

Changes to previous information

Because of Covid-19, we had to make some changes to your course. We set out what we told you about in our prospectus material. We explain what changes we needed to make. We want to make sure you know about these changes. When you register for your course we will ask you to confirm you read this information.

	Current published course related information	Changes to previous information
Course title	English Literature	No change
Award level	BA - Single/combined honours	No change
How do you want to study?		
Start Date	Sept 2020	No change
Modes of study	Full-time Part-time	No change
Duration	3 years full-time 6 years part-time	No change
UCAS code	Q300	No change
Location	Canterbury	No change
Partner institution	N/A	No change
Available with a Foundation Year	Yes	No change
Overview		
	<p>If you have a passion for reading books, and thinking about the ideas and debates they reflect and inspire, then you'll enjoy studying English Literature with us.</p> <p>You'll explore the way that literature helps us to imagine what it is like to walk in other people's shoes, and how it can take us on journeys of self-discovery.</p> <p>You'll engage in topical discussions about how books empower people to tell their own stories, and how they help us redefine notions of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class and other markers of identity. Booklovers will feel right at home here.</p>	No change
Why study English Literature?		
	<p>If you like to read, are curious about the questions that reading raises, and value the opportunity to share your discoveries with others, you'll find that our course can bring benefits and rewards extending far beyond graduation.</p>	No change

	<p>You'll have the opportunity to study modules that span right across literature in English, from the Middle Ages to the present day, and you'll find yourself responding to a range of absorbing and thought-provoking literary texts.</p> <p>Reflecting on your own thoughts and views, you'll participate in topical discussions about how books empower people to tell their own stories, and redefine notions of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class and other markers of identity.</p> <p>You'll develop your ability to make critical judgements and analyse and evaluate evidence, while also honing your skills in the practice of thinking, writing, and arguing with clarity, cogency, and precision.</p> <p>Throughout the course, you'll be supported by lecturers who are passionate about their specialisms and who regularly publish books and articles on what they teach. They'll share their experiences with you and support you from day one to help you develop your communication skills and foster independent critical thinking, so that you can reach your full potential.</p>	
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Entry requirements	A typical offer would be 88-112 UCAS Tariff points.	No change
About the course		
Year 1	During Year 1, you'll gain a firm grounding in literary history and key theoretical approaches. You'll be exploring the practice of critical reading and writing, development of literary writing and will investigate how stories are adapted for different audiences and media. You'll also look into the relationship between literature and wellbeing as well as ways of engaging literature in the digital age.	No change
Year 2	In Year 2, you'll have the freedom to shape your course by choosing from a range of optional modules relating to topics such as censure and censorship, Arthurian literature, British romanticism, Victorian literature and modern literature. This variety gives you the option of specialising in the period/s and genre/s you have found most intriguing and also allows you to branch out into fresh areas of study.	No change
Year 3	In the third year, you'll further deepen and develop your work through an extended study of a particular author or topic, written with one-to-one supervision. You'll also be able to study topics such as popular fiction.	No change
Module information		
Please note that the list of optional modules and their availability may be subject to change. We continually review and where appropriate, revise the range of modules on offer to reflect changes in the subject and ensure the best student experience. Modules will vary when studied in combination with another subject.		
Core year 1		
	The Art of Criticism: Writing about Literature Core module - (20 Credits) The module aims to introduce you to the practice of critical reading and writing and to equip you with the core skills necessary for success in the study of English literature. It fosters the skills of close reading literature in different genres, and allows you to develop these skills in your oral and	No change

	written work. You will become familiar with the conventions of academic writing, the research process, bibliographic practice, and the use of Library Search to access both physical and virtual resources.	
	<p>Texts and Contexts Core module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>This module introduces you to English literary history from medieval times to the present day, giving a clear sense of the development of literary writing over six centuries. In each period, you'll study a text that is central to the English literary canon but also indicative of broader contemporary literary and cultural concerns. You will develop critical and historical skills for close reading and broader analysis, and will gain an understanding of the text's contemporary contexts and its wider relevance to the history and development of English literature.</p>	No change
	<p>Critical Approaches to Literature Core module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>This module introduces you to a range of modern theoretical approaches to literature. Combining practice with theory, you'll examine the principles and prerequisites of informed theoretical engagement and of active critical reading.</p>	No change
	<p>Literary Adaptation Core module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>In this module, you will examine a range of texts and genres, literary and otherwise, and investigate the ways in which authors can adapt stories and archetypes for different audiences and in different media. The module focuses on the importance of cultural context to the production of, and the reader/viewer's response to, literary texts. You will examine the defining characteristics of literature as a form of cultural production, as they compare literary texts to narratives in other media, and you will think critically about concepts such as intertextuality, canonicity, and historical authenticity.</p>	No change
	Literature and Wellbeing	No change

	<p>Core module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>This module explores the relationship between literature and mental health. It aims to develop your understanding of the ways in which literature might benefit our wellbeing, introducing you to theories about ‘the pleasure of the text’ and comparing the experiences of solitary and shared reading. You’ll explore a range of texts that deal in powerful ways with traumatic conditions such as depression and grief, analysing the ways these texts create recognition and empathy in the reader.</p>	
	<p>Creative Readers and Professional Bookworms</p> <p>Core module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>The focus of this module is to explore new and old ways of engaging with literature in the digital age, when reading and the creation of content about literary texts have both gained an unprecedented popularity. The visibility, beyond traditional cultural outlets, of creative and critical responses to literature is noticeable in the proliferation of blogs, podcasts, book clubs, reading apps and literary festivals. This module invites you to capitalise on your enthusiasm for literature and bring to the foreground your professional identity as a book lover.</p>	No change
Optional year 1		
	N/A	
Core year 2		
	<p>Literature Matters</p> <p>Core module/single honours only - (20 Credits)</p> <p>The aim of this module is to explore how and why English Literature matters. You’ll consider the significance and influence of literature as political intervention, artistic innovation, community project, sensory experience, material object, as well as personal expression. You’ll explore debates about literary value and literary survival, as well as the contexts in which literature is produced, disseminated, discussed, commemorated, censored, and/or forgotten.</p>	No change

Optional year 2		
	<p>Banned Books and Dissident Voices Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>This module invites you to consider why particular texts and authors have been (and continue to be) surrounded by controversy, and have been subjected to censure and censorship. You will analyse the relationship between literature, authority, taste and wider cultural and socio-political contexts, as well as changing definitions of what is regarded as offensive, inappropriate, blasphemous, seditious, unorthodox, dangerously subversive or otherwise problematic for public consumption.</p>	No change
	<p>Literature and the Land Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>There are fewer more pressing issues than climate change and the associated public imperatives to urgently scrutinise our relationship with the natural world. This module invites you to investigate such imperatives within a broader study of our relationship with the natural world as depicted in texts of different periods. You'll explore the theme of landscape through a range of perspectives such as politics, ecocriticism, psycho-geography, exploration and new worlds, environmental awareness, and character.</p>	No change
	<p>The Once and Future King: Arthurian Literature Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>The literature of the later Middle Ages spans some four hundred and fifty years, and is home to much about Arthur and Camelot. Many figures from Arthurian literature will already be familiar to you, such as Arthur, Guinevere, Merlin, Lancelot, Morgan le Fay, Gawain, and Mordred. In this module, you'll explore the origins and development of the Arthurian tradition in England, and you'll study later works such as the Stanzaic Morte Arthur, which focuses on the adulterous affair between Guinevere and Lancelot, and the Alliterative Morte Arthure, in which the world of Camelot falls into destruction and ruin. As well as these</p>	No change

	<p>works, a good portion of your study will be devoted to Thomas Malory's prose compilation <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i>, one of the first books to be printed in England, which broadly defines the Arthurian tradition as we know it today.</p>	
	<p>Shakespeare and the Theatre of His Times Optional module - (20 Credits) This module focuses on the development of drama in England from the 1580s to the 1620s, a dynamic period that saw the establishment of the theatre as an entertainment industry and the development of playwriting on an unprecedented scale. You will study a range of Elizabethan and Jacobean plays across the major dramatic genres: comedies, tragedies and histories, including subgenres such as revenge tragedy, satirical comedy and romantic comedy. In addition to close analysis of the module texts, you will also study the historical and cultural contexts of the drama and the material conditions of the Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre. We will consider, among other things, different types of performance spaces in the period, the relationship between page and stage, the acting companies and how they worked, the implications of particular theatrical conventions such as the use of boy actors in female roles, censorship and the ways in which plays might explore controversial political and social issues.</p>	<p>No change</p>
	<p>Women Writers: Finding a Voice Optional module - (20 Credits) In this module, you'll explore the literary strategies used by women writers to be heard and you'll consider challenges they faced in achieving patronage, print publication and recognition. You'll learn about current research strategies for recovering the literate activities of women and you'll study ways in which women made their marks through marginalia, embroidery or letter-writing, alongside conventional literary works in print and manuscript. You'll also explore the historiography of women writers examining, for instance, how feminist imperatives</p>	<p>No change</p>

	enabled the re-evaluation of the early modern literary canon to include women's voices.	
	<p>British Romanticism 1785-1831 Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>In this module, you will read major texts of the period known as 'Romanticism', a half-century that witnessed revolutionary changes in literature and society. In addition to studying the 'Big Six'—Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats—you will read a wide range of other Romantic writers including political thinkers such as Thomas Paine, early feminists like Mary Wollstonecraft, gothic authors like Mary Shelley, and labouring class poets such as John Clare.</p>	No change
	<p>Victorian Literature: From the Brontës to the Nineties Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>Rather than attempting to cover the literary output of the Victorian age in all its vastness and variety, this module seeks to set up connections and comparisons which travel from one end of the period to the other. You may study, for example, the three Brontë sisters, representing each sister by one novel: <i>Jane Eyre</i>, <i>Wuthering Heights</i>, and <i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i>. The fiction of the 1890s then comes under the spotlight, in the shape of texts such as Thomas Hardy's <i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> and George Moore's <i>Esther Waters</i> and typically, you will also focus on two poetic careers, for example, Browning and Hopkins.</p>	No change
	<p>Modern Literature and the First World War Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>In this module, you'll examine the impact of the First World War on modern literature, and you'll explore the ways in which writers have responded to this cataclysmic event. You'll pay close attention to the cultural, political and literary contexts which shape literary production, and you'll analyse the ways writers engaged with, or resisted, existing forms. Writers studied include those who experienced the war first-hand,</p>	No change

	<p>such Isaac Rosenberg, Mary Borden, and Wilfred Owen. You will also consider contemporary responses by non-combatants such as Wilfrid Gibson and you'll go on to study later writing that is influenced by those earlier texts – such as the Second World War poet Keith Douglas, and novelists Dalton Trumbo and Susan Hill.</p>	
	<p>Mad, Bad and Sad: Women in American Literature Optional module - (20 Credits) In this module, you'll explore the representation of women and the conceptualisation of gender in American writing, with attention to cultural, political and literary contexts. You'll engage with feminist writing and other theoretical debates that underpin gender definitions, and the fight for women's rights. You'll also develop a critical understanding of the intersectionality of gender, ethnicity, class and other social categorisations.</p>	
	<p>Style and Substance: Movements in American Literature Optional module - (20 Credits) In this module, you will study a broad narrative history of trends in American literary writing. You will explore the conventions and traditions of a range of literary movements, paying particular attention to shifting social attitudes and their representation at the level of literary style. You will read representative works from a wide range of movements such as the American Renaissance, Local Color Writing, Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance, the Beat Generation, the Black Arts Movement, Postmodernism and post-Postmodernism. Authors studied may include Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Harriet Jacobs, Charles Chesnutt, Zora Neale Hurston, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Pynchon, and Claudia Rankine.</p>	No change
	<p>Applied Humanities Employability in Practice Optional module - (20 Credits) The focus of this module is on developing your practical work-based experience. You'll</p>	No change

	<p>develop an understanding of a work environment either through a 40-hour micro-placement or by connecting with professionals who will help set out a project/problem-based work opportunity; or through a relevant case study. This could be work shadowing, a reflective diary, a portfolio, or a research report.</p>	
Core year 3		
	<p>Dissertation Core module/single honours only - (40 Credits) This module provides you with the opportunity to conduct an extended scholarly investigation of a topic of your own choice. With the support of an individual research supervisor, as well as classroom sessions on advanced research and writing skills, you will move through all the stages of the research process as you plan and execute your independent study.</p>	No change
	<p>Dissertation Foundation Core module/single honours only - (20 Credits) This module gives you the opportunity to work for an extended period on a topic of their choice that is developed in conjunction with a supervisor. You will be guided as you execute, document, and reflect on all stages of the research process, from identifying a topic, locating and evaluating secondary material, and planning your dissertation, to consulting with your supervisor, responding to feedback, and drafting, editing, and presenting your work. The module involves taught group sessions on research skills as well as independent research under a supervisor's direction. It lays the foundation for the composition of a piece of coursework (in the Dissertation module in Semester 2) which will be longer than any other assignment produced in the course of your degree programme. You will be guided as you execute, document, and reflect on all stages of the research process, from identifying a topic, locating and evaluating secondary material, and planning your dissertation, to</p>	No change

	<p>consulting with your supervisor, responding to feedback, and drafting, editing, and presenting your work.</p> <p>The module involves taught group sessions on research skills as well as independent research under a supervisor's direction. It lays the foundation for the composition of a piece of coursework (in the Dissertation module in Semester 2) which will be longer than any other assignment produced in the course of your degree programme.</p>	
Optional year 3		
	<p>Popular Fiction Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>Focusing on genres that operate around certain 'fixed formulae' or expectations, such as fantasy, crime fiction, children's literature, and gothic writing, you'll explore debates around canon formation and what it means to be 'worthy' literature. You will also consider how genre fiction relates to anxieties and concerns particular to its time of production, and how it represents gender, race, sexuality, and class. Texts covered come from a range of authors, including those squarely in the canon, and those whose status is more questionable.</p>	No change
	<p>The Art of Fact: Literary Nonfiction Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>This module introduces you to literary nonfiction, a capacious genre in which the techniques of fiction are applied to factual narratives such as memoirs, travel writing, slave narratives, literary journalism, personal essays, and historical narrative. You will learn how to analyse the forms and methods of creative nonfiction texts, and will be exposed to the debates that such texts have inspired. The module comprises a series of themed units including topics such as bearing witness, true crime, feminism, travel writing, colonial encounters, and life writing.</p>	No change
	<p>Writing the Color Line: From Plessy to Ferguson Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>In this module, you'll investigate the literary strategies that black and white authors</p>	No change

	<p>deployed to challenge the status quo and to instigate racial change over the course of more than a century. You'll engage with a variety of texts, including songs, poetry, short stories, essays and novels, that challenge racial segregation and later forms of racist separation, and you'll explore the ways in which literature engages with real-world problems and attempts to force social change.</p>	
	<p>Literature and Politics in Late Medieval England Optional module - (20 Credits) In this module, you'll explore vernacular literature, especially poetry, of the late Middle Ages from Piers Plowman to John Skelton. You'll consider how literature both reflected and shaped political events and you'll look at the ways in which it interacted with the political and institutional culture of late medieval England.</p>	
	<p>The Rise of the Professional Writer Optional module - (20 Credits) In this module, you'll consider how writers of the early modern world showcased and advertised their skillset, tailored their writings to a specific market or audience, and promoted themselves. Through a selection of author case studies, you'll examine the ways in which writers used their texts as strategic gifts within a widespread culture of patronage and self-advancement. Incorporating both canonical and neglected authors, the module touches on book history, including the materiality of the book and the process of printing, the social history of writing, the social circulation of works in manuscript, and the roles of patronage, friendship and sociability.</p>	No change
	<p>The Supernatural on the Shakespearean Stage Optional module - (20 Credits) This module focuses on the representation of magic and the supernatural on the early modern stage. Supernatural elements such as fairies, witches, monsters, ghosts and prophecies were a staple of Elizabethan and</p>	No change

	<p>Jacobean drama. They were used in both comedies and tragedies to many different effects: in discourses of gender, in political propaganda, to mark religious difference, to make a point about the nature and legitimacy (or illegitimacy) of power, and often to label certain people or groups of people 'monstrous'. You will study the various ways in which writers of the period used supernatural phenomena to make sense of their world. Our reading will centre on a number of plays by William Shakespeare, which are likely to include <i>The Tempest</i>, <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>, <i>King Richard III</i> and <i>Macbeth</i>. In addition, we will read (extracts from) other sources, such as Elizabethan and Jacobean witchcraft tracts and plays by Shakespeare's contemporaries.</p>	
	<p>Scandalous Romantics Optional module - (20 Credits) In this module, you will examine texts which alarmed, offended, or polarised readers during the Romantic period, 1785-1831. By exploring these texts in the context of the moral, political, personal, sexual, religious, and aesthetic controversies which surrounded them, you will consider both the norms and transgressions of the period, as well as its most divisive debates. As many of these texts were considered 'scandalous' for what they revealed about their authors' private lives, you will also have a chance to investigate issues of self-fashioning, fame, and personal reputation. You will draw on contextual and biographical material, as well as contemporary critical responses to the texts and their authors. Key issues raised will relate to: class, gender, sexuality, genre, religion, radicalism, celebrity and anonymity, privacy and publicity, and the creation of literary afterlives. The module will cover a range of genres, and is likely to include the poetry of Lord Byron, gothic novels like John Polidori's <i>The Vampyre</i> and Mary Shelley's <i>Matilda</i>, and autobiographies such as Mary Robinson's <i>Memoirs</i> (1801).</p>	<p>No change</p>
	<p>Victorian Cross-Fertilising Optional module - (20 Credits)</p>	<p>No change</p>

	<p>Taking its rise from a word and idea which the Victorians themselves introduced, the module offers you the opportunity to explore in depth the work done individually and (if applicable) collaboratively by a pair of Victorian authors. Your studies will focus on the relation of each author, both to the other and to the age of which she or he sought to make sense. You will be encouraged to form your own intuitions about how the literary, cultural and historical distinctness of the Victorian period can cross-fertilise. Possible pairings could include Christina and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, George Eliot and G. H. Lewes, Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins, or Charlotte Brontë and Elizabeth Gaskell.</p>	
	<p>Literature and Power in the Twentieth Century Optional module - (20 Credits) In this module, you'll study post-war writing in relation to a key topic. The current topic is 'Literature and Power 1958-68': How do works of the imagination respond to powerful people and systems? How do they engage with the discourses of power? Does literature have any power of its own with which to 'answer back'? The years 1958-1968 were a period of great social change in Britain, with a series of cultural and political events undermining the authority of the ruling establishment. In the midst of this came the rise of fiction and poetry that represented working class lives, women's experience, aspects of sexuality and cultural difference, in new and challenging ways. In this module you'll study works such as Alan Sillitoe's <i>Saturday Night and Sunday Morning</i>, Sylvia Plath's <i>The Colossus</i>, Philip Larkin's <i>The Whitsun Weddings</i>, Christopher Isherwood's <i>A Single Man</i> and Jean Rhys's, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>.</p>	<p>No change</p>
	<p>Taking Up Space: Immigrant and Minority Literature Optional module - (20 Credits) In this module, you'll explore the vibrancy and richness of contemporary American literature, with a specific focus on authors</p>	<p>No change</p>

	<p>from a variety of ethnic minorities. You'll explore recurrent themes in ethnic literatures, such as the desire to create a strong sense of personal and communal identity, and to develop an original voice; the need to gain acceptance in mainstream American society without losing one's individuality; the attempt to retrieve forgotten narratives, to challenge dominant historical representations and to contest racial stereotypes and, last but not least, the celebration of one's heritage and/or of multiculturalism. You'll investigate how minority writing reconciles its initial role as 'literature of resistance' with its renewed claim, in a globalised world, for a wider readership and a greater, universal resonance.</p>	
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How you'll learn		
Teaching	<p>You will typically have 9 teaching hours per week, including a mixture of pre-recorded lectures, interactive online seminars, and face-to-face sessions. Lectures will introduce you to periods, themes, and important ideas, often in larger groups whereas seminars in smaller groups will enable you to discuss and develop your understanding of topics covered in lectures and independent study. During workshops, you'll focus on the practicalities of textual analysis and writing.</p> <p>You'll be fully supported throughout the course whilst also being encouraged to become an independent learner and thinker. In individual tutorials you'll be able to talk through your ideas, discuss plans for your assignments and receive feedback on your work.</p> <p>You will typically have 9 teaching hours per week, though this will depend on the modules you select.</p> <p>All courses are informed by the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy 2015-2022.</p>	
Independent study	<p>Throughout the course, you'll develop skills in independent reading, research, analysis, and writing and when you are not attending lectures, seminars, workshops or tutorials, you'll continue to learn through independent study. Typically, this will involve reading primary texts, and critical and contextual books and journal articles. You'll undertake research in the library and online, preparing for seminars and other study opportunities, and for assignments and examinations.</p> <p>Your module tutors will give you reading and other tasks to complete in preparation for time spent in class.</p> <p>If you are taking the Individual Study module in your third year, (this is compulsory for single honours students) you will undertake independent research. This will be supervised by a member of the teaching team, who will meet with you regularly to help develop and guide your project.</p>	No change

Overall workload	Each week during semester time your overall workload will typically consist of 9 teaching hours , 3 hours of directed study and 18 hours of independent learning/assessment activity.	
Academic input	<p>The teaching team consists of highly qualified academics who hold doctorates and have research expertise in various fields. Many staff have published their works widely and the majority hold teaching qualifications.</p> <p>All our staff are research-active scholars with extensive experience in delivering research-informed teaching. You can find out more about the current teaching team on our Meet the Team webpage.</p> <p>You should note that members of the teaching team might change and also that postgraduate students sometimes assist in teaching and assessing some modules. However, our permanent programme team teach the vast majority of lectures and seminars.</p>	No change
How you'll be assessed		
Year 1	Written assessment 100%	
Year 2	Written assessments 80% Unseen exams 20%	No change
Year 3	Written assessments 95% Unseen exams 5%	No change
Fees		
UK/EU	Full-time £9,250	No change
	Part-time £4625	No change
Overseas	Full-time £13000	No change
	Part-time N/A	No change

Course specific costs		
Field Trips (including trips abroad and trips to museums, theatres, workshops etc)	Voluntary field trips are occasionally offered as part of teaching in English Literature, and do not usually cost more than £5-10. Staff also arrange occasional optional theatre trips; these will usually not cost more than £20.	
Text books	Students are expected to purchase their own copies of books and textbooks for study on English Literature modules. These will usually cost between £10-20.	
Library Fees and Fines	Students will be expected to pay their own library fines.	
Printing and Photocopying	Students may have to print (or photocopy) hard copies of materials such as articles and shorter texts for personal use in preparation for class and assignments.	
Other important information		
	<p>Your future career</p> <p>The analytical and communication abilities that an English Literature degree provides are called 'transferable skills' and are desirable in almost any occupation. When you are looking for a job, they are often the most valuable skills to have. Because of this flexibility, an English Literature degree lets you choose from many different employment sectors and occupations. Teaching and social work are common career destinations. A large number of graduates choose to work in a creative field, like journalism, advertising, public relations, or marketing. There are also lots of opportunities for further academic study, and many of our students go on to pursue postgraduate work in English Literature and other related fields.</p>	
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