

English Literature
Module Descriptions 2018/19
Level C (i.e. First Year) Modules

Please be aware that all modules are subject to availability.

If you have any questions about the modules, please contact

calincomingexchangemodules@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

For many of these modules, some experience of studying English Literature may be required, and you should remember this when choosing your modules.

Please note that at the time this document has been prepared (March 2018) the following information is provisional, and there may be minor changes between now and the beginning of 2018/19 academic year.

Module Title	Discovering North American Literature
Module Code	30644
Credits	20
Assessment Method	2 x 2,000 word essay (50% each)
Teaching	Lecture and Seminar
Semester	1&2

DESCRIPTION

The course focuses on a chronological survey of American texts from the eighteenth century to present day. In Autumn Term, students will concentrate on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Themes may include: the Puritan origins of American literature, American Enlightenment, westward expansion and conquest, transcendentalism, gender, race and slave narratives, the American Gothic, and literary realism and naturalism. In Spring, students will survey North American texts written during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries: themes may include the spread of consumer culture and the emergence of a new kind of American city culture; individual and collective identities; vernacular, folk culture; protest writing; representations of domesticity, relationships, and gender; race; post-war conformity; the counterculture; the Vietnam war; indigenous writing; the changing ethics and politics of a pre- and post-millennium nation.

Module Title	Discovering North American Literature (to 1900)
Module Code	29969
Credits	
Assessment Method	2 x 2,000 word essay (50% each)
Teaching	Lecture and Seminar
Semester	1

DESCRIPTION

This module provides a chronological survey of North American literature from the 18th century to the end of the 19th century. Themes that may be considered include: the Puritan origins of American literature, American Enlightenment, westward expansion and conquest, transcendentalism, gender, race and slave narratives, the American Gothic, and literary realism and naturalism. Typical authors may include Benjamin Franklin, Margaret Fuller, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglass, Emily Dickinson, Harriet Jacobs, Herman Melville, and Edgar Allen Poe.

Module Title	Research Skills in American and Canadian Studies
Module Code	29972
Credits	
Assessment Method	1 x group project (50%) 1 x 2000-word essay (50%)
Teaching	Workshop
Semester	2

DESCRIPTION

This module will enable students to develop skills of independent research and constructive team working which they will use throughout their American and Canadian Studies degree (and beyond). The module will give students first-hand experience of the interdisciplinary character of ACS research. They will learn to identify and frame a valid, intellectually coherent research question; identify, find and consider the sources they will use and how they will use them; and engage with the diverse group of methods that defines ACS scholarship. Students will interact and work with staff from different academic and research backgrounds to consider different modes of analysis.

Module Title	Discovering Digital Cultures
Module Code	29972
Credits	
Assessment Method	2 x 2,000 word essay (50% each)
Teaching	Seminar
Semester	1&2

DESCRIPTION

This module explores a range of impacts produced by digital technologies on cultural practices and artistic representations in the twenty-first century. Students will be introduced to the effects that digitisation has had on traditional humanities work (including the emergence of the digital humanities and the consideration of new kinds of books, films, videogames, and other artworks) and will be guided in critical examinations of the varied implications of these forms in increasingly connected and ubiquitous global communications networks. By considering how digital technologies influence texts, reading, and wider social practices, this module aims to encourage students to consider the particularities of their current cultural environment and to prepare them for any later exploration of cutting-edge research in the humanities. As part of the assessment for this module, students will also have the opportunity to design and develop a simple digital project of their own, enabling them to reflect on the importance of creation to both the digital humanities and the emergence of a participatory digital life.

Module Title	Introduction to English Literature 1790 - Present
Module Code	19588
Credits	
Assessment Method	3,000 Word Essay
Teaching	Lecture and Seminar
Semester	1

DESCRIPTION

The course will explore a range of texts and literary movements from the periods after 1790. Texts will be studied in relation to their social, political and literary contexts. There will also be an emphasis on close reading. Themes and ideas looked at will include: tradition and change in various forms (literary, social and political), 'monsters' within, crises of gender identity and of representation, rethinking the past, and so on. Literary concepts such as Romanticism, the Gothic, Modernism and Postmodernism will also be considered. A variety of critical approaches will be introduced.

Module Title	Introduction to English Literature Before 1790
Module Code	19587
Credits	
Assessment Method	3,000 Word Essay
Teaching	Lecture and Seminar
Semester	2

DESCRIPTION

This course will explore a selection of texts and literary genres from the periods before 1790. Texts will be studied in relation to their social, political and literary contexts. There will also be an emphasis on close reading. Themes and ideas discussed will include: the concept of 'the hero', communities and 'others' ('monsters'?), authority and rebellion, the developing sense of the 'individual', gender relations and ambiguities, reason and feeling, utopian and dystopian thought, and so on. Literary topics such as the narrative of epics and romances, the development of the popular theatre, social criticism and satire, the nature of comedy, the craft of putting feeling into verse will be considered. A variety of critical and theoretical approaches will be introduced.

Module Title	Discovering North American Literature (1900 onwards)
Module Code	29971
Credits	
Assessment Method	2 x 2,000 word essay (50% each)
Teaching	Lecture and Seminar
Semester	2

DESCRIPTION

This module provides a chronological survey of North American texts written during the 20th and 21st centuries. Themes that may be considered include: the spread of consumer culture and the emergence of a new kind of American city culture; individual and collective identities; vernacular, folk culture; protest writing; representations of domesticity, relationships, and gender; race; post-war conformity; the counterculture; the Vietnam war; indigenous writing; the changing ethics and politics of a pre- and post-millennium nation.

Module Title	Introduction to American and Canadian Studies
Module Code	29968
Credits	
Assessment Method	Group Research Project (50% 20 minute presentation; 50% 2,000 word essay
Teaching	Workshop
Semester	1

DESCRIPTION

This module introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of American and Canadian Studies. In essence it asks students to consider what it means to be American or Canadian. Students will consider if there is such a thing as a national culture and identity in the United States and Canada and they will examine the often-fierce debate over who can and cannot be an American or a Canadian. The module will consider a diverse set of works from literature to history to cultural criticism to the visual arts. It will contemplate how Americans and Canadians from different backgrounds, living in different eras, have understood and argued over the meaning and significance of an American or Canadian national identity.