

Certificate of Higher Education in English Literature

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group:	English
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Programme length: 2 years or more
For students entering Part 1 2003/2004	Date of specification: July 2003
Programme Director: Myra Cottingham	
Director of Certificates of HE Programme: Myra Cottingham	
Board of Studies: Continuing Education	
Accreditation: not applicable	

Summary of programme aims and learning outcomes

The primary aim of the Certificate of Higher Education in English Literature is to provide a part-time University 'C' level programme for members of the local community who might not otherwise receive a University-level education. The Certificate of Higher Education in English Literature also aims to enable part-time adult students to become independent and confident learners with a range of appropriate subject-based and transferable skills which may facilitate lifelong learning and progression to 'I' and 'H' level programmes. The Certificate of Higher Education in English Literature aims to offer aims to introduce students to debate about approaches to the study of literature and to a variety of kinds of texts from a number of different periods, as well as to the critical analysis of literary language.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which students can expect to have developed by the end of a degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology. The Certificate of Higher Education in English Literature provides a starting-point for the development of these skills.

Effective communication in speech and writing, including the ability to create a well-organised and coherent argument based on evidence, is gained through group discussion, oral presentations and written essays. Integral to this development is the gathering, synthesising and interpretation of information, as well as problem-solving and the critical judgment needed to challenge assumptions and previously unexamined opinions. Team-working is practised in discussion and group exercises, while IT skills are developed through locating and retrieving information and the presentation of coursework. Awareness of numeracy is gained through literary form and prosody, as well as in chronology and periodisation. In addition, time-management skills are developed through attendance, participation in course activities and in

meeting deadlines. Self-awareness is gained through examination of oneself as a reader and in individual feedback and personal tutorials.

Programme content

Students take four 20-credit modules, two in Year 1 (**EX1EL1 The comic mode; EX1EL2 The tragic mode**) and two in Year 2 (**EX1EL3 The novel and EX1EL4 Poetry and drama**), plus 40 credits from the Department of Continuing Education's Open Studies programme (or a Part 1 module in another subject from the part-time degree provision). Open Studies credits may be taken before, during or after the four modules and may, but do not have to, be in one or more other subjects. Details of modules offered for the Open Studies credits may be found in the Department of Continuing Education's 'Public Courses' prospectus. The Certificate of Higher Education English Literature carries 120 credits at Level C (80 Certificate of Higher Education subject-specific credits, plus 40 from the Open Studies provision or from Part 1 modules in the part-time evening or daytime degree programme) and is equivalent to Part 1 of a degree programme.

Year 1

EX1EL1 The comic mode	CD1EL1	20	C
EX1EL2 The tragic mode	CD1EL2	20	C

Year 2

EX1EL3 The novel		20	C
EX1EL4 Poetry and drama		20	C

Open Studies or degreeprogramme		40	C
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Progression requirements

To proceed to Year 2, students must obtain an overall mark of 40% in both English Literature modules. To qualify for the Certificate of Higher Education, all four English Literature modules must be passed at 40%, and in addition 40 Open Studies or Part 1 credits must be gained according to the regulations governing the Open Studies programme or degree programmes with a pass mark of 40%.

Summary of teaching and assessment

In all four English Literature modules teaching will be normally be provided in seminars, with some formal input (lectures and/or introductory talks), followed by structured guided discussion. In all modules, students should prepare for the seminars by reading and thinking about the relevant set text(s) in relation to the relevant genre. Four hours of directed revision will be included in the Summer Term.

Assessment of all the 20-credit modules will be by coursework and examination. In each of these modules, students will write two essays, one of which may take the form of a presentation, team exercise or other written assignment (eg a critical or structural analysis).

For each 20-credit module, there will be one three-hour unseen paper to be taken in June.

In all English Literature modules, coursework is weighted at 40% and examination at 60%.

The two Year 1 English Literature modules are averaged together, as are the two Year 2 modules. The final mark is the weighted average of Years 1 and 2 (Year 1 is weighted at 40% and Year 2 at 60%). Categories are 40-60% Pass; 60-70% Merit; 70-100% Distinction.

Admission requirements

There are no formal admission requirements, but students are asked attend an informal interview with the programme director, to be sure the course is appropriate. Acceptance is based on an interest in reading and evidence of open-mindedness and motivation.

Admissions tutor: the Programme Director

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University Special Needs Adviser, Study Advisers and the Students' Union.

The Department of Continuing Education provides a programme of credit-bearing Study Skills and IT programmes designed especially for adults returning or new to higher education; Certificate of Higher Education students are strongly advised to attend these courses, which are often the ideal choice for the 40 credit Open Studies component. As part of the Certificate of Higher Education programme, students are provided with induction sessions to the University Library. In addition, the Department provides handbooks and brochures; the Certificate course includes written feedback on coursework and one-to-one supervisions to discuss academic progress, and the PAR (Personal Academic Record) scheme provides students with a personal tutor who can also help students assess their development.

Career prospects

Although many students on the programme will already have a career, the Certificate of Higher Education in English Literature may enable a change of direction or advancement. The skills developed in the programme may be transferred to any career that requires effective

communication, especially in written form, information gathering and handling, conceptual and creative thinking. Obvious careers include education, arts administration, the media, the civil service, librarianship, administration and management. For any employer, completion of the Certificate demonstrates that students can successfully apply themselves to an academic course and that they can manage their personal time effectively and take personal responsibility for their intellectual development. The Certificate of Higher Education in English Literature also trains students for progression to further progression to Higher Education at 'I' and 'H' level, where they can continue to gain knowledge and skills.

Opportunities for study abroad

There are no opportunities for study abroad.

Educational aims of the programme

The Certificate of Higher Education in English Literature aims to enable students to interpret a range of literary texts at a deeper level, and in a more up-to-date and sophisticated way, through the identification of what kind of text they are reading, through an awareness of a range and variety of critical interpretations. They will also encounter a range of short passages and poems, aimed at improving their ability to analyse the techniques and effects of literary language. Finally, the programme aims to provide support for the improvement of the skills needed for the communication of structured and coherent arguments in essay writing and oral presentations, and in the critical analysis of the ways language is used in literary texts.

Programme outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the basic nature of the discipline of literary study, its methods and approaches 2. the principal divisions of the discipline of literary study, its generic divisions, critical topics and varieties of interpretation 3. a range of literary texts from the 16th century to the present 4. the importance of recognising the range and variety of interpretations which may be used in the study of English Literature 5. some of the current debates and issues in critical theory 	<p>Teaching and learning methods and strategies</p> <p>The first two modules provide an introduction to the importance of structure, form and rhetorical language, while also introducing the students to the principal genres of the comedy and tragedy. The third and fourth modules reinforce these methods and approaches by transferring them to the study of three modes of literature: the novel, poetry and drama. All four modules introduce students to a range of interpretations and some of the debates and issues connected with literary criticism. Throughout, the short lectures impart crucial information and perspective while the complementary discussion develops an understanding of the range of opinions and theories which exist.</p>
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	<p>Assessment The examinations and coursework test the students' understanding of the methods and approaches used in literary criticism and the critical analysis of short passages and poetry. They also test students' knowledge of the different genres and modes of literature. The seminars and presentations test the students' appreciation of the range of interpretations which are possible and of the existence of differing views and debates.</p>
<p>B. Intellectual skills (able to)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. synthesise information from books, discussion and lectures accurately and reliably and to sift and integrate this information into coursework assignments 2. challenge assumptions and previously unexamined opinions 3. create a well-organised and coherent argument based on evidence, in writing and in presentations 4. evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems 5. participate effectively in group discussion 6. reflect on their development as adult learners 	<p>Teaching and learning methods and strategies Through specific focus on topics, issues and texts in group discussion and personal study, students are enabled to develop critical modes of enquiry about the selection and treatment of material. The research and analytical skills needed for problem-solving and for the accurate and reliable communication of the results of their work, are practised in essays and presentations, as is the ability to synthesise and sift information in order to create a structured and coherent argument.</p> <p>Feedback on an individual basis encourages reflection on strengths and areas for improvement in coursework, and the PAR scheme of personal tutorials enables students to reflect on their development and future progression as adult learners.</p> <p>Assessment Essays and other coursework test all aspects of intellectual skills, while the examinations test the students' ability to marshal information and arguments under time constraints.</p>
<p>Practical skills (able to)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. locate and synthesise relevant information from a variety of sources 2. use the University's library and IT to access sources and information relating to the subject 3. present an academic essay which includes bibliographies and references in an appropriate format 	<p>Teaching and learning methods and strategies All of the practical skills are developed in each module through the production of essays and preparing for group discussion and seminar presentations. Most importantly they are developed through the information gathering, reading and problem-solving which is needed to support these activities.</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. listen and communicate effectively in group discussion and communicate effectively in individual oral presentations 5. communicate the results of study/investigation accurately and reliably in writing 6. develop structured and coherent arguments in writing 	<p>Assessment The essays, seminar presentations and examinations all test the students' assimilation and ability to use these skills.</p>
<p>Transferable skills (able to)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. present findings and arguments cogently and coherently, both orally and in writing 2. listen and contribute effectively to group discussions and other team activities 3. locate, select and handle information using library and other written sources 4. locate, select, handle and present information using IT resources 5. show a competence in numeracy within the parameters of the subject 6. work to deadlines and manage their time effectively 7. demonstrate a responsible attitude to attendance and participation in scheduled course activities 8. assess aptitudes in preparation for the development of their present career or a career change and/or for further academic study 	<p>Teaching and learning methods and strategies In all the modules students will be introduced to the IT and library resources of the University, and then taught how to present their findings in a coherent, numerate and timely manner, whether verbally or in writing. Throughout the emphasis will be on participation, responsible attendance and support for their fellow students. As part of the PAR process students will be asked to reconsider the career and further academic options which are available to them and they will be encouraged to supplement this by using the Careers Service and the Department's appropriate Study Skills or IT modules.</p> <p>Assessment The essays and other coursework will test the students' ability to communicate, to meet deadlines and to use the academic resources effectively. The seminar presentations and group discussions will test these abilities through the use of verbal communication. The examination will test the students' abilities in a timed environment.</p>

Please note--This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical Continuing Education student might reasonably be able to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Certificate of Higher Education programme handbook.