COURSE SPECIFICATION
BA (Hons) English Literature

Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration

July 2021

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	BA (Hons) English Literature
Final Award	BA (Hons) English Literature
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C0995S , U0995PYC
Mode of study	Full time
Mode of delivery	Campus, Sandwich (Optional)
Normal length of course	3 years, 4 years with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	From September 2019 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Area Studies, History, Politics and Literature
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-social-historical-and-literary-studies/
Course webpage including entry criteria	http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/english-and-journalism/ba-hons-english-literature/
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	none
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Levels 4, 5, 6

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The aims of the English Literature Programme are:

- To inspire enthusiasm for the subject and an appreciation of its past and continuing social, cultural, political and economic importance.
- To provide an intellectually stimulating and supportive learning and studying environment.
- To provide a framework that fosters wide and varied reading through a broad, diverse, flexible and coherent programme of study in literature from the early modern period to the present day in a broad and balanced curriculum.
- To engage students in the exploration of English Literature within a global context.
- To develop a range of subject-specific and generic skills of value in graduate employment, including high-order critical, analytic and research skills, and advanced competence in oral and written communication.
- To promote the understanding of verbal creativity and aesthetic features of literary and non- literary texts.
- To help students to recognise and utilise the expressive resources of language.
- To encourage students to reflect critically upon the acts of reading and writing and on the history of textual production and reception.
- To provide opportunities for students to gain experience and skills relevant to employment, by choosing relevant work placement/work-based learning/study options.
- To provide a basis for further /postgraduate study in English or related subjects and for the teaching of English at all levels.
- To provide a framework for students to follow a flexible, coherent programme of study, allowing them to develop specialist interests and knowledge in their main subject and in a minor subject via a Pathway.

    This course offers subject Pathways in History, and in Media Studies, each with a different named exit award. A student who satisfies the Pathway requirements will qualify for the following named awards:

    – BA (Hons) English Literature with History

    – BA (Hons) English Literature with Media Studies

Pathways provide flexibility in the course by offering an academically coherent combination of modules in another subject area for a student to undertake alongside their main degree subject. All students apply for the Single Honours degree and follow a common curricula of core modules at level 4. All participating Single Honours degrees include a 20 credit bridging modules for each Pathway. These modules cover essential material on the Single Honours, and also introduce students to the subject Pathways offered at Levels 5 and 6 through their interdisciplinary flavour. The Bridging modules enhance the experience of all students, regardless of whether they opt for a Pathway, by introducing them to related subject areas that complement the main degree subject.

A students chooses whether to continue on the Single Honours programme or join a Pathway when making their options choices for Level 5. In order to satisfy the requirements for the recommendation of the Pathway award a student must have been awarded 40 credits at level 5 and 40 credits in level 6 in subject Pathway units. A student who joins a Pathway at Level 5 but decides that they do not wish to remain on it, can return to the Single Honours Programme at Level 6, with the exception of those programmes subject to professional accreditation requirements.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
A1	Show an appreciation of the ways in which texts are produced and shaped across different periods (from the early modern to the contemporary period) and the principal literary genres across prose, poetry and drama.	These outcomes are developed through a combination of lectures, seminars and workshops. Delivery methods vary depending on the topics being covered.	These outcomes are assessed primarily through coursework (both individual and group submissions), with some in-class assignments. The coursework uses an array of methods including essays, presentations, dissertations, critical reflection exercises, reports and portfolios.
A2	Evidence an ability and readiness to question the principles, practices and boundaries of the subject that is underpinned by a critical appreciation of the breadth of literatures in English.		
A3	Deploy a range of critical, theoretical, and stylistic concepts and terminology.		
A4	Engage with the ways in which culture, language, technology, and economics affect how, where and by whom texts are produced and received.		
A5	Respond in an informed manner to the ways in which texts highlight ethical issues, understanding their responsibility as readers to ethical practice and social justice.		

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
B1	*Analyse texts and discourses closely and critically, using appropriate approaches and terminology.*	These outcomes are primarily developed through discussions (normally in seminars and workshops) and via supported independent learning. The delivery methods vary depending on the topics being covered.	These outcomes are assessed primarily through coursework (both individual and group submissions), with some in-class assignments. The coursework uses an array of methods including essays, presentations, dissertations,
B2	*Demonstrate capacity for independent judgement, analytical and critical reasoning, and imaginative response, engaging with new areas of investigation within and across discipline boundaries.*		
B3	*Articulate a critical understanding of complex texts and ideas (and of their historical relations where appropriate).*		
B4	*Discover and synthesize complex information and diverse evidence, looking beyond the immediate task to the wider context, including the possible social and economic effects of their own and others' work.*		
B5	*Consider information from diverse sources and assess,*		

	integrate and organise that information in relation to defined goals.		critical reflection exercises, reports and portfolios.

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
C1	*Discover, test, interpret and analyse ideas and information and evidence independently and critically, evaluating and reflecting on their own practices and assumptions as part of that process.*	The course employs group discussion, one-to-one discussion, and group projects, to deliver core concepts. These tend to be delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorials. Assignments and projects are supported via workshops, tutorials and guided independent study.	These outcomes are assessed primarily through coursework (both individual and group submissions), with some in-class assignments. The coursework uses an array of methods including essays, presentations, dissertations, critical reflection exercises, reports and portfolios. The students are required to manage a number of both individual and group projects during their course.
C2	*Respond with intellectual curiosity, creativity and imagination to research tasks, embracing the challenges and opportunities for development that they provide.*		
C3	*Initiate and take responsibility for their own work, identifying and interrogating questions or problems, and proposing interpretative or explanatory solutions.*		
C4	*Articulate their own and other people's ideas concisely, accurately and persuasively both orally and in writing.*		
C5	*Employ research strategies and tools (including current and emerging digital technologies), and scholarly conventions of the discipline in the process of planning, organising and producing work to deadlines.*		

D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
D1	*Work in a range of environments, responding positively to new situations by being aware, flexible, adaptable and realistic in their expectations.*	Transferable skills are developed through a combination of group & personal tutorials, seminars, projects and workshops. Ethical issues are embedded into a number of modules and primarily developed via lectures, seminar	These outcomes are assessed primarily through coursework (both individual and group submissions), with some in-class assignments. The coursework uses an array of methods including essays, presentations, dissertations,
D2	*Show an enterprising spirit, bringing innovation and productivity, both in the groups and communities to which they belong, and through the initiation of projects of their own.*		
D3	*Be effective team players, able to provide leadership and to support the success of others, especially through constructive dialogue (for example, by listening, sharing ideas, asking and responding to questions, feeding back to others and receiving feedback, and negotiating responses and solutions), and with sensitivity to cultural contexts and the role of narrative and emotion in*		

		and tutorial discussion, projects, and guided independent study.	critical reflection exercises, reports and portfolios. The students are required to manage a number of both individual and group projects during their course.
	decision-making.		
D4	*Demonstrate advanced communication skills, including the ability to present persuasive, coherent, well-supported, and sustained arguments, in a range of forms and to different audiences.*		
D5	*Plan, organise and report, with clear goals and objectives, and to deadlines, demonstrating in the process proactivity in recognising and addressing personal and professional development needs.*		

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services the School of Area Studies, History, Politics and Literature also provides dedicated induction activities and personal tutoring. Students are also encouraged to seek additional advice and support from School's Welfare and Engagement, Learning Development Tutors and Resource Centre (learning technologies). These resources are underpinned by information and advice available to students via Moodle (VLE).

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences' Placement and Internship Centre provides support for students undertaking work placements (including study abroad). Its provision is also underpinned by information available to students via Moodle (VLE).

Career-related activities within the English Literature degree programme are supported by the University's Careers and Employability Service.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:
- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification
- University of Portsmouth Strategy
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for English
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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Document details

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