must select 6 modules, with a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits in each subject.

Level 6 choices

Students must choose either 3EN996: English Literature Dissertation or 3CP203: Special Study (Film). Students can take 3CW103: Creative Writing Dissertation if they have taken/will take a Creative Writing module at Level 5 or 6.

Students can choose a maximum of 20 credits from 3CW100: Writing Genres or 3CW101: Experimental Writing: Theory and Practice.

Students must select 5 modules, including a dissertation module, with a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits in each subject. Students taking 3CP202: Special Study (Film) (20 credit) must select 6 modules in total.

Learning, teaching and assessment

English Literature

The aims of all our teaching is to help you to become a better writer and literary critic, to challenge you to consider new ideas and concepts, and to support you in understanding the complex connections between literature and contemporary society. Literature is a dialogic discipline: that is, informed discussions and debates are a crucial part of the learning process. We do not want students to be passive learners, but instead expect you all to be actively engaged and involved with your degree subject.

We use a range of teaching styles and settings to help support you during your time at University. You will attend lectures, seminars (groups of students with a tutor), tutorials (one-to-one meetings with a tutor), workshops, and experience collaborative learning (working with your fellow students), events, field trips, as well as independent study sessions, and times when you will need to use online resources through the University's Virtual Learning Environment.

Your first year with us is about supporting you in making the transition to university-level study. You will be assigned your own Academic Tutor, a member of staff who will meet with you and other students on a weekly basis during your first semester at YSJU. Modules such as 'Writing, Research and Literature' have been specially designed to help you adapt to the University environment and the requirements of the subject. As you progress to your second and third year, you will be able to shape your degree according to your own research interests. You can choose to specialise in a certain genre, historical period, or literary form. We have a diverse range of modules for you to choose from, and you will have lots of opportunities to study types of literature that you might not have experienced previously (such as, for example, Caribbean literature, utopian writing, and creative non-fiction).

There are no exams, and your English Literature degree will be assessed through coursework. As well as writing essays, however, there are other assessment opportunities designed to help you develop new skills and prepare for graduate employment. You will encounter a wide range of assessment, including portfolios, close-reading exercises, and opportunities for reflective writing. Some modules are assessed by one piece of coursework (usually a portfolio) and you will have the chance to work on this throughout the semester. The feedback you will receive focuses on how you can improve your work for future assessment, and we encourage all students to keep a feedback folder to help keep track of their academic development. You will have the chance to work with published and professional writers, as our resident Royal Literary Fellow is available for additional tutorials and writing support.

In your final year, you will be ready to take on a bigger role in the management of your learning. You might find yourself leading a class discussion, or doing a non-assessed presentation in a seminar. You will write a dissertation (an extended project that runs for the whole academic year) on the subject of your choice, and with the support of an academic supervisor. In many ways, this is in the intellectual culmination of your degree, as you become an independent researcher and are required to manage your own academic project. Many of our students note that this is one of the most enjoyable sections of their degree, as they are specialising in a literary topic that they are passionate about, and are putting into practice the skills they have accrued during their time at York St John University.

Film Studies

Level 4 modules engage you with a range of analytical and research techniques and methods, as well as introducing you to various conceptual frameworks. Level 4 modules will enable you to achieve a knowledge and application of generic core skills in communication, problem solving, team-work and personal management in order to establish the foundation to the programme of study.

Level 5 modules build on the foundation established at Level 4 by enabling you to apply theories and concepts and to continue practising core skills. You will engage in a greater level of conceptual thinking and are encouraged to embark upon, plan and execute work more autonomously (individually and in a team) and to take increasing responsibility for the process of your own learning. Students are prepared for more independent working practices, which uses their ability to transfer classroom learning into the real world. In addition, we will foster your research skills in preparation for specialist research in your final year.

Level 6 modules enable you to take a high degree of responsibility for the planning, direction and management of your own learning. You are required to work with an enhanced degree of autonomy and independence and to demonstrate increased powers of self-criticism.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: 31/08/17