

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
BA English (Q300)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

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 policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree course in English delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow modules to the value of 120 credits. The courses provide progressive structures in which you are able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills. The courses contain a combination of compulsory mandatory modules to introduce you to historical periods, to the principle literary genres, and to contemporary critical and theoretical approaches, with a range of stage two and three specialist options. In each case the structure encourages you, in stage two and three, to develop your own interests through informed choice among specialist options. In stage three you are required to write a dissertation and/or long essays. The courses aim to produce graduates with a range of personal attributes relevant to the world beyond HE, who are able to engage in lifelong learning, to consider ethics and values, and to contribute to the wider community.

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	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	1104	UCAS code	Q300
Year of entry	2022/23		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	English	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	N/A
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/	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	EN1001	Encountering Medieval Literature: From <i>Beowulf</i> to Chaucer	42	108	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	EN1105	Literature and Crisis	45.6	254.4	60	0	40%	30	4	MC
1	EN1011	Thinking as a Critic	22	128	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	EN1106	Shakespeare	20	130	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	EN1107	Re-orienting the Novel	40	260	50%	0	50%	30	4	MC
1	EN1112	Introduction to Poetry	22	128	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
2	EN2326	Writing as a Critic	30.5	119.5	0	0	100%	15	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, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can access via their [webpage](#).

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
None	EN2002 Medieval Drama	EN3401 Dissertation
	EN2104 Gender and Writing in the 18 th Century	EN3333 Thinking and Writing Music
	EN2216 Modernist Fiction	EN3231 Children's Literature
	PY2005 Philosophy and the Arts	EN3511 Special Author: The Brontes
	EN2218 Writing Migrant Identities	EN3303 African American Literature
	EN2204 Tristram Shandy	EN3223 The Girl in the Black

3.3 Optional module requirements

In your **second year**, you will choose options equal to the value of 120 credits from a list of Stage two modules offered by the Department. You must choose 15 credits from each of groups A (Old and Middle English Literature), B (Early Modern Literature), and C (18th and 19th century literature).

It is recommended that you choose 30 credits from the following:

EN2010 Renaissance (30 credits)

EN2212 Victorian Literature (30 credits)

EN2213 Romantic Literature (30 credits)

EN2324 Debates in Literary and Critical Theory (30 credits)

EN2325 Modernist Literature (30 credits)

In your **third year**, you must choose options to the value of 120 credits from the list of Stage three modules offered by the Department. It is a requirement that 30 credits should consist of a Special Topic, or Special Author, or Dissertation. It is recommended that you choose 60 credits from the Special Authors or Special Topics on offer or that you choose one from this list and complete the Dissertation (30 credits).

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

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.

Part time students must take:

Stage one (a):

Modules equivalent to 60 credits of the following in consecutive terms, as timetabled:

EN1001 Encountering Medieval Literature: From *Beowulf* to Chaucer (15 credits)

EN1105 Literature and Crisis (30 credits)

EN1106 Shakespeare (15 credits)

EN1107 Re-orienting the Novel (30 credits)

EN1112 Introduction to Poetry (15 credits)

EN1011 Thinking as a Critic (15 credits)

Stage one (b):

The remaining modules equivalent to 60 credits of the following:

EN1001 Encountering Medieval Literature: From *Beowulf* to Chaucer (15 credits)

EN1105 Literature and Crisis (30 credits)

EN1106 Shakespeare (15 credits)

EN1107 Re-orienting the Novel (30 credits)

EN1112 Introduction to Poetry (15 credits)

EN1011 Thinking as a Critic (15 credits)

Stage two (a):

Options equal to the value of 60 credits from a list of Stage two modules offered by the Department. Over the course of Stage two students must choose 15 credits from each of groups A (Old and Middle English Literature), B (Early Modern Literature), and C (18th and 19th century literature). It is recommended that over stage two choose 30 credits from the following:

EN2010 Renaissance (30 credits)

EN2212 Victorian Literature (30 credits)

EN2213 Romantic Literature (30 credits)

EN2324 Debates in Literary and Critical Theory (30 credits)

EN2325 Modernist Literature (30 credits)

Stage two (b):

Students will choose options equal to the value of 60 credits from a list of Stage two modules offered by the Department. Over the course of Stage two students must choose 15 credits from each of groups A (Old and Middle English Literature), B (Early Modern Literature), and C (18th and 19th century literature).

Stage three (a):

30 or 60 credits (out of a total of 90 credits) to be chosen over stages (a) and (b) from the range of options offered by the Department. It is a requirement that students take a Special Topic, or Special Author, or Dissertation.

Stage three (b):

30 or 60 credits (to make up the required total of 120 credits) from the range of options offered by the Department. These options include the dissertation (30 credits). Only one Dissertation is permitted.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- to enable you to develop independent critical thinking and judgement;
- to engage you imaginatively in the process of reading and analysing literary texts;
- to encourage you to appreciate the expressive resources of language;
- to encourage you to reflect critically upon the act of reading;
- to promote an understanding of formal, generic and aesthetic aspects of literary texts;
- to promote the reading of Old English, Middle English and Renaissance texts in the original;
- to encourage an awareness of literature's historical dimension;
- to encourage the reading of English literature across all periods, up to and including early 20th century literature;
- to foster an awareness of contextual aspects of the production and determination of meaning;
- to develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills;
- to provide a basis for further study in English or related disciplines, and a foundation of knowledge for teachers of English at all levels;
- to provide an intellectually stimulating and satisfying experience of studying;
- to encourage in you a sense of enthusiasm for the subject, and an appreciation of its continuing social and cultural importance;
- to encourage you to take progressive responsibility for your own study through negotiating subject areas of specialism with other students in seminars and study groups, through the informed choice of options, and through an extended piece of writing in the final year.

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 (*))

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English literature from the 9th Century to the present day or from the 15th Century to the present day, depending on exact course taken by student (K); 2. the principal literary genres (fiction, poetry and drama) (K); 3. creativity and expressivity in literary forms and language (K); 4. a range of contemporary critical and theoretical approaches to English literature (K); 5. advanced scholarship in chosen areas of the discipline (K); 6. appropriate critical and theoretical terminology (K); 7. a range of relevant linguistic, literary, cultural and socio-historical contexts in which literature is written and read (K); 8. literature’s relations to cultural change (K); 9. some of literature’s relations to other disciplines and forms of knowledge (K); 10. (English-Film Studies Joint Honours only) understanding of the historical and aesthetic relationship between literary and moving image media and texts (K); 11. critical skills in close reading, the analysis and critical interpretation of text and data (S); 12. sensitivity and responsiveness to language and literary form and an understanding of generic conventions (S); 13. the ability to evaluate relevant critical, theoretical and contextual research (S); 14. the ability to conduct literary research independently using traditional and electronic resources (S); 15. the ability to articulate knowledge and the understanding of texts, concepts and theories relating to English literature (S); 16. command a wider vocabulary and appropriate critical and theoretical terminology (S); 17. bibliographical skills appropriate to the subject including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work (S); 18. judging and evaluating evidence (S); 19. assessing the merits of competing theories, explanations and interpretations (S); 20. analysing and interpreting bodies of information (S); 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. abstracting and synthesising information (S); 22. developing a reasoned argument (S); 23. planning and execution of essays and project-work (S); 24. developing habits of reflection on reading, learning and of study, learning and research (S);* 25. listening to, and learning from, criticism (S);* 26. advanced written and oral communication skills (S);* 27. the ability to present logical and coherent written and oral arguments of varying lengths (S);* 28. the capacity to analyse and critically examine diverse forms of discourse (S);* 29. the ability to organise and interpret complex information in a structured and systematic way (S);* 30. the ability to comprehend and develop sophisticated concepts (S);* 31. the capacity for independent thought and judgement (S);* 32. skills in critical reasoning (S);* 33. information technology skills (including word processing, email and WWW) (S);* 34. information handling and retrieval skills (including the use of online computer searches); identifying, retrieving, sorting and exchanging information; investigating a wide range of sources (S);* 35. the ability to engage with the textual use of new media, video, TV, DVD and electronic; 36. interpersonal skills, involving recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others (S);* 37. time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising work-time (S);* 38. In addition, this course fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthen the graduates’ abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include: personal motivation; the ability to work autonomously and with others; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; interest in lifelong learning; flexibility and adaptability; creativity (S).*
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment
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. Full details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the Department .

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 module, 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 Classical Studies (QQ38) BA English and Creative Writing (QW38) BA English and Drama (QW34) BA Modern Languages (French) and English (QR31) BA Modern Languages (German) and English (QR32) BA Modern Languages (Italian) and English (QR33) BA English and Latin (QQ36)	BA Modern Languages (Spanish) and English (QR34) BA English and Philosophy (QV35) BA Comparative Literature & Culture & English (QQ23) BA English and Film Studies (QW36) BA English and American Literature (QT37) BA American Literature and Creative Writing (Q324) BA English with Philosophy (Q3V5)