

# English Literature at Glasgow University

The Department of English Literature together with the Departments of English Language and Scottish Literature makes up SESLL, the School of English and Scottish Language and Literature. Glasgow is the only Department of English Literature in Scotland to have achieved both a 5\* RAE rating and an Excellent in Teaching.

Reading English Literature is a personal (and entertaining) voyage of discovery into human experience and imagination as it has been expressed in written form over five centuries. As well as the inherent pleasures of great art, it will afford insight into how rhetorical structures of narrative and metaphor shape everyone's perception of the world. It will develop your skills in detailed observation, analytical writing, and comparing texts as well as introducing you to writers who will be companions for life.

The **FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL** programme consist of four courses covering three literary genres - poetry, drama and prose fiction - from Shakespeare to the present. The first consists of an introduction to the study of literature at university. Thereafter each course is organised according to a significant concern: 'self' (first level) followed by 'ideology' and 'text' (second level). 'Writing and Self' looks at the development of notions of the self in history while at the same time sharpening further the necessary skills in the study of literature from various genres and periods to which you will have been introduced in the first course. The second level courses build on the reading and analytical skills you have acquired in level one, applying these to more conceptually challenging texts. 'Writing and Ideology' examines the relationship between literature and the ideas and assumptions which shape society; 'Writing and Text' considers a selection of novels, poems and plays which either question the processes of their own composition, or which achieve their meaning in relation to other texts.

Credit points accumulated by the end of your studies at Level 2 will get you into **HONOURS**, a two year programme embracing the whole history of English Literature, with scope for more specialised study, including American and Irish Literature, Literary Theory, Literary and Linguistic Computing, and individual authors or special topics. You will be taught throughout in lectures and small seminar groups.

## **Resources**

Teaching in English Literature utilises the Department's extensive collection of audio-visual resources as well as the Moodle virtual learning environment, while the STELLA laboratory offers opportunities for the study of literature and computing. The Department is home to the Edwin Morgan Centre for creative writing, and professional writers are in residence to provide advice and encouragement.

## **Career Prospects**

An Honours degree in English Literature opens up a wide range of career opportunities, such as (in recent years), administration, journalism and publishing, marketing, management, teaching (at home or overseas), public relations, accountancy, media research.

## **Contact Person**

David Newell

**E-mail address:** D.Newell@englit.arts.gla.ac.uk

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE 2007-8****Level 1A (20 Credits): September to December 2007****INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY STUDY [6YAU]**

This half-year course (twelve teaching weeks) introduces students to examples of poetry, fiction and drama from the Renaissance to the present day. Poetry texts range from Renaissance to modern; fiction texts are from the early-nineteenth, late-nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries; drama is represented by one Shakespeare play and one from the mid-twentieth century. *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Emma*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *A Handful of Dust* and *The Homecoming* are texts that deal with the relationships between the sexes as situated in the social, familial and economic contexts of their historical moment. These texts are placed in their wider literary, artistic, social and historical contexts, with due regard being paid to the differing conventions (e.g., of realistic or anti-realistic modes of discourse) prevalent at the time of their production. Students will be introduced to essential skills and techniques in the analysis of literature as practised at university level.

The **class work** consists of a **tutorial exercise**, distributed in the first half of the first term; it is set and marked by tutors.

**Assessment** will be by one **essay** (1500-2000 words, on fiction texts), and a two-hour **examination** (fiction, poetry and drama), with a small part of the assessment based on the attendance record.

**Lectures:** weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The class is divided into an 11.00 am group and a 12.00 noon group: the two sets of lectures are identical, though there are variations in the ordering of lectures from week to week. The division of the class is:

11.00 Surnames A--L

12.00 Surnames M--Z

but students for whom this causes difficulties may attend lectures in the other group.

**Tutorials:** group tutorials (12-14 students) once a week for ten out of the available twelve weeks. Students are assigned to tutors on the day after enrolment.

**Class Convener and Contact Person:** Mr David Newell (Room 405 No 5 University Gardens; email: D.Newell@englit.arts.gla.ac.uk)

**Prescribed Texts**

**Poetry:** poems from *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (8th edition), Vols. 1 & 2  
(a separate list of prescribed poems will be issued at enrolment)

**Fiction:** Jane Austen, *Emma* Recommended editions: Penguin, Oxford  
Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw* Recommended editions: Penguin, Oxford  
Evelyn Waugh, *A Handful of Dust*

**Drama:** Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing* Recommended edition: New Arden  
Harold Pinter, *The Homecoming*

**Progression Routes**

Students who complete the course work may proceed to the second English Literature Level 1 course (Writing & Self); thereafter they may, having acquired at least 9 points in the 22-point scale in each of the Level 1 courses (that is, a D grade in each), proceed to the department's Level 2 courses (Writing & Ideology, followed by Writing & Text). With at least 27 points in the 22-point scale overall in the two Level 2 courses, which must include at least a B grade in one of these courses and at least a C grade in the other, they may (if they have satisfied the Faculty progress requirements) proceed to the two-year Honours Course in English Literature (Levels 3 & 4).

**Level 1B (20 Credits): January to May 2008****WRITING AND SELF [4EDU]**

This is a twelve-week course ranging from Shakespeare to Beckett and Dickens to Philip Roth. The course texts include two plays, five novels, and a generous selection of poems. In addition to giving some consideration to the history and development of the idea of the 'self' from the Renaissance to the modern, we shall also be building on the critical skills acquired in the first course, with an emphasis on both comparative and close reading. For further details, consult the Course Webpage via: <http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESL/EngLit/ugrad/leveloneb.htm>

**Class work** consists of attendance at lectures and tutorials, and the submission of a tutorial exercise, which is set and marked by tutors.

**Assessment** will be by one **essay** (1500-2000 words), and a two-hour **examination**, with a small part of the assessment based on the attendance record.

**Lectures:** weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The class is divided into an 11.00 am group and a 12.00 noon group: the two sets of lectures are identical, though there are minor variations in the ordering of lectures from week to week. The provisional division of the class is:

11.00 Surnames A—L 12.00 Surnames M--Z

but students for whom this causes difficulties may attend lectures in the other group.

**Tutorials:** one-hour group tutorials (12-14 students) once a week. Students are assigned to tutors at the beginning of the course.

**Class Convener/Contact Person:** Dr Kirstie Blair (email: [K.Blair@englit.arts.gla.ac.uk](mailto:K.Blair@englit.arts.gla.ac.uk))

**Prescribed Texts**

**Poetry:** From *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8th edition, vols. 1 and 2. Most of you will already have copies from Level 1A. **The prescribed poets are:** John Donne, George Herbert, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, William Butler Yeats, Seamus Heaney, Derek Walcott and Carol Ann Duffy. The Norton Anthology selection from these poets is prescribed. In the cases of Walcott and Duffy, additional poems may also be distributed on a handout in the relevant lectures.

**Drama:**

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (1601) Recommended edition: you will need a generously annotated edition, because Shakespeare's language can be difficult, but any of the standard modern editions, the Arden, the Everyman, the Norton, the Penguin, the Signet, would be fine.

Samuel Beckett, *Krapp's Last Tape* (1958), *Not I* (1973), *Catastrophe* (1984).

In *Collected Shorter Plays* (Faber) or *Complete Dramatic Works* (Faber, 1986)

**Fiction**

Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i> (1847)	Recommended edition: Penguin paperback
Charles Dickens, <i>Great Expectations</i> (1860)	Recommended edition: Penguin paperback
Scott Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (1925)	Recommended edition: Penguin paperback
Nella Larsen, <i>Passing</i> (1929)	Recommended edition: Penguin paperback (if this is not available, the Serpent's Tail edition including <i>Quicksand</i> is fine, or any other modern edition)
Philip Roth, <i>The Human Stain</i> (2000)	Recommended edition: Vintage paperback

**Progression Routes**

Students with at least 9 points in the 22-point scale in each of the Level 1 courses (that is, a D grade in each) may proceed to the department's Level 2 courses (Writing & Ideology, followed by Writing & Text). With at least 27 points in the 22-point scale overall in the two Level 2 courses, which must include at least a B grade in one of these courses and at least a C grade in the other, they may (if they have satisfied the Faculty progress requirements) proceed to the two-year Honours Course in English Literature (Levels 3 & 4).

**Level 2A (20 Credits): September to December 2007**

**WRITING AND IDEOLOGY [7EXV]**

This course is a half-year course (twelve weeks) in which students will broaden their knowledge of literary texts from a range of periods and genres and will develop analytical skills that will enable them to engage critically with the formal, thematic, historical and contextual manifestations of ideology in writing.

**Assessment** will be by **tutorial performance** (attendance, short oral presentation and contribution to discussions), one **essay** (2000-3000 words) and a three-hour **examination**.

**Lectures:** weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, occasionally Thursdays. There will be occasional video showings of relevant films at times to be announced. The class is divided into a 10.00 am and an 11.00 am group: the two sets of lectures are identical, though in different sequence. The provisional division of the class is alphabetical:

10.00 Surnames A -- Mac/Mc

11.00 Surnames M -- Z

but students for whom this causes difficulties may be assigned to the other group.

**Tutorials:** one-hour group tutorials (12-14 students) once a week. Students are assigned to tutors soon after enrolment.

**Class Convener/Contact Person:** Dr Donald Mackenzie (Room 103, No 4 University Gardens; **email:** D.Mackenzie@englit.arts.gla.ac.uk)

**Prescribed Texts**

Tony Kushner, *Angels in America* (both parts)

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Penguin)

John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, Vol 1)

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* (in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, Vol 1)

Walter Scott, *Chronicles of the Canongate* (ed Lamont, Penguin)

Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Books* (ed Karlin, Penguin)

William Wordsworth, Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads* plus selected poems of the Romantic period (in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, Vol 2)

William Shakespeare, *Othello*

**Progression Routes**

Students who complete the course work may proceed to the second English Literature Level 2 course (Writing & Text). With at least 27 points in the 22-point scale overall in the two Level 2 courses, which must include at least a B grade in one of these courses and at least a C grade in the other, they may (if they have satisfied the Faculty progress requirements) proceed to the two-year Honours Course in English Literature (Levels 3 & 4).

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE 2007-8

Level 2B (20 Credits): January to May 2008

### WRITING AND TEXT [7EWV]

This is a half-year course (twelve weeks). By examining a wide range of English and European drama, fiction and poetry, this course is designed to consolidate students' existing knowledge of 'text', and of the critical and theoretical approaches which may be brought to bear upon it. The emphasis will be on the ways in which authors create texts to reflect the nature of their own artistry; the means by which such texts achieve their meaning in relation to other textual discourses; and the concept of the material text itself: the book

**Assessment** will be by tutorial performance (attendance, short oral presentation and contribution to discussions), one **essay** (2000-3000 words) and a three-hour **examination**.

**Lectures:** three days each week. Relevant feature and documentary films will occasionally be shown on Fridays. The class is divided into a 10.00 am group and an 11.00 am group: the two sets of lectures are identical, though there are minor variations in the ordering of lectures from week to week. The provisional division of the class is alphabetical:

10.00 Surnames A -- Mac/Mc

11.00 Surnames M -- Z

but students for whom this causes difficulties may be assigned to the other group.

**Tutorials:** one-hour group tutorials (12-14 students) once a week.

**Class Convener/Contact Person:** Dr Andrew Radford (Room 309 No 5 University Gardens; email: A.Radford@englit.arts.gla.ac.uk)

#### Prescribed Texts

**Poetry:** Poems from *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (8th edition), Vols 1 & 2

Marlowe, *Hero and Leander*

Pope, *Eloisa to Abelard*

T.S.Eliot, *The Waste Land*

**Drama:** Shakespeare, *Cymbeline*

Bernard Shaw, *Man and Superman*

**Fiction:** Diderot, *The Nun*

Brontë, *Villette*

Joyce, *Ulysses*

Nabokov, *Pale Fire*

Spark, *The Driver's Seat*

#### Progression Routes

With at least 27 points in the 22-point scale overall in the two Level 2 courses, which must include at least a B grade in one of these courses and at least a C grade in the other, students may (if they have satisfied the Faculty progress requirements) proceed to the two-year Honours Course in English Literature (Levels 3 & 4).

## HONOURS INFORMATION

The Honours Class normally covers the final two years of the four-year Honours Degree Course. Students who have performed satisfactorily in Level 2 English Literature courses are admitted to Junior Honours by a small committee which includes the Conveners of the Junior and Senior Honours Classes and the Head of the Department. Satisfactory performance is normally defined by the achievement of an aggregate of 27 points on the 22-point scale in the two level 2 courses which must include at least a B grade in one of these courses and at least a C grade in the other.

### **Formal Entry Requirements**

There are two sets of requirements:

#### **Faculty:**

Before admission to the Junior Honours year, a candidate for the degree with Honours must normally have completed twelve standard courses (240 credits) representing at least three subjects. At least eleven of the standard courses (220 credits) must have been completed with grade D or above. At least four of the twelve standard courses (80 credits) must be at level 2 or above (and these four courses must represent at least two subjects). In practice this normally means that a maximum of 20 credits at E, F or G (in a course not required to fulfil the departmental Honours requirements) are allowable.

#### **Department:**

The Department of English Literature further requires for those intending Single Honours in English Literature in addition to the four completed courses in English Literature at least a grade D in the double level 1 course in English Language. An 'A' pass at A-level English may entitle a student to proceed directly to level 2 English Literature.

Students intending to read English Literature as part of a Joint Degree (with a subject other than English Language) are not required to complete the level 1 course in English Language.

## **TEACHING ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Personal Tutors and Choice of Honours Courses**

You will be assigned to a personal tutor on entry to the Honours class. The personal tutor will advise you on your choice of courses and on the timing of your preparation for them, and will normally be available at a fixed hour every week to give additional advice should it be needed. You should have a reasonably firm idea of your own preferences within the courses before you enter the class and you should be clear about which seminars you want to attend by the beginning of each semester. This choice is yours (and so too is the responsibility for reading and preparation).

### **Seminars**

The teaching timetable at Honours is divided into five blocks across two semesters: three in Junior Honours and two in Senior Honours (followed by final examinations). The courses are studied in no fixed order, but according to timetable possibilities and your choice of options. If you are offering eight courses in English Literature, you will need to study two in most semesters; if four courses, one in each. Lectures and weekly seminars for each course normally fall in the same semester. In seminars, subjects for discussion vary according to the preferences of the tutor and the group of students; they are designed to introduce you to a range of topics for possible further study through a representative selection of texts. You will

be expected to deliver a short paper (around 10 to 15 minutes) to at least one of these sessions. For the seminar leader you should expect to prepare at least two longer essays (of roughly 2000 words) on subjects of your own choice. The seminar leader will discuss these essays with you, normally in half-hour individual tutorials. Since you may have up to six of these longer essays to prepare in any one semester, you are advised to distribute the writing of them sensibly (should you be attending three seminars, at the rate of one a fortnight).

### **Courses**

These are courses of either lectures or seminars, depending on the size of the class, on various subjects, arranged according to period. For each course the total of lectures or seminars will normally occupy between twenty and thirty hours and will run roughly in parallel with semesters. They may be used either to supplement essays done on similar topics for your tutor, or to provide a wider range of study for a given course, beyond the scope of whatever seminar or tutorial assignments you may have. Courses are there to help and to stimulate, rather than provide comprehensive or prescriptive coverage.

Remember that course subjects have no special status - they are no more or less likely to relate to Finals questions than the essay topics you and your tutor decide on together. Finals examination papers examine a period or subject, *not* a set course. You should also remember it can be very useful to work outside your choice, particularly by attending courses, not only to discover other possibilities, but to make richer your work within your chosen periods. An indication of what preparatory reading is desirable will be available before the summer vacation.

## **HONOURS COURSES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**English Language** (Details of Courses 1 to 10 are available from the Department of English Language)

### **English Literature**

**PLEASE NOTE: The Department does not undertake that every course will be offered every year. Further, since the Department cannot guarantee to accommodate your course choices, you will be asked to select an alternative for each of your chosen options.**

### **General Courses**

11. Shakespeare
12. Literary Theory
13. Literature 1360-1540
14. Literature 1510-1660 (Renaissance and early seventeenth-century)
15. Literature 1640-1785 (Restoration and Augustan)
16. Literature 1780-1840 (Romantic)
17. Literature 1830-1914 (Victorian)
18. Literature since 1900 (Modern)
19. (a) American Literature I (nineteenth-century)
- (b) American Literature II (twentieth-century)
20. Literary and Linguistic Computing for English
21. Irish Literature 1880s to present-day

This curriculum is supplemented at Senior Honours by a limited number of **more specialized Topic Courses**, most of which may be assessed by coursework rather than by final

examination. Up to two such courses may be taken. Choices for Senior Honours will be registered at the beginning of the second semester, in Junior Honours.

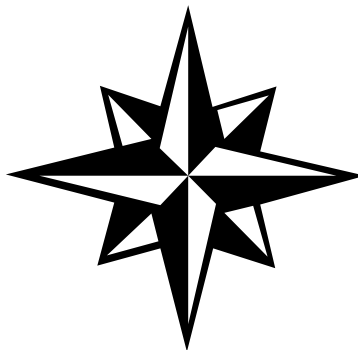
### **Dissertation**

All Honours students are required to submit a dissertation as part of their assessment. In this Department, 'dissertation' means your choice of these two kinds of work:

- (i) in place of the coursework previously submitted for any General Course taken, a portfolio of three essays of 2-3,000 words each (including notes, excluding bibliography);
- (ii) in addition to seven courses taken, an independent supervised extended essay of 7-9,000 words (including notes, excluding bibliography), investigating any area of the syllabus.

### **Examinations**

- Candidates taking English Literature as a single subject will offer EIGHT courses, of which two may be Topic Courses, and at least four must be from periods of English Literature prior to 1910.
- Topic Courses may be assessed by coursework alone. For all other courses, the largest element of assessment is the three-hour, three-question **examination**.
- For all Examination Papers in the Honours diet (except Course 20), a set of three general questions will be published at the end of Semester 1. Students may choose to answer one of these along with two other unseen questions.
- In the case of **Course 11** students who opt to be assessed by three-hour examination may use a plain text of Shakespeare's works.
- **Course 13** is taught jointly by English Language and Literature. The teaching is spread over the year. Assessment will be on the basis of 25% for an essay, and 75% for the final examination.
- **Course 20** is assessed on the basis of a project (50% of marks) and of a 2-hour 2-question paper, where one question is chosen from a list published at the end of Semester 1 of the final year and the other is unseen.



# Department of English Literature

**Head of Department**  
John Coyle, MA, PhD

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information about courses can be obtained from the web page  
at <http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESLL/EngLit/index.html>

or

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**Enquiries about admission may be addressed to**  
**The Admissions Officer**  
**Central Admissions Service (Arts)**  
**University of Glasgow**  
**Glasgow**  
**G12 8QQ**

*The information contained in this leaflet was correct at the time of going to press. However, the University of Glasgow reserves the right to cancel or alter courses or to adjust fees without notice.*