Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
English and Digital Arts (QW40)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

Across the academy globally, dialogues between those studying literary and digital art forms are reshaping how we understand, and work with, narrative and storytelling.

This exciting degree will develop your awareness of the particular characteristics of narrative in literary and digital contexts. You will investigate narrative practices and devices in a variety of domains, gaining a theoretical and practical training in what narrative is and what it can be in new media. From more traditional and historical narratives through to early internet storytelling and digital arts to contemporary narratives in interactive media and virtual reality, you'll study the ways in which digital life and writing affect and transform each other.

Students entering work in the creative industries are best-placed to innovate in fields such as video game design, online publishing and broadcasting, animation and video and audio production, if they can first draw on a rigorous and robust sense of how different narratives operate.

In year one of the degree, you will sharpen your knowledge of the structures and effects of different storytelling in classes taught by experts across the English and Media Arts departments. By year two, you will have developed a conceptual framework and vocabulary for discussing narrative in a range of contexts, and in your third year you will gain hands-on experience in producing your own media. The basis for all of this innovative work will be your deep thinking about how literature and the digital arts are in mutually-nourishing relation.

Your degree course in English and Digital Arts provides progressive structures in which you will be able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills. Your course contains a combination of mandatory modules to introduce you to historical periods, to the principle literary genres, and to contemporary critical and theoretical approaches. In stage two and three, you are encouraged to develop your own interests through informed choice among specialist options. In stage three, you are also required to write a dissertation and/or long essays. Your course aims to equip you with a range of personal attributes relevant to the world beyond higher education (HE), allowing you to engage in lifelong learning, to consider ethics and values, and to contribute to the wider community. Your degree courses at Royal Holloway, University of London, will be delivered over three years, each of which normally involves modules to the value of 120 credits.

For joint and combined honours courses, please refer to the course specification for your secondary department's corresponding single honours course for further information on educational aims, and learning outcomes.'

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and polices can be found here. Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found here.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.
Module – May also be referred to as 'course', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	September 2021	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BA English and Digital Arts	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	3569	UCAS code	QW40
Year of entry	2022/23		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Department of English, School of Humanities	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	Department of Media Arts, School of Performing and Digital Arts
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time or part-time	Duration of the course	Three years or six years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/undergraduate/english/english-and-digital-arts/ https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	study@royalholloway.ac.uk.

Section 3 – Degree course structure										
3.1 Mandatory module information The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study										
Year	Module code	Module title	Contact hours*	Self-study hours	Written exams**	Practical assessment**	Coursework**	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (see below)
1	MA1804	Digital Storytelling (Media Arts Department)	72	228	0%	10%	90%	30	FHEQ 4	MC
1	MA1054	Introduction to Film Narrative (Media Arts Department)	24	126	0%	0%	100%	15	FHEQ 4	MC
1	MA1154	Screen Narrative: Theory and Practical	40	110	0%	0%	100%	15	FHEQ 4	MC
1	EN 1107	Reorienting the Novel (English Department)	45	256	0%	50%	50%	30	FHEQ 4	MC
1	EN 1011	Thinking as a Critic (English Department)	22	128	0%	0%	100%	15	FHEQ 4	MC
1	EN 1112	Introduction to Poetry (English Department)	22	128	0%	10%	90%	15	FHEQ 4	MC
2	MA2801	Digital Aesthetics	51	99	0%	20%	80%	15	FHEQ 5	MC
2	EN 2315	Literature and the Digital	20	130	0%	20%	80%	15	FHEQ 5	MC
2	EN 2215	Creative Writing: Structure and Style	22	128	0%	50%	50%	15	FHEQ 5	MC
This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.										

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

*Contact hours come in various different forms, and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff. It is intended that these contact hours will face-to-face as far as possible, but in certain unavoidable situations, these may take place virtually.

**The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module.

3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional modules that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision.There may be additional requirements around option selection; please contact the Department of English or Department of Media Arts for further information.

Year 2	Year 3
Creative Interactive Media (Media Arts) MA2013	Television and Digital Cultures (Media Arts) MA3077
Videogames: Culture, Politics, History (Media Arts) MA2050	Transnational Cinema 1 (Media Arts) MA3076
Documentary (Media Arts) MA2052	The Creative Industries (Media Arts) MA3215
Film Theory: Hitchcock and Point of View (Media Arts) MA2057	The Poetics of Contemporary Television (Media Arts) MA3092
The Creative Industries (Media Arts) MA3215	Melodrama (Media Arts) MA3075
Television Histories (Media Arts) MA2067	Contemporary British Cinema (Media Arts) MA3071
Podcasting (Media Arts) MA2026	Political Cinema: From Eisenstein to YouTube (Media Arts) MA3086
Post-Classical Hollywood (Media Arts) MA2066	Transnational Cinema 2 (Media Arts) MA3176

Modernism and Avant Garde Film (Media Arts) Ma2059	Histories of Media Technologies (Media Arts) MA3087
Modernisms (English) EN 2325	Hollywood Renaissance (Media Arts) MA3014
Literary Adaptations: American Dystopias (English) EN 2130	Contemporary British Cinema 2 (Media Arts) MA3171
Creative Writing: Structure and Style (English) EN 2215	Non-Fiction Film (Media Arts) MA3050
Frankenstein, Text, Context, Intertexts (English) EN 2221	Film Form (Media Arts) MA3055
	Queer Histories: Contemporary Gay and Lesbian British and Irish Fiction (English) EN 3217
	Ritual & Society in C19th Fiction and Painting: Visual and Verbal in the Long Nineteenth Century (English) EN 2208
	Interrogations of Culture: Literature and Philosophy (English) EN3233

3.3 Optional module requirements
In **year 2** you must choose options to the value of 45 credits from the list of stage two modules offered by the Department of Media Arts, and 30 credits from the list of stage two modules offered by the Department of English.   In your **final year** you must choose **one** of the following four 30 credit modules: MA3017 Independent Praxis Project   MA3061 Media Arts Dissertation   EN3401 English Dissertation   EN3215 Literature, the Digital and the Creative Industries   You must then choose options to the value of 90 credits, ensuring you have an overall total of 60 credits from the Department of Media Arts and 60 credits from the Department of English.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course
Part-time study   The degree will be available part-time over six years instead of three. There is no particular order in which modules need to be taken, but you should consult the course director Dr John Regan concerning your yearly choices when the change to part time is being discussed.   For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's Academic Regulations.

All first year students on single, joint or combined honours courses offered all or in part by the School of Humanities, School of Performing and Digital Arts, or department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the College's Undergraduate Regulations (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- To gain expertise in storytelling in literature, film, TV, videogames, immersive and other media

- To work towards your future ambitions with an employability focussed pathway into the digital and creative industries

- To develop your sense of the mutual cultivation of theoretical rigour and creative-critical work

- To build your confidence in a range of creative writing forms

- To provide specialised knowledge on the various concepts of narrative, from literary history to contemporary digital storytelling

- To encourage students to reflect critically upon the act of reading

- To develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. *(Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*))*

1. English and Digital Arts at Royal Holloway will give you the critical and theoretical skills to understand storytelling and its histories and futures – meaning you will be well equipped to pursue roles across many creative industries. You will gain specialised knowledge on the various concepts of narrative, from literary history to contemporary digital storytelling. *(S)(K)(*);*

2. You'll gain knowledge of industry standard tools used in digital storytelling and creative production alongside academically rigorous critical thinking and communication skills. *(K) (S);*

3. You will cultivate critical and theoretical terminologies central to the disciplines of English Literature and Media Arts. Developing students' sense of the mutual cultivation of theoretical rigour and creative-critical work. *(K);*

4. You'll develop your ability to evaluate relevant critical, theoretical and contextual research in literary, digital humanities and media arts areas. *(S);*

5. Because of the emphasis placed on practice-based research: advanced written and oral communication skills. If the option is chosen, students may build their confidence in a range of creative writing forms. *(S);*

6. This course will develop your ability to present logical and coherent written and oral arguments of varying lengths. *(S);*

7. You'll gain knowledge of the digital and creative industries and will learn strategies for making industry-appropriate job applications within the sector. *(S)(*).*

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment
Teaching and learning on your course is closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of English Literature and Media Arts. In general terms, the course provides an opportunity for you to develop and demonstrate the learning outcomes detailed herein. Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures; seminars; study groups; essay consultations; oral presentations and guided independent study Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal examinations, coursework, examined essays, translation exercises, online tests and exercises, oral presentations and the dissertation or long essay. In addition, students may be involved in workshops and may produce various forms of creative or editorial work. A breakdown of assessment types for individual modules is shown in section 3.

Section 8 – Additional costs
There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.
These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10 – Further information
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 when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online Module Catalogue. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). Your course will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your course may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)
You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

Section 12 - Associated award(s)	
BA English and Digital Arts (QW40)	