

Programme specification

BA (Hons) Media and English Literature

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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) Media and English Literature Diploma of Higher Education Media and English Literature Certificate of Higher Education Media and English Literature		
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>			
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable		
<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 Literature and Media Studies continues and draws upon the rich legacy of cultural studies that explores the interdisciplinary relationships between the subjects. This pairing allows students to develop skills in critical thinking, analysis and interpretation in response to a range of different types of literary and media texts. Media and English Literature complement each other as subject areas, as media can help to evaluate different aspects of the literary, and vice versa. There are several interconnected theoretical approaches to these subjects and students will have the opportunity to explore these areas in both subjects.

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 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

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

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 Media Single Honours and Joint Honours programmes are progressive degrees which are up to date with recent developments in the discipline. Key things that you will experience through the degree are:

- An exploration of the "de-Westernisation" of Media Studies which offers a cosmopolitan view of the media in a global context
- A commitment to exploring power relationships in contemporary media; the ways in which media are central to some of the burning social and ideological issues of our time
- A creative and analytical immersion with technologies, project management and communication skills, resulting in opportunities for you to raise your profile as an employable graduate in the media and creative industries
- A critical investigation into the profound impact digital culture is having upon the world, and in turn individual, social and (inter)national identities

A number of exciting major factors will enhance the student experience and these are:

- The integration of our Neutral project as an e-publication driven by the talent and dedication of our students. Here is our latest edition: www.neutralmagazine.com
- A vibrant schedule of excursions, field trips and events which allow you to explore media cultures on a local, national and international level (an excursion that is subsidised by the Programme)
- A healthy roster of visiting speakers, industry experts and academics who will enrich the discourse of the programme and provide you with a practical insight into media in a commercial and creative context
- 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.

We maintain our pairings with Creative Writing, Literature and Film Studies and these subjects complement each other extremely well and allow students to develop their own interests both in and across their subjects.

We believe that the de-Westernised nature of the proposed programme and the inherently global discourse emblematic of contemporary Media Studies is an attractive product for an international audience as well as a UK audience interested in exploring the complex and influential nature of media in a personal, social and philosophical 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 Media;
3. To examine the evolution of communication through oral, visual, print and electronic media;
4. To enhance students' development as independent learners and literary critics;
5. To support students in developing a range of transferable skills to equip them for employment and lifelong learning;
6. To develop an ability to reflect critically on the process of researching, writing, analysing, and forming an academic argument;
7. To provide a supportive learning environment that meets the needs of a diverse set of learners;
8. To enhance students' development of appropriate skills in communication, analysis, collaboration, research, and self-management;
9. To engage with the discipline as a de-westernised subject and explore the ways in which media operates in a global and transnational contexts;
10. 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 Gather and organise information from recommended sources informed by a knowledge of ethical research practices.
- 1.3 Demonstrate awareness of formal and generic conventions.
- 1.4 Demonstrate competence in the analysis of a variety of texts.
- 1.5 Identify and practice the key elements for both short-term and long-term academic development.
- 1.6 demonstrate knowledge of underlying conceptual, theoretical and historical and ethical perspectives relevant to the study of Media

- 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 the analysis and evaluation of media text
- 1.10 Consider and evaluate the relevant skills and learning requirements for working independently and in groups.
- 1.11 Demonstrate competence in applying critical and theoretical approaches to literary texts.
- 1.12 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 in Media, to which they have been introduced
- 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 Use a range of established and ethical techniques to source materials and use them critically and creatively
- 2.6 Effectively communicate information, ideas, arguments, and interpretations in a manner appropriate to the task and audience.
- 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 a reflective understanding of their knowledge as Media students, its limits and how this influences analysis and interpretation
- 2.10 Develop professional, entrepreneurial and career skills, and utilise key skills in the context of work related learning (or equivalent module on Joint Honours subject pairing).

Level 6

- 3.1 Demonstrate a systemic understanding of English Literature, underpinned by a detailed awareness of historical and theoretical perspectives.
- 3.2 Demonstrate key aspects of the study of Media, including ethical acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge for the purpose of research
- 3.3 Synthesise and apply relevant critical and theoretical perspectives to their own research practice.
- 3.4 Manage and reflect critically upon individual learning.
- 3.5 Demonstrate transferable skills to an advanced level that prepares them for employment or further study.
- 3.6 Express a systematic understanding of the key strands of the degree; media power and ethics, audience; digital culture; transnationalism; visual culture
- 3.7 Demonstrate independence, innovation and entrepreneurial skills in working and academic practices
- 3.8 Explore and evaluate arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts and effectively engage with such matters as a critical thinker
- 3.9 Communicate 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 Media.

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

Programme Structure

This Joint Honours pairing embraces the connections between English Literature and Media Studies, recognizing the place of literature within the broader scope of media production. Modules offered through this pairing (such as 2CP202 Popular Genres) scrutinize the issues and concepts that it engenders. The very plurality of 'media' challenges students to consider the cultural place of 'literature': what role does the 'canon' of 'classical literature' play in today's marketplace? How do neglected genres or popular fiction challenge or subvert the study of 'literature'? As well as analysing literary texts, students on this pathway explore other forms of written text (journalism, blogs, and word/image combinations) and have the opportunity to produce multi-modal texts that reflect their critical and creative learning.

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
1CP204	4	1	Media, Culture and Society	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
1CP200	4	2	Writing the Media	20	C
1CP205	4	2	The Medium is the Message	20	O
1CP201	4	2	Critical Perspectives	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
2CP201	5	1	Issues of Taste	20	O
2CP202	5	1	Popular Genres	20	O
2CP203	5	1	Visual Culture	20	O
2EN440	5	1	Imaginary Worlds	20	O
2EN600	5	1 or 2	Civil War to Civil Society: British Literature, 1640-1740	20	O
2EN470	5	1	Adaptations	20	O
2EN450	5	1 or 2	Literary Theory	20	O
2EN602	5	1	Mapping America	20	O
2CW100	5	1	Writing Fiction	20	O
2CW101	5	1	Writing Reality: Creative Non-Fiction	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
2CW103	5	2	Writing Poetry	20	O
2CW104	5	2	Scriptwriting	20	O
2EN510	5	2	Literature at Work	20	O
2CP205	5	2	Media Enterprise	20	O
2CP200	5	2	Convergence Culture	20	O
2CP204	5	2	Globalisation	20	O
3FS100	6	1	Animations	20	O
3CP200	6	1	Futures	20	O

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
3CW201	6	1	Writing Genres	20	O
3CW202	6	1	Contemporary Writing 1: Innovation and Experimentation	20	O
3EN608	6	1	Research Now 1	20	O
3EN270	6	1 or 2	Writing the Caribbean	20	O
3EN290	6	2	Gender and Sexualities	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
3CP201	6	2	Media Geographies	20	O
3AS201	6	2	Pop Americana	20	O
3EN996	6	1 & 2	Literature Dissertation (JH/SH)	20	CA if taken
3CW204	6	1 & 2	Creative Writing Dissertation (40 credits)	40	CA if taken
3CP202	6	1	Special Study	20	CA if taken
3CP203	6	1 & 2	Special Study	40	CA if taken

***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 (Media). 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 (Media) (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.

Media

You will take part in lectures, seminars, workshops, task focused activities, field-trips and excursions and informative engagement with media practitioners and creatives.

This is backed up by three distinct features:

- research informed teaching where experts in their subjects will work with you and develop your knowledge

- a schedule of tutorial support where you will gain advice and guidance on how to progress academically
- technology enhanced programme instruction from experts that will help you to learn how to use media as a critical and creative tool

You will be assessed in a variety of ways including essays, portfolios, single and group presentations (for example, voice-over commentaries using iPads and tablets), interactive eportfolios (using platforms such as Word Press), creative visual pieces. All of these will be introduced at Level 4 and then developed throughout the degree.

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