

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For students starting in Academic Year 2022/2023

1.Course Summary

Name of programme & award title with UCAS code	Literary Studies [Q392]
Awarding Institution	Aberystwyth University
Final Award	Master of Arts
Date of Publication	September 2023
QAA Subject Benchmark	<p>Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing</p> <p>Validated against QAA English (2007) & reviewed upon the publication of QAA English (2015)</p> <p>Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing NAWE Creative Writing Subject Benchmark statement (2008) and undergoing review against QAA Creative Writing (2016)</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/study-with-us/ug-studies/terms-conditions/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

2: Duration

Programme	Years
Literary Studies [Q392]	1

3: Educational aims of the programme

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

- gain a knowledge of the history, culture and theories of literature by studying a range of primary texts of different genres from different historical periods.
- develop a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current literary problems and/or new insights, which are at the forefront of critical and theoretical debates.
- explore the relationships between texts, and between texts and their contexts
- develop the ability to write an originally conceived and sustained piece of research
- become self-reflective readers of literary and theoretical texts
- develop their own critical voice
- become independent learners who can use a broad range of reference tools, assimilate and appraise substantial amounts of information, and address, define, and solve problems
- develop an ability to arrive at independent conclusions and make judgements
- develop an ability to express themselves clearly in speech and in writing
- develop their own interests and manage their own learning through their choice of options
- develop a broad repertoire of writing techniques
- develop a responsiveness to the writerly demands made by subject matter, audience, genre, and style
- develop the ability to work in a sustained and cumulative way on a writing project over an extended period of time
- develop the ability to compose, revise, edit, sub-edit and finalise a piece of writing as part of a regular work routine
- develop good habits of sustained, self-critical, and active engagement with chosen subject matter, including creative, imaginative, and transactional writing tasks
- develop the ability to produce originally conceived and effective written work
- gain a knowledge of the history, culture and theories of writing by studying a range of primary texts of different genres from different historical periods
- develop a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, which are at the forefront of critical and theoretical debates about writing
- explore the relationships between texts, and between texts and their contexts
- investigate how different theories contribute to the practices of writing
- become reflective readers of literary and theoretical texts

- become independent practitioners and learners able to address, define and solve problems
- develop an ability to arrive at independent conclusions and make judgements
- develop an ability to express themselves clearly in speech and in writing
- develop their own critical and creative voices
- develop their own interests and manage their own learning

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

To enable successful students to:

- gain a knowledge of the history, culture and theories of literature by studying a range of primary texts of different genres from different historical periods
- develop a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current literary problems and/or new insights, which are at the forefront of critical and theoretical debates
- explore the relationships between texts, and between texts and their contexts
- develop the ability to write an originally conceived and sustained piece of research
- become self-reflective readers of literary and theoretical texts
- develop their own critical voice
- become independent learners who can use a broad range of reference tools, assimilate and appraise substantial amounts of information, and address, define, and solve problems
- develop an ability to arrive at independent conclusions and make judgements
- develop an ability to express themselves clearly in speech and in writing
- develop their own interests and manage their own learning through their choice of options
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4: Intended learning outcomes

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

- The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas.

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

5: Knowledge and understanding

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

Successful students will have gained a knowledge and understanding of:

A1 a range of different literary genres from different historical periods

A2 a range of theories and debates about literature across different historical periods

A3 the relations between texts, and between texts and their contexts

A4 the major theoretical issues associated with literature from different periods

Teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

The design of the programme, which has a central core on Bibliographical and Textual issues, and Methodological problems in History and Theory and a range of options, ensures that all students are introduced to the major issues of literary study.

Teaching and Learning

the provision of core modules which are skills-based, with a specific focus on the extension of research skills

student presentations

seminars with small-group work components

independent study

Assessment

coursework assignments

essays on topics to be devised by the student

orally presented research paper

dissertation

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

- The successful student will have gained a knowledge and understanding of:
- A1 their own writing practice, in terms of a reflective self-awareness of some of their own strengths and characteristics as a writer.
- A2 the variety of options available to writers in presenting subject matter, and some of the effects of choosing one option rather than another
- A3 some of the theories (for instance, of genre, register, rhetoric, and audience) which influence writing practice.

- A4 key relevant aspects of the relations between texts, and between texts and their contexts
- A5 a range of different literary genres from different historical periods
- A6 a range of theories and debates about literature across different historical periods
- A7 the relations between texts, and between texts and their contexts
- A8 the major theoretical issues associated with literature from different periods.

6: Skills and other attributes

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

Intellectual skills

The successful student will develop an ability to:

B1 Analyse and interpret a variety of texts

B2 exercise independent thought and judgement, and demonstrate self-direction in tackling and solving problems

B3 engage critically and self-reflectively with complex material, major concepts, and assess the significance of key literary thinkers

B4 interrogate and apply a variety of theoretical perspectives

B5 present sustained persuasive and coherent arguments

B6 communicate the results of their studies clearly and articulately

B7 plan and organise work and present work to deadlines

Teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

Seminars and workshops are used to develop these skills, which are assessed by independently devised and researched coursework assignments and a dissertation.

Practical skills

The successful student will develop:

C1 research skills, including the ability to analyse issues and theories, to assimilate, select and organise relevant material, and to use a variety of research tools in paper and on-line formats

C2 writing skills, including competence in structuring and presenting arguments, word-processing skills, and the ability to use recognised presentational skills, including bibliographical and notational conventions

C3 an ability to work in groups

C4 time and task management, initiative, and personal responsibility

C5 independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

Teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

- core skills-based modules
- student presentations
- preparation for written assignments
- essay writing
- seminars with small-group components
- independent study
- extended research skill

Assessment

- coursework assignments
- essays on topics to be devised by the student
- orally presented research papers
- dissertation of writing project

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

Intellectual skills

The successful student will develop an ability to:

B1 analyse and interpret a variety of texts

B2 exercise independent thought and judgement, and demonstrate self-direction in tackling and solving problems

B3 engage critically and self-reflectively with complex material, major concepts, and assess the significance of key literary thinkers

B4 interrogate and apply a variety of theoretical perspectives

B5 present sustained, persuasive and coherent arguments

B6 communicate the results of their studies clearly and articulately

B7 plan and organise work and present work to deadlines

Teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

Seminars and workshops are used to develop these skills, which are assessed by independently devised and researched coursework assignments and a dissertation.

Practical skills

The successful student will develop:

C1 research skills, including the ability to analyse issues and theories, to assimilate, select and organise relevant material, and to use a variety of research tools in paper and on-line formats

C2 writing skills, including competence in structuring and presenting arguments, word-processing skills, and the ability to use recognised presentational skills, including bibliographical and notational conventions

C3 an ability to work in groups

C4 time and task management, initiative, and personal responsibility

C5 independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

Teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

Teaching and learning

core skills-based modules

student presentations

preparation for written assignments

essay writing

seminars with small-group work components

independent study

extended research skills

Assessment

coursework assignments

essays on topics to be devised by the student

orally presented research paper

dissertation

7: Transferable/Key skills

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

Transferable/Key skills

D1 ability to analyse issues and theories

D2 ability to research, assimilate, select and organise relevant material using a variety of research tools in paper and on-line formats

D3 extended writing skills

D4 competence in structuring and presenting arguments

D5 an ability to work in groups

D6 time and task management and personal responsibility

D7 word-processing skills

Teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

Teaching and learning

student presentations

group work

seminars in 'workshop' format

independent study

essay writing

extended research

Assessment

coursework assignments

essays on topics to be devised by the student

orally presented research paper

dissertation

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

The successful student will develop an ability to:

D1 analyse issues and theories

D2 research, assimilate, select and organise relevant material using a variety of research tools in paper and on-line formats

D3 sustain academic writing across an extended assignment

D4 structure and present cogent and substantiated arguments that are complex and nuanced

D5 work as part of a group or team

D6 manage their time effectively

D7 produce word-processed documents to a high standard

Teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

- student presentations
- group work
- seminars in 'workshop' format
- independent study
- essay writing
- extended research

Assessment:

- coursework assignment
- essays on topics to be devised by the student
- orally presented research paper
- dissertation/writing project

Teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

- tutor-and-student-led workshops and seminars
- encouragement of methods of working on longer pieces which incorporate on-going processes of composition, reflection, revision, and feedback
- encouragement of habits of 'articulated practice', for instance, in the form of reflective working diaries and the acquisition of relevant theoretical ideas and terms

Assessment:

- module assignments
- writing portfolio
- oral presentations

8: Work-based learning (where appropriate)

9: What is the structure of the programme?

Final Year Core modules

Core (80 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
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Master's Dissertation	ENM0560	60	Semester 3
Research and Project Planning	ENM3020	20	Semester 2

Final Year

Options Choose three modules in semester one and two modules in semester 2:

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Queer and Now: 100 years of Queer Writing	ENM0220	20	Semester 1
21st-Century Medievalisms	ENM0920	20	Semester 2
Medieval Dreams and Marvels	ENM1120	20	Semester 1
Postwar American Fiction	ENM1220	20	Semester 1
Romantic Radical Cultures	ENM1520	20	Semester 1
Women, Fiction and Female Community, 1660-1792	ENM1620	20	Semester 2
Sensational Sales: Victorian Popular Literature 1848-1894	ENM1720	20	Semester 2
Writing Ireland, Writing Wales	ENM1820	20	Semester 2

10: University Regulations

Details of University Regulations can be found at <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/regulations/>

11: Support for students and their learning

12: Entry Requirements

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

We operate a personal admissions policy in which all applications are considered on their own merits.

Applicants must be able to satisfy the general admissions requirements of Aberystwyth University, and of the Department of English and Creative Writing in one of the following ways:

Graduates with a Bachelors honours degree would usually have an Upper Second or better in English. Although we can be flexible in the offers we make, it is our expectation that English would usually be the principal subject of study at undergraduate level.

International qualifications: We welcome a wide range of international undergraduate qualifications. The standard offer for international applicants is a good first degree (with evidence of competence in English Literature). Applications from students studying for other international qualifications are considered on their own merits. Applicants will need to show evidence of ability in the English language. This can be way of a British Council IELTS qualification proved with a minimum score of 7, a TOEFL qualification proved with a minimum score of 610 for a paper-based examination, or 250 for a computer-based qualification, a pass in the Cambridge Proficiency Test, or other qualification.

Details of entry requirements for the scheme can be found at <https://courses.aber.ac.uk/>

13: Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

14: Regulation of Assessment

Academic Regulations are published as Appendix 2 of the Academic Quality Handbook: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/aqro/handbook/app-2/>

15: External Examiners

External Examiners fulfill an essential part of the University's Quality Assurance. Annual reports by External Examiners are considered by Faculties and Academic Board at university level.

16: Indicators of quality and standards

Information provided by Department of English and Creative Writing

PLEASE NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the Masters programme in Literary Studies, and the learning outcomes that a typical student might be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on course and module content, learning and assessment methods and learning outcomes may be found in the Masters Degrees in English at Aberystwyth syllabus guide and on the AU module database. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by Aberystwyth University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

The Department Quality Audit questionnaire serves as a checklist about the current requirements of the University's Academic Quality Handbook. The periodic Department Reviews provide an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of quality assurance processes and for the University to assure itself that management of quality and standards which are the responsibility of the University as a whole are being delivered successfully.