

Programme Specification [BA English Literature and English Language Studies]

Date of Publication to Students: September 2010

NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/pme/school-of-english>, (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Awarding Institution / Body:	Birmingham City University
Teaching Institution:	Birmingham City University
Interim Awards and Final Award:	CertHE, DipHE, BA, BA(Hons)
Programme Title:	BA English Literature & English Language Studies
Main fields of Study:	English literature and English language
Modes of Study:	Full-time, Part-time
Language of Study:	English
UCAS Code:	Q391
	Q300
JACS Code:	

Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:

Benchmark statement for: English
University Learning & Teaching Strategy
University Award Descriptors
Academic staff expertise and research

Programme philosophy and aims

English is a subject that combines passion and analysis, history and the contemporary, the word and the image, knowledge and self-discovery, the creative

and the critical, the social and the personal. The English suite of programmes enables students to become independent learners, with possible specialisms in literary and/or linguistic study, creative writing or drama. Intellectual curiosity is stimulated through a variety of teaching and learning strategies, especially although not exclusively underpinned by social constructivist principles.

The programme aims to provide learners with:

1. A balanced knowledge base in the field of English including authors and texts from different periods and genres, empirical linguistic phenomena and the descriptive terminologies associated with them.
2. Understanding of verbal creativity and the formal, aesthetic and structural qualities of literary and non-literary texts.
3. Skills in the collection, analysis and evaluation of data of many kinds and from many sources which are then presented and used effectively in response to questions.
4. An independent approach to learning where learners become increasingly responsible for organising their own study and pursuing individual questions.
5. A basis for further study in English and/or related disciplines and for teaching English at all levels.
6. Opportunities for critical reflection and contextualisation, both regarding the knowledge and understanding gained and the student's own learning and communication skills.

Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:

Learning Outcomes¹

1. knowledge and understanding of a range of authors, texts and periods of English Literature, together with key linguistic phenomena and the terminology used to describe them
2. the ability to undertake close reading and analysis of texts from a range of genres and periods, demonstrating sensitivity to generic conventions and circumstances of authorship, production, discourse structure and audience, as well as responsiveness to the role of language in creating meaning and influencing debate
3. the ability to deploy rhetorical skills of effective argument, both oral and written and to demonstrate command of a broad range of vocabulary and appropriate critical terminology, along with the ability to evaluate sources of information and opinion within the discipline
4. the ability to present work for assessment in a timely, professional and idiomatic manner, whatever the format and show skills of data collection, differentiation and evaluation from a range of relevant sources

Learning teaching, and assessment methods used

All contact hours contain extensive opportunities for student engagement through structured discussion, practical activities, and demonstrations. Set texts and/or their critical treatments are invariably the focus for individual classes. Online facilities such as the University's VLE, Moodle, are used to support and diversify the learning

¹ Guidance on the specification of learning outcomes is available from the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.

experience.

A wide range of assessment methods is used, including coursework essays, group and individual presentations, seen and unseen examinations, reports, portfolios, essay plans, annotated bibliographies and creative work. Some use is made of formative assessments. Each method sets out to test skills of data collection, analysis and communication. All students are encouraged and have the opportunity to discuss their work with staff after it has been assessed.

Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit values, and the awards which can be gained are shown in the diagram below.

Level 4

Module number	Module name	Credit
	Reading Literature: Prose	15
	Approaches to Reading: Criticism	15
	Studying Language	15
	Drama	15
	Reading Literature: Poetry	15
	Approaches to Reading: Contexts	15
	Describing Language	15
	Adaptation	15
	Total	120

Award: Certificate in Higher Education

Level 5

Module number	Module name	Credit
	Grammar and Vocabulary (core)	30
	Literature 1660-1830 (core)	30
	Language Option (e.g. Literary Linguistics / Child Language Development / Language and Social Identity)	30
	Literature Option (e.g. Lifewriting / Early Modern Drama)	30
	Total	240

Award: Diploma in Higher Education

Level 6

Module number	Module name	Credit
	Any two Level 6 Language Options from: Codifying the Language <i>or</i> Language and Cognition <i>or</i> Language and Gender <i>or</i> Narrative Analysis <i>or</i> ISM AND Literature 1880-present (core)	30 + 30
	Literature Option (e.g. The Fantastic, Shakespeare Studies)	30
	Total	360

Award: Bachelor of Arts with Honours

Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered the following support as appropriate to meet those needs:

- A one week induction programme dealing with orientation and the dissemination of essential information
- level 4 modules dealing with study skills , including library use, research skills, bibliography and referencing, essay writing, oral presentation and examination techniques
- A Student Handbook containing information relating to the University, the School of English, the course and the modules
- Access to administrative staff, a personal tutor to whom the student will be attached for the duration of the course as well as the Course Director and Head of School at reasonable times. All modules are supported by one hour tutorial support in addition to the usual lectures, seminars and workshops. All teaching staff post 3-4 hours per week when students can consult without prior appointment, but in addition are available at other times by appointment
- Access to the services of the Faculty Librarian who provides both induction programmes and later introduces students to the more sophisticated learning and research tools that the library provides
- Assistance and support for learning skills from the Academic Skills Centre
- A dedicated student room where students can meet and set up informal study groups
- Access to the University's online Personal Development Planning service.
- Access to the University's Student Services, including those offered by the careers service, financial advisers, medical centre, disability service, crèche, counselling service and chaplaincy

Criteria for admission

Candidates must satisfy the general admission requirements of the programme.

The current admission requirements can be found under the 'Entry Requirements' tab of the web page for this course.

Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students

Committees:	Mechanisms for review and evaluation:
Boards of Studies	Validation and revalidation of courses
Examination Boards	Annual Course Monitoring
Faculty Academic Quality Committee	Peer Appraisal of Teaching
Faculty Learning & Teaching Committee	External Examiners' Reports
Faculty Board	Student Feedback on learning

Faculty Student Experience Committee	Staff Feedback on teaching
	Annual Staff Individual Performance Review