Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	BA (Hons) English and Journalism
2	**Course Code**	US0802
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) English and Journalism course prepares you for a career in the dynamic and fascinating world of journalism. It develops your literary studies skills to analyse texts, conduct research, and construct arguments, while gaining valuable experience working on live stories in media environments, which will teach you how to craft a story in a way that engages the audience. You will benefit from industry-standard media facilities throughout your studies, including our live newsroom, to develop a journalism specialism in news, broadcasting, features, or design. Taught by world-leading academics, this course brings together the study of English with knowledge of journalism practice and professional development. Combining the study of literature, language, drama and creative writing with the development of skills to become a thinking media worker, you will benefit from subject knowledge and transferable skills from both disciplines. Through the study of English you will develop an ability to work as an independent researcher, to communicate effectively in spoken and written discourse, to critically evaluate the work of others and respond imaginatively to original briefs. Understanding how language works in practice and how language and literature engage with societies are both vital in understanding how the discipline connects with the wider world, enabling you to focus on the production, interpretation and negotiation of meaning. These skills intersect with the journalism component, where you will publish your stories, use blogs (including the student-run Birmingham Eastside website), learn to shoot and edit news videos, and employ social media channels and other interactive media to support your work and self-development. Work experience placements on live stories in media environments will teach you how to craft a story in a way that engages the audience. Teaching for the journalism component takes place in radio, TV and photography studios, editing suites and computer suites, where you will build your skills as you begin to make contacts in the industry and make your first moves into media work.

7	Course Awards		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours English and Journalism	6	360
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Certificate of Higher Education English and Journalism Diploma of Higher Education English and Journalism Bachelor of Arts English Language and Journalism	4 5 6	120 240 300

8	Variation 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	US0802
Professional Placement Year	City Centre	4 years	US1328

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
	The aims of the course are to: • inspire enthusiasm for English literature, language and creative writing, and an appreciation of their past and continuing social, cultural, political and economic importance. • introduce learners to core skills, knowledge, concepts and scholarly debates required to operate in, engage with and shape the advancement of the journalism industry. • nurture and support independent, innovative, passionate and creative reporters wanting to tell a diverse range of stories and offer a voice to under-represented communities locally, nationally, and globally. • promote knowledge and understanding of the workings of creative and critical writing, and other modes of expression and communication. • equip students with an understanding of the role of journalism within the industry and society more widely. • encourage students to reflect critically upon the acts of reading and writing and on the history of textual production and reception. • ensure graduates are prepared for the future of journalism and emerge equipped to work in this dynamic sector. • 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	Develop and realise distinctive journalism work relevant to a range of audiences.
2	Evaluate and demonstrate creative, critical, and editorial knowledge, including the relationships between genre, conventions, and media.
3	Investigate how socio-cultural, economic, political, technological and environmental factors shape the journalism industry, and the production and reception of texts.
4	Appraise and utilise critical, theoretical, methodological and stylistic approaches and terminology in relation to Journalism and English Studies.
5	Apply relevant and appropriate ethical, legal and regulatory frameworks relevant to journalistic practice.
	Skills
6	Produce and appropriately distribute judicious journalistic and critical artefacts according to industry metrics and professional standards.
7	Synthesise, test, and evaluate complex information and diverse evidence.
8	Communicate ideas clearly, accurately, creatively and effectively orally, in writing and in practice.
9	Initiate, manage and complete substantial projects utilising appropriate research skills.
10	Work proficiently independently and with others.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, students will be able to:
1	Define and discuss formal and thematic features in a range of literary texts and journalism formats
2	Describe and apply relevant critical concepts and terminology in response to a range of texts and journalism formats
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 literary and journalistic forms and content
2	Interpret and utilise critical and theoretical ideas, terminology and methodologies in the analysis of texts and production of media content
3	Analyse the external social, cultural, legal, ethical, and environmental factors that affect literature and journalism
4	Critically reflect on contemporary challenges, issues and opportunities within journalism
5	Communicate effectively and with confidence according to relevant formal and presentation conventions
6	Appraise 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	Synthesise and apply technical knowledge and theoretical understanding in response to literary and media forms
2	Evaluate and develop investigative and critical approaches in the production of analytical, creative, and mixed-media journalism content

3	Investigate the relationships between writing, society, culture, technology, the economy, and environments
4	Construct cogent, nuanced and in-depth reflections on texts and topical issues informed by extensive independent practice and research
5	Communicate precisely and compellingly according to 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 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	**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
MED4198	Telling Stories with Journalism	20
MED4197	Journalism Techniques	20
EGL4054	Prose Writing	20
EGL4047	Key Critical Concepts	20
MED4201	Digital Reporting	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
EGL4048	Language in Action	20
EGL4042	Craft of Writing	20
EGL4056	Genre	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
MED5254	Media Law in Practice	20
MED5252	Practical Reporting	20

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

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
ADM5000	Work Placement	20
ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20
ADM5001	Live Project	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
EGL5076	The Romantics	20
EGL5074	Grammar and Style	20
EGL5077	Writing Short Stories	20
EGL5078	Modern and Contemporary Theatre	20
EGL5071	The Victorians	20
EGL5065	Language in Society	20
EGL5075	Screenwriting	20
EGL5062	Gender, Sexuality and Culture	20
EGL5079	Multicultural Literature	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
PPY5013	Professional Placement	120

Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete the following CORE module (totalling 20 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MED6221	Advanced Reporting	20

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete one module from the following list of CORE-OPTION modules (worth 20 credits)

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL6157	Major Project Preparation	20
MED6228	Major Project Preparation	20

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete one module from the following list of CORE-OPTION modules (worth 40 credits)

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL6151	Major Project: Dissertation	40
MED6227	Major Project: Production	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
EGL6158	Modernism and its Legacies	20
EGL6156	Applied Sociolinguistics	20
EGL6159	Writing Poetry	20
EGL6138	The Gothic	20
EGL6147	Moral Philosophy	20
MED6174	Media Activism	20
MED6210	Digital Futures	20
MED6212	Creative Camera	20
MED6233	Audience and User Experience	20
MED6236	Race, Media and Culture	20
MED6235	Communication in Action	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.

Include a structure diagram for each mode of study. Level 4 is completed as an example including modules which extend the whole year.

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: MED4198 Telling Stories with Journalism (20 credits) MED4197 Journalism Techniques (20 credits) EGL4054Prose Writing (20 credits)	Core modules: EGL4047 Key Critical Concepts (20 credits) MED4201 Digital Reporting (20 credits)
	Optional Module: EGL4049 Literature and Conflict Or EGL4048 Language in Action Or EGL4042 Craft of Writing

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: EGL5073: Writing and the Environment (20 credits) MED5254 Media Law in Practice (20 credits)	Core module: MED5252 Practical Journalism (20 credits)
	Core-option module: ADM5000 Work Placement (20 credits) Or ADM5001 Live Project (20 credits) Or ADM5006 Collaborative Practice (20 credits)
Optional Module (20 credits). One from EGL5074 Grammar and Style EGL5056 Writing Short Stories EGL5076The Romantics EGL5078 Modern and Contemporary Theatre	Optional Module (20 credits). One from: EGL5065 Language in Society EGL5075 Screenwriting EGL5071 The Victorians EGL5062 Gender, Sexuality and Culture

	EGL5079 Multicultural Literature

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	**SEMESTER TWO**
Core module: MED6221 Advanced Reporting (20 credits)	Core-option module: EGL6151 Major Project: English Dissertation (40 credits) Or MED6227 Major Project: Production (40 credits)
Core-option module: EGL66157 Major Project Preparation Or MED6228 Major Project Preparation	
Optional Module (20 credits). One from: EGL6156 Applied Sociolinguistics EGL6159 Writing Poetry EGL6158 Modernism and its Legacies EGL6138 The Gothic EGL6147 Moral Philosophy	Optional Module (20 credits). One from: MED6233 Audience and User Experience MED6174 Media Activism MED6212 Creative Camera MED6210 Digital Futures MED6236 Race, Media and Culture MED6235 Communication in Action

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

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	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%

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	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%