

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	BA (Hons) English
2	Course Code	US0721
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	not applicable

6	Course Description
	<p>Our versatile BA (Hons) English course gives you the freedom to choose the subjects that suit you at each stage of your degree. You can combine the literary and the linguistic, the critical and the creative, the historical and the contemporary. You can experience all aspects of English Studies to develop extensive knowledge and skills in different literary periods, approaches to language, and writing practices. The course covers how language, writing and texts work; studies diverse literature authors have created; and teaches you to write cogently and imaginatively. It empowers you to plot your own story as an individual, collaborator, and future professional.</p> <p>At the heart of our English courses is a shared interest in words and stories, and an appreciation of the real difference they make in the world. Taught by world-leading academics in a friendly, supportive learning community, you will explore the power of language and literature in ways that matter today and to you.</p> <p>Flexibility and diversity of choice are built into our inclusive course for you to shape your degree according to your interests, strengths, and career goals. You can study and practice a range of forms, genres, and modes of communication from different historical contexts and theoretical perspectives, across literature, language, creative writing, and drama. Our courses include opportunities for work experience or peer collaboration as standard and culminate in a Major Project, which allows you to research and write about ideas and questions of your choosing.</p> <p>English at BCU is a top-20 research department for English Studies and research excellence is central to our taught courses. We focus on the practice and application of subject knowledge and skills to develop graduate readers, thinkers, and writers that excel in criticality, creativity, and communication. As a perceptive critical thinker, you will interpret and assess complex information and situations to form intelligent judgements and solutions. As a creative individual, you will produce new and imaginative texts, and devise interesting, challenging ideas. And, as a proficient, versatile communicator, you will be trained in clear and accurate spoken and written English to professional standards.</p> <p>Our graduates are characterised by their extensive knowledge and skills in English, and transferrable qualities that are sought-after by employers. These subject-specific and</p>

	professional skills and attributes are embedded in the course to open a wide range of career paths and employment opportunities, including (but not limited to) education; writing, editing and publishing; advertising and marketing; public relations; and digital content creation.
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours English	6	360
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Certificate of Higher Education English	4	120
	Diploma of Higher Education English	5	240
	Bachelor of Arts English	6	300

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full Time	City Centre	3 years	US0721
	Professional Placement Year	City Centre	4 years	US1318

10	Entry Requirements
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk , or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.

11	Course Aims
	<p>The aims of the course are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a flexible combination of studies in English literature, language and creative writing • develop an appreciation of the historical and continuing social, cultural, political and economic significances of English disciplines • promote knowledge and understanding of the workings of creative and critical writing, and other modes of expression and communication • develop skills in critical analysis, systematic study and/or creative responses • foster wide and varied creative and critical reading • produce proficient and adaptive communicators • provide a basis for further study in English or related subjects and for the teaching of English at all levels • enhance graduate employment prospects through subject-specific and transferrable skills, including high-order critical, analytic and research skills.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding
1	Analyse the development of literature, creative practice and/or language in different contexts
2	Evaluate creative and critical forms, including the relationships between genre, conventions and media
3	Develop independent, imaginative, and considered responses to texts, problems and/or data
4	Investigate how culture, language, technology, the economy, and environment affect the production and reception of texts
5	Appraise and apply critical, theoretical, methodological and stylistic approaches and terminology in relation to literature, creative practice, and/or linguistics
	Skills
6	Synthesise and test complex information and diverse evidence
7	Construct cogent arguments informed by rigorous judgements
8	Demonstrate professional and versatile communication and presentation
9	Initiate, manage and complete sustained and substantial independent projects
10	Work proficiently both independently and with others

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, students will be able to:</i>
1	Define and discuss formal and thematic features in a range of literary texts from different genres, periods, and media
2	Describe and apply relevant critical concepts and terminology in response to a range of texts and/or data
3	Communicate appropriately according to relevant presentation and referencing conventions
4	Recognise and demonstrate responsibility for own learning
	<i>Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, students will be able to:</i>
1	Compare and analyse the composition, reception and significance of a range of literary texts and linguistic forms
2	Interpret and utilise critical and theoretical ideas, terminology and methodologies in the analysis of texts and/or data
3	Recognise the relationships between literature and language, society, culture, technology, the economy, and environments
4	Execute critical and/or creative responses derived from independent research and practice
5	Communicate effectively and with confidence according to relevant formal and presentation conventions
6	Reflect critically on and apply strategies for development in research, writing, and collaboration

	<i>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 6 / the Bachelors Degree, students will be able to:</i>
1	Synthesise and apply imaginative insight, critical understanding and technical knowledge in response to literature, language or the production of new creative writing
2	Evaluate and develop productive critical and theoretical approaches in the analysis of texts and/or data
3	Investigate the relationships between literature, language, society, culture, technology, the economy, and environments
4	Construct cogent reflections on writing informed by extensive independent practice and research
5	Communicate clearly and accurately according to professional formal and presentation standards

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p>All of our taught courses align with our Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy. This ensures that the teaching on your course will be shaped by the expertise in research and practice of our academic staff. The relationship between research and teaching ensures we can offer a curriculum that incorporates advances in research, emphasises the processes for producing knowledge and adopts an inquiry-based approach, designed to encourage new ideas and experimentation. Our strategy also ensures that the curriculum on your course will be designed and delivered inclusively. Our inclusive approach to curriculum and pedagogy reflects the wide range of contemporary issues which are of concern to our diverse student and staff population. This results in a curriculum which positively engages with and is willing to address and discuss issues of social justice and equality. Our approach is aimed at supporting the building of academic communities of practice and fostering high levels of scholarly professionalism in our students. All courses embed distinctive graduate attributes relevant to the subject and we hope that you will find your course engaging, challenging, stimulating and fun.</p> <p>How you will learn: Your learning will be through a mixture of lectures, practical workshops and seminars. Your course also provides an opportunity to undertake work-based learning through a placement. We embed flexible opportunities for you to access your curriculum including recorded lectures, blended learning, on-campus delivery and intensive delivery of some modules. We recognise that students progress to higher education from a variety of educational experiences and that university is a completely new educational environment for most of you. For that reason, you will find that in your first year with us there is a focus on supporting your transition which places an emphasis on developing both the confidence and the competencies required for being successful at your university assignments. Where appropriate, we will bring in external speakers or arrange visits relevant to your specialism. These may be from industry or be focused on a particular specialist academic interest. We have excellent links with industry, community and scholarly partners which we draw on to enhance your learning experience.</p> <p>How you will be assessed: All our assessments are designed to ensure that you meet the learning outcomes of your modules and thus of the course overall. Assessment types may include written research reports, essays, case studies, practical work, portfolios and presentations. There is one exam, taken</p>

online, in an optional module in the second year of your course. You will be assessed as an individual but there may be times when you will be asked to work within teams and submit assessments as groups. All modules offer chances for formative assessment, that is, informal assessments that are used to assess your understanding before the final submission of your work. Formative assessments also help inform the teaching strategy within a module, identifying areas where we can offer extra help and guidance. We will offer tutorials and a chance for you to discuss your draft assessments before you submit them. Once marked, we will give formal feedback and ‘feed forward’ on all work submitted, aimed at helping you improve future submissions.

What we expect of you:

Your course is designed so that you experience learning through inquiry: questioning, investigating, examining, exploring, analysing and creating. By engaging fully with your studies and taking up the support we offer you, you will gain the confidence and skills you need to be successful in your studies. As you progress through your course, we will increasingly expect you to study independently. In your final year you will undertake a major project for which you will receive supervision, but we will expect you to organise your learning and undertake independent research. By the end of the course, as a result of your full engagement with your studies, you will be able to begin the next stage of your life as a confident, resilient and socially aware person.

15	Course Requirements																																																								
15a	<p>Level 4: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EGL4055</td> <td>Voices of Birmingham</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL4053</td> <td>Adaptation</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL4054</td> <td>Prose Writing</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL4047</td> <td>Key Critical Concepts</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least <u>40</u> credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EGL4049</td> <td>Literature and Conflict</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL4048</td> <td>Language in Action</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL4042</td> <td>Craft of Writing</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 5: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete the following CORE module (totalling 20 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EGL5073</td> <td>Writing and the Environment</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete 20 credits from the following indicative list of CORE Faculty modules.</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ADM5000</td> <td>Work Placement</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADM5006</td> <td>Collaborative Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 80 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EGL5076</td> <td>The Romantics</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL5074</td> <td>Grammar and Style</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL5077</td> <td>Writing Short Stories</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	EGL4055	Voices of Birmingham	20	EGL4053	Adaptation	20	EGL4054	Prose Writing	20	EGL4047	Key Critical Concepts	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	EGL4049	Literature and Conflict	20	EGL4048	Language in Action	20	EGL4042	Craft of Writing	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	EGL5073	Writing and the Environment	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	ADM5000	Work Placement	20	ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	EGL5076	The Romantics	20	EGL5074	Grammar and Style	20	EGL5077	Writing Short Stories	20
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EGL5071	The Victorians	20
EGL5065	Language in Society	20
EGL5075	Screenwriting	20
EGL5062	Gender, Sexuality and Culture	20
EGL5079	Multicultural Literature	20
EGL5078	Modern and Contemporary Theatre	20
MED5217	Digital Storytelling	20
MED5202	Creating Compelling Content	20

Professional Placement Year (optional)

In order to qualify for the Professional Placement Year, a student must successfully complete the following Level 5 module:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PPY5003	Professional Placement Year	120

Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 60 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL6228	Major Project Preparation	20
EGL6151	Major Project: English Dissertation	40

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 60 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL6158	Modernism and its Legacies	20
EGL6156	Applied Sociolinguistics	20
EGL6159	Writing Poetry	20
EGL6138	The Gothic	20
EGL6141	Shakespeare Studies	20
EGL6143	Teaching English as a Foreign Language	20
EGL6136	Writing Creative Nonfiction	20
EGL6147	Moral Philosophy	20
EGL6160	Stage and Society	20
MED6196	Understanding Social Media: Practices, Cultures and Debates	20
EGL6155	Audio Drama and Podcast Writing	20

15b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: EGL4xxx Voices of Birmingham (20 credits) EGL4xxx Adaptation (20 credits) EGL4xxx Prose Writing (20 credits)	Core module: EGL4047 Key Critical Concepts (20 credits)
	Optional Module: Level 4 option (20 credits)
	Optional Module: EGL4049 Literature and Conflict Or EGL4048 Language in Action Or EGL4042 Craft of Writing

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
EGL5073: Writing and the Environment (20 credits)	Optional Module (40 credits). Two from the following list:
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	Core-option module: ADM5000 Work Placement (20 credits) Or ADM5006 Collaborative Practice (20 credits)

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core module: EGL6xxx Major Project Preparation (20 credits)	EGL6151 Major Project: English Dissertation (40 credits)
Optional Module (40 credits). Two from the following list: EGL6xxx Applied Sociolinguistics EGL6xxx Writing Poetry EGL6xxx Modernism and its Legacies EGL6138 The Gothic EGL6147 Moral Philosophy MED6196 Understanding Social Media: Practices, Cultures and Debates	Optional Module (20 credits). One from: EGL6xxx Stage and Society EGL6141 Shakespeare Studies EGL6131 Writing Creative Nonfiction EGL6143 Teaching English as a Foreign Language EGL6155 Audio Drama and Podcast Writing

Professional Placement Year (Optional):

Students on the Professional Placement Year version of this course will undertake their placement after their second year of study. They will then return to complete their third year as indicated above.

16	Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment
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Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 4

Workload

18% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	216
Directed Learning	720
Private Study	264
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	93%
Exam	0%
In-Person	7%

Level 5

Workload

16% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	190
Directed Learning	730
Private Study	260
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
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Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%

Level 6

Workload

13% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	150
Directed Learning	714
Private Study	336
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%