

Programme specification

BA (Hons) English Literature



<i>Faculty:</i>	Faculty of Arts
<i>Entry from:</i>	September 2016
<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>	Not applicable
<i>Exit Awards:</i>	BA (Ord) English Literature Diploma of Higher Education English Literature Certificate of Higher Education English Literature
<i>UCAS Code / GTTR / Other:</i>	Q300
<i>Joint Honours Combinations:</i>	English Language, Film Studies, History, Creative Writing, Languages, Media
<i>QAA Benchmark Group(s):</i>	English
<i>Mode/s of Study:</i>	Full-time for 3 years Part-time for 6 years
<i>Language of Study:</i>	English

Introduction and Special Features

The Literature programme builds on over ten years of delivering Single Honours Literature at York St John University and the wealth of experience in delivering Joint Honours. It has a progressional approach to its design. The first year is foundational introducing the students to the study of Literature, developing the skills required to study Literature and supporting students to be independent lifelong learners.

The second year introduces themed modules such as 2EN470 Adaptations and 2EN190 Gothic and Horror as well as a historical pathway starting with Eighteenth-Century Writing. The third level focuses on specialist modules such as Writing the Caribbean and present students with the opportunity to follow a historical pathway.

The programme is distinguished by five key areas:

- Regular engagement with visiting writers and speakers.
- The innovative use of the local and regional landscape in learning and teaching.
- The external focus of the programme and team.
- Value added in terms of student achievement.
- Research-led teaching.

Students enrolled on an English Literature programme are encouraged to undertake a study-abroad opportunity. English Literature has partnerships with North American Institutions, as well as University of Silesia. Students are encouraged to undertake an exchange in semester 1 of Level 2, but the programme is flexible and if module options abroad match with the student's programme, exchange can be arranged for level 2 (full-year) or in Level 3. Any student wishing to undertake an exchange must have a learning agreement signed and checked by the Head of programme and approved by the Faculty Quality Committee.

A key feature of the programme is that the programme takes a multi modal approach to texts. As well as studying printed texts, students will study film and other media.

The programme is specifically designed so that students can follow areas of interest through the programme and has module choice in levels 2 and 3.

The programme is enhanced by the use of visiting writers and by field trips such as a Level 3 trip to the theatre on Shakespeare: Perspectives module.

Admissions Criteria

This programme adheres to 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 <http://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements.aspx>).

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

- Develop students' knowledge (such as lifelong engagement with the study of literature)
- Develop students as critical and creative thinkers
- Support students in developing transferable skills
- Provide growth and progression for students through their programme
- Develop a curriculum taking account of Internationalisation
- Engage students and staff in academic research
- Prepare students for graduate employability

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 1 / FHEQ L4

Level 1 Programme Outcomes

Establishing knowledge skills and understanding

- Demonstrate a basic awareness of some key moments in the history of literary and related phenomena
- Identify the characteristics of two or more literary genres
- Analyse in detail a short piece of text
- Use basic key concepts in the analysis of a variety of texts
- Show some ability to reflect critically on his/her reading
- Demonstrate a broad-based knowledge and understanding of a range of underlying concepts, content, and theoretical perspectives associated with English Literature.
- Appropriately apply perspectives, skills and knowledge gained across the subject areas studied
- Present, evaluate and interpret different forms of information, evidence, data, artefacts and performances appropriate to the English Literature.
- Communicate effectively using a range of basic skills appropriate for the audience and purpose

- Demonstrate a range of basic key transferable skills (including those for lifelong learning) appropriate for further study and future employment in English Literature.
- Apply critical approaches to specific texts with tutor guidance
- Explain his/her response to specific texts

Level 2 / FHEQ L5

Applying knowledge skills and understanding

- Demonstrate that s/he has acquired a broad understanding of literary and related phenomena in two or more historical periods
- Apply particular critical approaches to selected texts with minimal tutor guidance
- Apply theoretical perspectives and concepts to a range of situations and issues relevant to English Literature.
- Demonstrate critical awareness of research strategies particular to English Literature.
- Critically analyse data and information relevant to study in English Literature.
- Communicate subject-relevant information, ideas and arguments effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively in decision making in the context of growing maturity as an independent learner
- Combine his/her own response to a text with appropriate secondary reading to produce a structured argument
- Use a variety of key concepts in the analysis of texts
- Reflect critically on his/her reading with a minimum of tutor guidance
- Demonstrate the skills necessary for the exercising of personal responsibility

Level 3 / FHEQ L6

Analysis and synthesis

- Demonstrate the ability to acquire and make flexible use of the basic concepts, information, practical competencies and techniques which are standard features of the discipline of English Literature
- Proficiently use, and communicate the results of basic generic and English Literature approaches to access and evaluate qualitative data
- Demonstrate an ability to evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to problem solving associated with the discipline
- Work autonomously within a structured environment
- Conform to professional boundaries and norms where appropriate
- Demonstrate the skills necessary for the communication of information
- Demonstrate the skills necessary for the exercising of personal responsibility and decision making
- Use key concepts appropriately in the analysis of texts and/or other related phenomena
- Produce sustained analyses of a range of texts and/or related phenomena
- Reflect critically on his/her reading of a variety of texts
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between theoretical and empirical knowledge at the forefront of the subjects studied

- Manage and reflect critically upon individual learning
- Demonstrate knowledge of key moments in the history of literary or related phenomena
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the uncertainty and ambiguity of much knowledge in English Literature and/or Creative Writing.
- Demonstrate an ability to reach reasoned judgements about arguments and evidence based upon sound critical analysis and an understanding of different value positions
- Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in a range of decision making contexts related to their studies
- Identify the differences between a diversity of literary genres and their related cultural formations and contexts
- Apply and evaluate selected critical approaches
- Combine literary and/or related theories in the analysis and interpretation of complex problems

For Honours:

- Devise and sustain a critical commentary on advanced studies in English Literature and/or Creative Writing
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a specific area of literary studies and/or Creative Writing genre (or other subject studied if Joint Honours)

Programme Structure

Level 1 is foundational. Students are introduced to themes and historical periods that they will be able to choose to studying depth in levels 2 and 3. The two *Reading Texts* modules take a themed approach to introducing students to the study of literature. 1EN420 *Writing for Academic Success* supports the development of study skills and essay writing.

1EN470 Reading Texts ILU is a 10 credit module which has been validated for students transferring into the programme in semester 2 who need 10 credits in order to progress.

Students choose 60 credits in each semester from the options available. This gives students the opportunity to build on strengths and interests introduced at Level 1.

At level 2, Single Honours students may choose, in place of one of their literature modules, 20 credits from the following: 2CP201 *Issues of Taste*, 2FS100 *Independent Cinema*, 2DD002 *Politically Engaged Practice 2*, 2CW100 *Writing Fiction*, 2CW101 *Writing Reality*, 2CW103 *Writing Poetry*, or 2CW104 *Scriptwriting*. This offering is within the spirit of the programme in challenging students' understanding of the parameters of 'literature' and in bringing traditional models into dialogue with other media.

Students have the opportunity to study themed modules such as 2EN190 *Gothic and Horror* and 2EN212 *Cultures of Childhood*. There is also an opportunity to pursue an historical pathway starting with *Eighteenth-Century Writing* in semester 1.

Students choose 60 credits in each semester from the options available. This gives students the opportunity to build on strengths and interests introduced at Levels 1 and 2.

The dissertation (whether 20 or 40 credits) is compulsory. This is so students can work on an area of their choice in addition, the dissertation assesses whether students can write and work on a sustained piece of work which is expected of an honours graduate.

At Level 3, the programme focuses on refining skills introduced at Level 1, and developed at Level 2. Additionally, Level 3 requires the students to develop further as independent learners, most explicitly with the dissertation modules (discussed below). The value of independent learning is demonstrated through specialist modules, such as 3EN270, that focus attention on specific literatures. Level 3 modules also clearly build on themes established throughout the programme: 3EN290 Gender and Sexuality, for example, builds on Level 1 and 2 modules, particularly 1EN450 Gender and Writing. As 'gender' is a theme which runs throughout the programme, this module gives students the opportunity to consolidate their thoughts on this in their final year. Students who selected the media/cultural studies options at Level 2 will be able to continue along this route at Level 3, as modules will continue to enable students to analyse cultural texts, as well as the 'traditionally' literary. This provides a wide range of materials for student inquiry as well as enabling solid and innovative research on more conventional literary texts.

Modules for the Programme

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
1EN011	1	1	Reading Texts 1	20	C
1CW101	1	1	Forms of Narrative	20	C
1EN420	1	1	Writing for Academic Success	20	C
1EN470	1	2	Reading Texts ILU	10	O
1EN200	1	2	Reading Texts 2	20	C
1EN450	1	2	Gender and Writing	20	C
1EN460	1	2	Contemporary Writing	20	C
2EN440	2	1	Imaginary Worlds: Researching Science Fictions	20	O
2EN212	2	1	Cultures of Childhood	20	O
2EN470	2	1	Adaptations	20	O
2EN450	2	1	Literary Theory	20	O
2EN460	2	1	Eighteenth-Century Writing	20	O
2CP201	2	1	Issues of Taste	20	O ¹
2EN480	2	1	American Literature, Space and Place	20	O
2CW100	2	1	Writing Fiction	20	O ¹
2CW101	2	1	Writing Reality: Creative Non-Fiction	20	O ¹
2EN190	2	2	Gothic and Horror	20	O
2EN510	2	2	Literature at Work	20	C
2EN490	2	2	Romantic Period Writing	20	O
2EN511	2	2	Conflicting Words	20	O
2DD002	2	2	Politically Engaged Practice 2	20	O ¹
2FS100	2	2	Independent Cinema	20	O ¹
2CW104	2	2	Scriptwriting	20	O ¹
2CW103	2	2	Writing Poetry	20	O ¹
3EN996	3	1&2	Dissertation	40	CA if taken ²

¹ Single honours students can choose 0 or 20 credits from Writing Fiction, Writing Reality: Creative Nonfiction, Writing Poetry, Scriptwriting, Issues of Taste, Independent Cinema, and Politically Engaged Practice 2.

3EN997	3	1&2	Dissertation	20	CA if taken ²
3CW103	3	1&2	Creative Writing Project		CA if taken ²
3EN310	3	1	Canonicity: Making and Breaking the Canon	20	O
3EN330	3	1	Shakespeare: Perspectives	20	O
3EN320	3	1	Nineteenth-Century Writing	20	O
3EN300	3	1	Twentieth-Century Writing	20	O
3EN280	3	1	American literature in the Twentieth-Century	20	O
3CW101	3	1	Experimental Writing	20	O ³
3CW100	3	1	Writing Genres	20	O ³
3EN270	3	2	Writing the Caribbean	20	O
3EN290	3	2	Gender and Sexualities	20	O

***C**: Compulsory, **CP**: Compulsory for progression to the next level, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Level 1 will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminars and workshops. Academic tutoring will be built into the Reading Texts 1 module so that students can get to know and build a relationship with their academic tutor.

The assessment method is predominantly through the critical essay and portfolio for the Creative Writing modules. There are some opportunities for students to undertake a creative assessment (Forms of Narrative, Reading Texts 2). The creative assessments are options so that the Joint Honours and Single Honours students still have an opportunity to do a creative piece if they wish to, but can still undertake a critical piece of work.

The approach at level 2 is mainly a combination of lectures, seminars and individual tutorials. Some modules such as the Creative Writing modules will be taught through workshops where students will have the opportunity to comment on each other's drafts.

The assessment method is predominantly through the critical essay with a portfolio for the Creative Writing modules.

A key feature of level 3 is the dissertation where students work independently with a tutor in an area that interests them. The workshop method continues to be the approach in the Level 3 Creative Writing module. Other modules are taught through workshops and the lecture/seminar approach.

The assessment method is predominantly through the critical essay with a portfolio for the Creative Writing module.

² Compulsory if taken modules indicate that students are given an option of compulsory modules. This may be an option between two dissertation/special study modules, or a choice between core skills modules where the student is enrolled in joint honours and can take, for example, the employability module from either programme.

³ Students can choose 0 or 20 credits from Writing Genres or Experimental Writing.

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](#).

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

3EN996	<i>Dissertation</i>	40 credits
3CW103	<i>Creative Project</i>	40 credits
3EN997	<i>Dissertation</i>	20 credits

Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#)
- [Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Further Information

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Student programme handbook (faculty)
- Module handbooks (faculty)

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