

School of English

Head of School

Professor R Crawford

Degree Programmes

Graduate Diploma:

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

M.Litt.:

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

M.Phil.:

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

Programme Requirements

Creative Writing

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits made up of 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 from EN5011, EN5100 and two of EN5012, EN5013, 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

Romantic Studies

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits made up of EN5041, EN5042, EN5044 and EN5100

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

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

The course explores Romanticism through close study of literary culture 1767-1821. It draws on the wealth of published material from this period in the University Library's Special Collections Department. Students will study the various conceptions and dimensions of Romanticism, and Romantic criticism and theory up to the present. They will explore various debates about commonness and culture, focusing on the conflicts of the 1770s through to the 1790s, and *Lyrical Ballads*. Close study of John Keats in his literary and political contexts enables students to reassess the work and reputation of a major Romantic poet in the light of recent criticism and scholarship. Particular attention will be given to rivalry between Edinburgh and London in the 'Cockney School' controversy.

Scottish Literature

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits made up of EN5021, EN5024, EN5044 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 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 made up of EN5031, EN5032, 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 made up of EN5111, EN5112, EN5114 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, paleography, 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*, *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%

EN5024 Literature and Environment

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: EN5100

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

Description: Modern Scottish literature combines, and sometimes contrasts, a deep concern with the land and a fascination with the urban scene. This module will cover key authors and texts, in verse and prose, in both areas, with particular emphasis on the power of the land in works of the 1930s and the representation of different environments in the period from the 1960s to the 1990s.

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%

EN5041 The Idea of a Common Culture

Credits: 30.0 Semester: 1
Programme(s): Compulsory module for Romantic Studies Postgraduate Taught Programme.
Description: This module will explore debates about commonness and culture, taking as its focus the conflicts of the 1770s through to the 1790s as to whether 'the People', vulgar speech and popular customs were to be considered as worthy of serious representation in polite literature and society at large. We will look at: popular antiquarianism and constitutional reform; debates about good linguistic usage; common land and common rights, and 1790s defences of poverty; and common law and codification. These debates raise questions about toleration, nation and non-conformity, questions which can be shown to centre around the contested idea of a common culture.
Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: One seminar.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

English – 5000 Level Modules

EN5042 John Keats and Cockney Culture

Credits: 30.0 Semester: 2

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

Description: In this module close study of Keats's poetry and letters will be related to study of writers associated with the 'Cockney School', including Leigh Hunt, John Hamilton Reynolds, and William Hazlitt. The 'Cockney School' essays published in *Blackwood's Magazine*, and cultural rivalry between Edinburgh and London, will also form a focus of study.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One seminar.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

EN5044 Northern Romanticism

Credits: 40.0 Semester: 2

Prerequisite: EN5100

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Romantic Studies and Scottish Literature Postgraduate Taught Programmes

Description: This module will focus on the privileging of northern British 'sublime' landscapes and their associated cultures. In terms of literary history it will take a panoramic view of the Romantic imagination from the mid-eighteenth century to the early Victorian period. At its heart will lie texts about Scotland or by Scottish writers, e.g. accounts of their Scottish tours by Dorothy and William Wordsworth and John Keats, as well as poetry and fiction by James Macpherson, Sir Walter Scott, and Emily Brontë. Aspects of northern literary print culture (e.g. influential journals) will be included.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: One seminar

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

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, Romantic Studies, 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: 4.00 - 5.00 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

EN5101 Research Skills for Creative Writing

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1
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 pm Mondays and Thursdays in Semester 1; 4.00 pm some Thursdays in Semester 2
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: 2
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%

English – 5000 Level Modules

EN5114 The New Woman: Women and Fiction, 1880 to the First World War

Credits: 30.0 Semester: 1

Co-requisites: EN5100, EN5111, EN5112

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

Description: The module examines a range of novels and short stories by and about ‘The New Woman’, from the 1880s to the First World War. The course invites students to explore theoretical and historical issues regarding women and fiction, and relations between female emancipation, feminism and writing. It considers the ways in which the entity of ‘The New Woman’ was delineated and resisted by male and female writers, and the ways in which writing was gendered in fiction, journalism, visual art and other discourses in this period.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: One seminar

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%