

Third year modules in English and in English & Creative Writing for 2023-4

Provisional as of 21 Feb 2023.

These are the Third year modules which we expect to deliver in 2023-4 in English and in English & Creative Writing.

These are the classes

Autumn:

- QQ304 Sex, Revenge And Corruption In Renaissance Drama
- QQ335 The American Novel (1925-Present)
- QQ607 Victorian Literature

Spring:

- QQ309 Language In Business And Organisations
- QQ333 The Body: Theories And Representations
- QQ608 Twentieth Century Literature

Class descriptions

QQ333 The Body: Theories and Representations

Semester 1

This is a third-year class that introduces students to key theories of the body through the lens of contemporary literature and visual culture. Organised around a series of key themes – for instance, the working body, the sick body, and the posthuman body – the module will introduce students to important theories of gendered, raced, and disabled embodiment. Students will develop interdisciplinary skills in theoretical analysis, and develop methods for applying these skills to a diverse range of cultural objects.

QQ335 The American Novel (1925-Present)

Semester 1

This class aims to introduce students to some of the major forms and themes in the 20th century American novel with some more contemporary content. The

module investigates how major social and historical issues have shaped some of the most important American novels and how the novel, as a form, has developed and adapted to describe new and different realities. Some of the historical and social issues covered in the class include: the American Dream, the legacy of slavery, queer life in the US, and stories of migration and travel. This module is designed to equip students who wish to pursue studies in American literature or culture in more depth with an overview of the period. It is also designed to expand the knowledge of students with a general interest in the novel.

QQ607 Victorian Literature

Semester 1

This class will introduce students to Victorian literature and Victorian culture through three units: realism, genre fiction, and poetry. Realism was the dominant form of fiction in the nineteenth century, and so the class will begin with a consideration of its conventions in character, plot, and voice, reading works by George Eliot, Elizabeth Gaskell, and Robert Louis Stevenson. We will then turn to genre fiction, to examine the ways in which it resisted the conventions of realism, looking at examples of sensation fiction, science fiction, the gothic, and adventure fiction. Here we will consider different reading audiences, looking at age, class, and gender. Finally, we will look at poetry that tried to teach social lessons and poetry that proclaimed itself to be 'art for art's sake'. By the end of the class, students will be acquainted with some major genres of Victorian literature and their cultural contexts. Through the texts studied, students will gain an understanding of key social and political issues in the Victorian period, including class and labour, empire and race, and science and religion.

QQ304 Sex, Revenge and Corruption

Semester 2

This course will focus on drama, a key genre in the period from the 1580s to the closure of the playhouses in 1642. Reading work by major dramatists, we will engage with a form that addressed both a highly literate and a popular audience, and is thus a particularly interesting place to trace ways of thinking in the period. The common thread that ties this selection of plays together is their interest in transgression: what happens when humans cross the limits set by tradition, religion and the state? In the process of this theatrical interrogation, the plays pose questions about violence, identity, gender, desire, citizenship and the role of the theatre itself. We will read tragedies and comedies alongside writing by Robert Burton, Sir Francis Bacon and Niccolò Machiavelli.

QQ309 Language in Business and Organisations

Semester 2

This class explores the ways in which language is used in businesses and other organisations. The class assumes no prior knowledge of linguistics, and teaches technical skills in discourse analysis, conversation analysis, and the analysis of other types of verbal interaction, in speech, writing and electronic communications. The analytical skills learned in this class, and the theoretical ideas, will be useful also in the analysis of literature. Seminars give students practice in the analytical skills. The class assumes that students have no prior knowledge or experience in discourse analysis, conversation analysis, pragmatics, etc.

QQ608 20th Century Literature

Semester 2

This class explores twentieth-century English literature with a focus on fiction, poetry, and drama. The survey examines major literary figures from the first half of the century, such as Beckett, Stein and Woolf, along with their contemporaries and successors. Particular attention will be paid to the literary culture of Modernism before exploring the texts, culture and politics of the later 20th century through writers such as Spark, McGrath and Smith. Emphasis will be placed on understanding a diverse range of literature in historical, critical and theoretical contexts as a means of engaging with the rich literary heritage of the twentieth century, and what the twenty-first century might bring.

QQ339 English & Creative Writing work placement

Semester 2 with some preparation in semester 1

The English & Creative Writing Work Placement class provides students with an opportunity to gain practical, work-based experience in an area where they can apply their literary critical and/or creative writing experience and knowledge in a work-based setting that is professionally relevant to them. The class includes travel time to and from placement, assessment preparation, and attendance at face-to-face campus sessions. This class will provide students with an opportunity to build their portfolio of experience and develop personal and professional skills that are relevant to gaining employment and/or further study. Students are responsible for sourcing their own placements, though are guided through this process via workshops (organised in conjunction with the Careers Service) in semester one. The placement is conducted in semester two. There will be an information session at the end of semester, explaining all of this in more detail. In the meantime, any queries to module convenor: eleanor.bell@strath.ac.uk