

## School of English

### Head of School

Professor R Crawford

### Degree Programmes

Graduate Diploma:

Creative Writing  
Mediaeval English  
Scottish Literature  
Shakespeare Studies  
Women, Writing and Gender

M.Litt.:

Creative Writing  
Mediaeval English  
Scottish Literature  
Shakespeare Studies  
Women, Writing and Gender

M.Phil.:

Mediaeval English  
Scottish Literature  
Shakespeare Studies  
Women, Writing and Gender

### Programme Requirements

#### Creative Writing

Graduate Diploma: EN5101 and either EN5004 or EN5006 and either EN5005 or EN5007.

M.Litt.: 120 credits as for the Graduate Diploma plus EN5099

This degree is designed to enable students to undertake a detailed study of prose and/or poetry from the perspectives of practical, creative literary skills as well as those of criticism and the historical development of literary forms. Students choose two modules.

#### Mediaeval English

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits including EN5011 and EN5100 and a further 80 credits from EN5012 - EN5014 and EN5021

M.Litt.: 120 credits as for the Graduate Diploma, including EN5011 and EN5100, plus EN5099

M.Phil.: 120 credits as for the Graduate Diploma plus a thesis of not more than 40,000 words

This degree is concerned primarily with Middle English literature, while offering the opportunity for students to develop a knowledge of writings in Old English. It combines a core module (EN5011), taken by all candidates, with a range of options on major literary works and their traditions. The core module considers broader historical and cultural themes, mediaeval literary thought, and textual and editorial concerns, and provides the context for the optional modules focusing on specific varieties of mediaeval literature.

## **English – 5000 Level Modules**

### **Scottish Literature**

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits made up of EN5100, EN5021, EN5022 and EN5023

M.Litt.: 120 credits as for the Graduate Diploma, including EN5100, plus EN5099

M.Phil.: 120 credits as for the Graduate Diploma plus a thesis of not more than 40,000 words

This degree is designed to provide a postgraduate-level introduction to a range of Scottish literature. To students who have studied Scottish literature as undergraduates, it offers an opportunity for study in greater depth. However, as a taught degree course it is suitable for those who have a background in literary studies other than Scottish literature.

### **Shakespeare Studies**

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits from EN5031 - EN5033 and EN5100

M.Litt.: 120 credits as for the Graduate Diploma, including EN5100, plus EN5099

M.Phil.: 120 credits as for the Graduate Diploma plus a thesis of not more than 40,000 words

This degree is designed to develop critical skills through the investigation of Shakespeare's works in different cultural contexts.

### **Women, Writing and Gender**

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits from EN5111 – EN5113 and EN5100

M.Litt.: 120 credits as for the Graduate Diploma, including EN5100, plus EN5099

M.Phil.: 120 credits as for the Graduate Diploma, including EN5100, plus a thesis of not more than 40,000 words

This degree will introduce students to key issues in the contemporary discussion of gender, through the detailed exploration of theoretical and fictional writing.

## **Modules**

### **EN5004 Writing Poetry I**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Programme(s): Optional module for Creative Writing Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The module considers a range of essential topics in poetry and its composition, including the creative process, sound and sentence, the poetic line, imagery, metaphor, gender, and narrative.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One seminar and one practical class; tutorials by appointment.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

### **EN5005 Writing Poetry II**

Credits: 60.0 Semester: 2

Programme(s): Optional module for Creative Writing Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: Students will extend their knowledge of poetry and its creation into more technical aspects of writing than were covered in depth in EN5004 Writing Poetry I and the module will include detailed author studies as well as Ideas of Poetic Traditions, Imagination, Metre, and Poetic Forms.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One seminar and one practical class; tutorials by appointment.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5006 Writing Fiction I**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1  
Programme(s): Optional module for Creative Writing Postgraduate Taught Programme.  
Description: The module offers a critical and practical study of short stories, novellas, and novels, from Gogol to Flannery O' Connor and James Baldwin.  
Class Hour: To be arranged.  
Teaching: One seminar and one practical class; tutorials by appointment  
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5007 Writing Fiction II**

Credits: 60.0 Semester: 2  
Programme(s): Optional module for Creative Writing Postgraduate Taught Programme.  
Description: Students will extend their study of fiction and its techniques through discussion and critical and practical analysis of major twentieth-century and contemporary novels and stories.  
Class Hour: To be arranged.  
Teaching: One seminar and one practical class; tutorials by appointment.  
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5011 Texts and Traditions**

Credits: 20.0 Semester: Whole Year  
Programme(s): Compulsory module for Mediaeval English Postgraduate Taught Programme.  
Description: This core module is required of all candidates for Mediaeval English. It provides a foundation for postgraduate work in mediaeval English and is concerned with key themes and contexts, including mediaeval literary thought, manuscript culture, approaches to textual criticism, the transition from heroic Anglo-Saxon elegiac and martial poetry to the more personal sensibility of Middle English chivalric, moral and penitential literature.  
Class Hour: To be arranged.  
Teaching: One tutorial.  
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5012 Old English Literature**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: Whole Year  
Programme(s): Optional module for Mediaeval English Postgraduate Taught Programme.  
Description: This module concentrates on heroic, elegiac and scriptural poetry of the Anglo-Saxon period, providing a study of the central works of Old English literature.  
Class Hour: To be arranged.  
Teaching: One tutorial.  
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

## English – 5000 Level Modules

### EN5013 Middle English Spiritual Literature

Credits: 40.0 Semester: Whole Year

Programme(s): Optional module for Mediaeval English Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module, focusing on key selected texts, such as *Piers Plowman*, *Pearl*, *Patience*, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, *The Revelations* of Julian of Norwich, *The Book of Margery Kempe* and *Ancrene Wisse*, reflects the rich diversity of mediaeval English spiritual literature. It encompasses highly imaginative dream-poems, allegory, Biblical reworkings, and meditative and mystical works.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One tutorial.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

### EN5014 Chaucer

Credits: 40.0 Semester: Whole Year

Programme(s): Optional module for Mediaeval English Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: In this module close textual analysis of Chaucer's works will be related to larger moral, cultural and spiritual themes. There will be a focus on the following topics: Chaucer and narrative form; Chaucer and literary authority; Chaucer and courtly love.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One tutorial.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

### EN5021 The Literature of the Scottish Kingdom

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 1

Programme(s): **Compulsory** module for Scottish Literature Postgraduate Taught Programme.  
**Optional** module for Mediaeval English Postgraduate Taught Programmes.

Description: The module is concerned with the major works of earlier Scottish literature, including the poems of Henryson, Dunbar, and Gavin Douglas, Sir David Lindsay's *Ane Satyre of the Thrie Estaitis*, and a range of other types of poetry (including ballads) which were characteristic of Scotland during the period of independence.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

### EN5022 The Contest for Cultural Authority

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: EN5100

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Scottish Literature Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: Concentrating on the struggle between demotic Scots-language culture and Anglocentric high culture, the module presents not a simple opposition but a series of negotiations between these cultures, often taking place within individual works by writers such as Fergusson, Scott, MacDiarmid and Tom Leonard. Parallel to this reading is a series of seminars on Scottish Literary institutions, and on research skills or resources pertinent to graduate work on Scottish Literature.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5023 Highland Representations**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Programme(s): **Compulsory** module for Scottish Literature Postgraduate Taught Programme.  
**Optional** module for Environmental History Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The first part of this module will consider the invention of modern images of the Highlands in the eighteenth century, concentrating on the Ossianic poems and the visit of Boswell and Johnson; the second part will discuss nineteenth-century representations, concentrating on Scott, Stevenson, and the visual arts; and the final section (on the twentieth century) will include Gaelic work in translation, and will involve both prose and poetry.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5031 Shakespeare and the English Renaissance**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: Whole Year

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Shakespeare Studies Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The module examines a variety of Shakespeare's texts in the following contexts: Shakespeare's classical inheritance; theories of authorial revision; the history play; the tragedy of state; the Elizabethan sonnet sequence; Renaissance attitudes to women; pastoral; and the literature of folly.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One tutorial per fortnight.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5032 The Reception of Shakespeare 1660-1900**

Credits: 30.0 Semester: 1

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Shakespeare Studies Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The module investigates over two centuries of adaptations and criticism of Shakespeare's plays. Among the adaptations are those by Dryden, Davenant, Otway and Garrick. Critical writing studies will include works by Dryden, Johnson and Morgann, in conjunction with material on stage conditions. Nineteenth-century critical writing will include texts by Coleridge, Lamb and Hazlitt.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One tutorial.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5033 Shakespeare in the Twentieth Century**

Credits: 30.0 Semester: 2

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Shakespeare Studies Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: Among the work studied on this module will be adaptations by Brecht and Bond, and work by Marowitz and Wesker. Generic adaptations of Shakespeare on film will also be studied, using the Library's video collection as a basis for seminar work. Recent critical theories as applied to Shakespeare will also be studied.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One tutorial.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

## **English – 5000 Level Modules**

### **EN5099 Dissertation for M.Litt. Programme/s**

Credits: 60.0

Prerequisite: An average grade of at least 14 in course work.

Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Litt. Postgraduate Programmes within the School

Description: Student dissertations will be supervised by members of the teaching staff who will advise on the choice of subject and provide guidance throughout the research process. The completed dissertation of not more than 15,000 words must be submitted by the end of August.

Class Hour: At times to be arranged with the supervisor

Teaching: Individual Supervision

Assessment: Dissertation = 100%

### **EN5100 Literary Research: Skills and Resources**

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Mediaeval English, Scottish Literature, Shakespeare Studies, and Women, Writing and Gender Postgraduate Taught Programmes.

Description: This module, is compulsory for all School of English M.Litts, except Creative Writing. It aims to initiate students in the understanding and use of the essential skills and resources of research in English Studies. It provides preparation for the M.Litt. dissertation. Elements of this course include Use of Library Resources (Printed, Electronic and Remote); History of Book Production and the Institutions of Publishing; the Book as Artefact; Currents in Critical Theory; Writing and Giving Academic Papers; Writing a Thesis Successfully, and Getting your Work Published. This general module leads on to the more specialist core modules of each individual M.Litt.

Class Hour: 3.00 - 4.30 pm Monday and Thursday

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: One Bibliographical Exercise/Literature Review, OR one Editorial Exercise, OR one Approved Written Exercise/Essay of (normally) not more than 3,000 words on an appropriate topic = 75% and one Exercise in Critical Theory of not more than 2,000 words, related to the candidate's subject area = 25% (under review).

### **EN5101 Research Skills for Creative Writing**

Credits: 20.0 Semester: Whole Year

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Creative Writing. Postgraduate Taught Programme

Description: Students will be introduced to skills dedicated to the effective gathering of information through IT resources, library materials, as well as such primary skills as proofreading, copy-editing, and the literary marketplace.

Class Hour: 4.00 Mondays and some Thursdays

Teaching: One lecture/practical class weekly/fortnightly over two semesters

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5111 Gender, Conflict and Creativity: Women’s Writing of Two World Wars**

Credits: 30.0 Semester: 1

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Women, Writing and Gender Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: Although focused primarily upon the neglected area of women’s war writing, this module will also consider the relationship between women’s literary responses and those of the largely androcentric canon. The course will examine the impact of conflict on constructions of masculinity and femininity, and explore the contrasting strategies through which writers made sense of the radical dislocations of war. Comparisons will be drawn between the First and Second World Wars, and issues considered might include the construction of national identity, the conflict between pacifism and patriotism, the implications of fascism, the guilt of the survivor and the paradoxical liberation sometimes associated with war. The module will also explore writing of the inter-war years on the grounds that the responses to war are seldom contained within the actual period of hostilities. The course encompasses a variety of genres including poetry, fiction and autobiography, suggesting that the traces of war can be found across the whole range of twentieth century texts, from popular fictions to modernism. Writers considered might include Rebecca West, Vera Brittain, Virginia Woolf, Stevie Smith, Naomi Mitchison and Elizabeth Bowen.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5112 Theories and Contexts**

Credits: 40.0 Semester: Whole Year

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Women, Writing and Gender Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The module provides an introduction to key debates in contemporary feminist and gender theory, alongside an overview of the historical and cultural context within which these theories have developed. By drawing on the teaching resources available within the school, the module will be able to cover a considerable range of writers and their ideas, and students might expect to encounter the work of writers as diverse as Mary Wollstonecraft and Judith Butler. However, the emphasis will be upon the course as a point of departure, and the seminars will be accompanied by an extensive reading list through which the students will be encouraged to explore those areas of enquiry that most interest them.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One seminar per fortnight

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

**EN5113 Myth and Twentieth-Century Women’s Fiction**

Credits: 30.0 Semester: 2

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Women, Writing and Gender Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: Myths are at once a reflection of prevailing social and personal identities and a powerfully coercive template for their formation. Unravelling such mythic constructions as the Madonna and Medusa has comprised an important element of feminist debate over the past three decades, and arguably constitutes one of the most vital aspects of women’s fiction-writing today. This module will begin with an investigation into myth from a number of theoretical viewpoints, consider relevant feminist interventions into the debate on myth, and reflect on the nature of rewriting, before moving on to study a number of contemporary fictional reworkings of myth by such important and diverse writers as Margaret Atwood, A.S. Byatt, Angela Carter, Emma Tennant and Fay Weldon

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

