English literature and creative writing

Professor Bran Nicol,
Head of School of Literature and Languages

Dr Amy Louise Morgan,
Lecturer in Medieval Literature
Why literature?
To study literature and creative writing is to study:

- What it means to be human
- Literary form, literary history, literary style
- Literature’s insights into history, society, and culture
- Contemporary concerns: national identity, global issues, media and culture, narrating experience.

Literature and creative writing students are good at:

- Communicating
- Writing and interpreting
- Understanding motivation, making connections
- Being creative and imaginative.
Our teaching

Innovative Teaching

Passionate Lecturers
Programme overview
Our degree programmes

» BA (Hons) English Literature
» BA (Hons) English Literature with Creative Writing
» BA (Hons) English Literature and Languages [French or Spanish]
» BA (Hons) English Literature with another subject [Politics, Sociology, German]

» Each of our degree programmes can be studied over three years or over four years, incorporating a Professional Training placement.
What you’ll study

» Modules are dependent on your programme

» Year one modules are compulsory

» Increasing flexibility as you progress

» Modules cover a range of theoretical concepts and literary periods eg. Medieval, Early Modern, Romantic, Victorian, Twentieth-Century, and Contemporary.
Module catalogue:

https://catalogue.surrey.ac.uk/2020-1/programme/UPG13-1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>Module title</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester</th>
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<tr>
<td>ELI1010</td>
<td>THEORIES OF READING I</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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<td>ELI1018</td>
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<td>ELI1021</td>
<td>UNDERSTANDING POETRY</td>
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<td>ELI1024</td>
<td>UNDERSTANDING DRAMA</td>
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<td>ELI1011</td>
<td>THEORIES OF READING II</td>
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<td>ELI1022</td>
<td>HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE II</td>
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<td>ELI1020</td>
<td>SHAKESPEARE</td>
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<td>ELI1025</td>
<td>UNDERSTANDING THE NOVEL</td>
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</tbody>
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» Look up 2020/21 modules

» Access reading lists
## Year one: English literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester one</th>
<th>Semester two</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History of English Literature I</td>
<td>History of English Literature II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theories of Reading I</td>
<td>Theories of Reading II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shakespeare</td>
<td>Understanding Drama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding the Novel</td>
<td>Understanding Poetry</td>
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</table>
Year one: creative writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester one</th>
<th>Semester two</th>
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<tr>
<td>History of English Literature I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theories of Reading I</td>
<td>Theories of Reading II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shakespeare / Understanding the Novel</td>
<td>Understanding Drama / Understanding Poetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Creative Writing</td>
<td>Thinking Like a Writer</td>
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## Year one: languages

<table>
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<th>Semester two</th>
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<tr>
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<td>History of English Literature II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theories of Reading I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Modules</td>
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<tr>
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## Year one: English literature with another subject (eg. sociology)

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<td>History of English Literature II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theories of Reading I</td>
<td>Theories of Reading II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Classical</td>
<td>Social Divisions and Social Identities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociological Thinkers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Sociology: Topics and</td>
<td>Optional:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues</td>
<td>Shakespeare/Understanding the Novel/Thinking Like a Writer</td>
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Year two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester one</th>
<th>Semester two</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Literature: Gender and Sexuality</td>
<td>Contemporary Literature: Postcolonial Fictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elements of Narrative</td>
<td>Contemporary Storytelling</td>
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Plus optional modules such as:
- The American Century
- Victorian Literature & Culture
- Modernism
- Monsters, Mystics and Demons
- Introduction to TEFL
- Theorising Film
- Hardcore Shakespeare.

Languages and Literature in Education
- Romantic Literature 1789-1830
- Early Modern Literature
- 20thc British and American Drama
- World Cinema after WWII
- Science Fiction
- Significant Others: Victorian Creative Partnerships.
Year one spotlight

Gives students the necessary methodologies for undertaking close reading of literary texts.

Indicative content includes:

» Marxism
» Feminism
» New Historicism
» Psychoanalysis.
This module explored Victorian literature in relation to a range of social, cultural and political contexts.

**Indicative content includes:**
- Urban Life and Industry
- Men and Women
- Faith and Doubt
- Science, Technology and Fantasy
- Victorian Britain and the World
- The End of the Century.
Year three spotlight

Explores children’s literature across a variety of genres and ages with close attention to historical development and social context.

**Indicative content includes**

» Fairy Tales
» Picturebooks
» Classic Works
» Young Adult Fiction.
Thinking Like a Writer

Creative writing spotlight

Encourages students to reflect on what it might mean to ‘think like a writer’ through the examination of prose, poetry, and writing for film and stage.

**Indicative content includes:**
- Introduction to Drama
- Introduction to Film
- Writers on Writing
- Introduction to Narrative Theory.
Introduction to France and the French-Speaking World

Languages spotlight

Language modules provide:

» Intensive language skills training
» Introduction to cultures and societies
» Skills for language experts
» Training in applied translation.
English literature with ... modules include

» Introduction to Politics: Power and State
» Introduction to International Relations
» Social & Political Thinkers from Plato to Marx.

» Sociology of Contemporary Societies
» Current Sociology: Topics and Issues
» Introduction to Classical Sociological Thinkers.
How are modules assessed?

» A range of methods including:
  • Essays
  • Essay plans
  • Exams
  • Portfolios of creative work
  • Self-reflexive commentaries
  • Presentations
  • Blogs
  • Critical commentaries/analyses
  • Dissertation/CW submission.

» Note that the first year does not count towards your overall degree classification and that the final year is more heavily weighted than second year.
All students can take free language classes as part of the Global Graduate Award.
A day in the life of a first-year student

» 9 –10am - Shakespeare lecture
» 10–11am - Reading for History of English Literature
» 11am–12pm - Source and collect books from the Library
» 12–1pm - Introduction to Creative Writing Seminar
» 1–2pm - Lunch by the lake with friends
» 2–2:30pm - Personal Tutor meeting
» 3–4pm – Write in MySurrey Hive
» 4–6pm – Poetry Readings from staff and students.
Alice Kimber

"The opportunity to do a Professional Training placement was a huge part of why I chose to come to Surrey, particularly because it's relatively unique for a BA (Hons) English Literature course."

Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Entry year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Literature BA (Hons)</td>
<td>2016</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

"I attended both an Open Day and an applicant day during the university application process. I knew from the Open Day alone that I wanted to come to Surrey. The opportunity to do a Professional Training placement was a huge part of why I chose to come to Surrey, particularly because it's relatively unique for a BA (Hons) English Literature course. There was a presentation on the day about the industries that previous students had gone into for their placements and I was so excited by the thought of the different
Support at the University

» Student Health Centre – medical services

» Centre for Wellbeing – free expert advice and information to support your health, emotional, and psychological wellbeing

» Wellbeing Champion – Dr Dawn Marley

» Personal Tutor and a Peer Mentor – support in your academic, personal and professional development

» My Surrey Hive – immediate support and advice on student-life related queries and socialising space

» Additional Learning Support – confidential support service for disabled or dyslexic students

» Academic Skills and Development (SPLASH) – provide guidance on academic work

» SLL English Language Support – tailored support

» Student Union – dedicated Wellbeing Officer.
Literary wonderland
Literary societies and events

Department events
» Morag Morris Poetry Lecture
» Poetry Festival
» Surrey New Writers Festival
» Guildford Book Festival
» Quiz Night

» Twitter: @SurreySLL
» Instagram: @SurreySLL

Student Led
» LitSoc: English Literature Society
» MadSoc: Music and Drama Society
» Musical Theatre Society
» The Stag (student newspaper)
» Stag Radio (student radio station)

» Twitter: LitSoc - @SurreyEnglish
   @SurreyMADSoc
   @ussu_mtsoc
   @TheStagSurrey
   @StagRadioSurrey
The Morag Morris Annual Poetry Lecture

SCHOOL OF LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES

Morag Morris Poetry Lecture 2019/20

Professor William Rowe

Poems against death: Poetry as political struggle

Wednesday, 12th February 2020, 4.30-6pm, followed by drinks reception.
Room: 01AC01 (AC Building)
University of Surrey (Stag Hill Campus)
Tickets: £4
Concessions: £2
For further details on how to book contact sel@surrey.ac.uk
Poet in Residence

Robert Kiely
2019-20
Distinguished Writer in Residence

Iain Sinclair
2018-21
Melissa Molloy (1st Class English Literature, class of 2017)

• Public Relations in-house at Sony Consumer Electronics

• After graduation, entered into Freuds London for a month placement

• Now Senior Account Executive at Marlin PR working with innovative technology clients including Slack, Sony Professional and Adzuna.
Careers opportunities

#universityofsurrey
Contact

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