Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	BA (Hons) English Language and Literature with Foundation Year
2	**Course Code**	US0784F
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**
	Our **BA (Hons) Language and Literature** course is a balanced programme of study that reflects the multidisciplinarity of contemporary English studies. It develops you as a reader of texts and critical concepts with an emphasis on the precise analysis of language, its structures, and effects. You will learn about how language works in practice in society, the media, the internet, politics, health, and education. Informed by research expertise in sociolinguistics and corpus linguistics, this course offers a technical and applied understanding of English language, from the sounds we make to how texts persuade us, which complements your study of literary texts, their composition, and significance.
	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.
	Alongside core modules in language, 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.
	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.

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 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.

About foundation courses
This diverse and creative course incorporating a Foundation Year is a must for anyone passionate about English, whether that be language, literature, drama or creative writing.

As part of the foundation year you will develop essential skills and knowledge which will help you succeed in your future degree level studies and which will be transferable to your future career.

You will study a variety of subjects, including language and literature, drama and creative writing, and will learn how these different aspects of English study interact with one another.

Alongside this you will develop core skills in research, critical analysis, planning and evaluation, creativity and effective communication. Understanding how English is studied in context, developing that knowledge and applying it through a range of assignments and assessments, will provide you with a strong foundation upon which to progress to degree-level study in English.

7	Course Awards		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours English Language and Literature	6	480
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Foundation Certificate English Language and Literature	3	120
	Certificate of Higher Education English Language and Literature	4	240
	Diploma of Higher Education English Language and Literature	5	360
	Bachelor of Arts English Language and Literature	6	420

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	4 years	US0784F

10	Entry Requirements	
	Home:	80 UCAS tariff points. Must include English Language or Literature A-Level. In lieu of English Language or Literature A Level, subjects that include an element of essay writing will be considered as an alternative, i.e. History, Religious Education, The Sciences, Philosophy, Film Studies, Communication Studies & Creative Writing all include a component of this. Applicants will be required to submit a satisfactory essay set by the department. GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths at grade C/4 or above.
	EU:	IELTS: Minimum overall score of 6.0, with 6.0 in writing and no less than 5.5 in the remaining three skills.
	International:	IELTS: Minimum overall score of 6.0, with 6.0 in writing and no less than 5.5 in the remaining three skills.
	Access:	• Pass with 60 credits overall. At least 45 credits at Level 3 in an English related area. • Language, Literature and Culture subjects preferred but other subjects also considered. • Applicants may be requested to complete an essay set by the department if subject doesn't contain any English.

11	Course Aims
	The aims of the course are to: • develop subject specialism in the systematic and critical study of language, with an emphasis on the role of language in society • advance the critical analysis of literary and non-literary texts, and other forms of expression and communication • promote knowledge and understanding of concepts, modes of analysis, methodologies and theoretical approaches in structural and context-based investigations of language use • refine the ability to identify, investigate, and find solutions to real-life language-related problems • 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 and workings of language and literature in different contexts
2	Evaluate creative and critical forms, including the relationships between genre, conventions and media
3	Develop independent, systematic, and precise responses to texts, problems and/or data
4	Investigate how language, culture, technology, the economy, and environment affect the reception of texts
5	Appraise and apply critical, theoretical, methodological and stylistic approaches and terminology in relation to linguistics and literature
	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**
	Upon completion of Level 3 / the Foundation Certificate, students will be able to:
1	Identify and apply appropriate sources relevant to the field of English studies
2	Apply appropriate methodology and contexts relevant to the various fields of English study
3	Use a range of academic skills and appropriate behaviours required to be successful as a higher education student and identify areas for improvement
4	Produce work that recognises the significance of key ideas and concepts across various fields of English study
5	Communicate information in appropriate ways to a pre-defined audience through planned, structured and edited outputs
	Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, students will be able to:
1	Define and discuss linguistic and literary features in a range of texts and registers of language-data
2	Use relevant linguistic and literary concepts and terms in response to different texts, methods and usage-based contexts
3	Communicate appropriately according to relevant presentation and referencing conventions
4	Recognise and demonstrate responsibility for own learning
	Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, students will be able to:
1	Compare and analyse the composition, reception and significance of a range of texts from different contexts and movements
2	Utilise and examine key terminology and concepts related to grammar, writing style, sociolinguistics, and literary periods
3	Recognise the relationships between language, texts, society, culture, technology, the economy, and environments
4	Execute coherent responses and research projects drawing on data, appropriate methods of analysis, and independent research

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
	Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 6 / the Bachelors Degree, students will be able to:
1	Select and synthesise advanced subject-knowledge and diverse evidence to elucidate language-related problems in society
2	Appraise and develop productive critical and theoretical approaches in the analysis of language and texts in different contexts
3	Investigate the relationships between language, texts, society, culture, technology, the economy, and environments
4	Construct cogent arguments informed by extensive independent research and practice
5	Communicate clearly and accurately according to relevant professional formal and presentation standards

14	**Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy**
	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. **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. **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 online, 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	*Individual levels below to be deleted where not applicable.* **Level 3** ***In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):***

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL3000	Language and Creativity	20
EGL3001	Language & Texts	20
EGL3002	Literature in the World	20
EGL3003	Literature in Time	20
EGL3xxx	The Full Moon Club	20
EGL3xxx	Writing and Composition	20

Level 4:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL4xxx	Voices of Birmingham	20
EGL4xxx	Adaptation	20
EGL4xxx	Prose Writing	20
EGL4047	Key Critical Concepts	20
EGL4048	Language in Action	20

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL4049	Literature and Conflict	20
EGL4042	Craft of Writing	20

Level 5:

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
EGL5073	Writing and the Environment	20
EGL5xxx	Grammar and Style	20
EGL5065	Language in Society	20

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete 20 credits from the following indicative list of CORE Faculty modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
ADM5000	Work Placement	20
ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL5xxx	The Romantics	20
EGL5xxx	Writing Short Stories	20
EGL5071	The Victorians	20
EGL5xxx	Screenwriting	20
EGL5062	Gender, Sexuality and Culture	20
EGL5xxx	Multicultural Literature	20
EGL5xxx	Modern and Contemporary Theatre	20
MED5217	Digital Storytelling	20
MED5202	Creating Compelling Content	20

Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL6xxx	Applied Sociolinguistics	20
EGL6xxx	Major Project Preparation	20
EGL6151	Major Project: English Dissertation	40

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL6xxx	Modernism and its Legacies	20
EGL6xxx	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

EGL6xxx	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 3

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: EGL3001 Language & Texts (20 credits) EGL3003 Literature in Time (20 credits) EGL3xxx The Full Moon Club (20 credits)	Core modules: EGL3000 Language and Creativity (20 credits) EGL3002 Literature in the World (20 credits) EGL3xxx Writing and Composition (20 credits)

Level 4

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

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: EGL5073: Writing and the Environment (20 credits) EGL5xxx Grammar and Style (20 credits)	Core module: EGL5065 Language in Society (20 credits)
	Core-option module: ADM5000 Work Placement (20 credits) Or ADM5006 Collaborative Practice (20 credits)
Optional Module (20 credits). One of: EGL5056 Writing Short Stories	Optional Module (20 credits). One of: EGL5071 The Victorians

EGL5xxx Screenwriting	EGL5062 Gender, Sexuality and Culture
EGL5xxx The Romantics	EGL5xxx Multicultural Literature
EGL5xxx Modern and Contemporary Theatre	MED5217 Digital Storytelling
MED5202 Creating Compelling Content	

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: EGL6xxx Applied Sociolinguistics (20 credits) EGL6xxx Major Project Preparation (20 credits)	Core module: EGL6151 Major Project: English Dissertation (40 credits)
Optional Module (20 credits). One of: 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 of: EGL6xxx Stage and Society EGL6141 Shakespeare Studies EGL6131 Writing Creative Nonfiction EGL6143 Teaching English as a Foreign Language EGL6155 Audio Drama and Podcast Writing

16	**Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment**

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 3

Workload

24% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	288
Directed Learning	660
Private Study	252
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

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

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
Coursework	92%
Exam	8%
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%