

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

(21 Feb 2023)

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

Students taking the subject 'English' or 'English & Creative Writing' must take these two modules:

QQ227 Writing Through Time 1 20 credits, semester 1

QQ228 Writing Through Time 2 20 credits, semester 2

Another 40 credits must come from your other subject (e.g., History, or French, etc).

For your final 40 credits, you will then normally take one 20 credit module in one of the two subjects and one 20 credit module from a list of interdisciplinary modules offered by the Faculty. We offer two modules, both of which are on the interdisciplinary list:

QQ203 The Construction Of Scotland: Text And Context 20 credits, semester 1

QQ211 Making The Modern Human. 20 credits, semester 2

So you can choose to take (i) both of these modules, or (ii) one of them, or (iii) none of them.

Any of these three choices is permissible if you want to go on to do English or English & Creative Writing in third year.

Class descriptions

QQ227 Writing Through Time 1

Semester 1

This class develops students' understanding of literary criticism by historical changes in literary writing. Students will engage with different genres: poetry, plays, prose fiction, and creative non-fiction and think about changes within genre across time (for example, from the Renaissance theatre of Shakespeare and his contemporaries to contemporary drama). In addition, students will be offered distinct modes of analysis in their learning: an orthodox literary critical approach, and a more innovative creative approach. Students will choose assessment exercises to reflect their own interests in relation to these.

QQ228 Writing Through Time 2

Semester 2

This class develops students' understanding of literary criticism by the historical in literary writing. Students will engage with different genres: poetry, dramatic writing for the screen, the short story, and creative non-fiction and think about changes within genre across time (for example, from the Gothic short story of the mid-nineteenth-century to contemporary short story practice). In addition, students will be offered distinct modes of analysis in their learning: an orthodox literary critical approach, and a more innovative creative approach. Students will choose assessment exercises to reflect their own interests in relation to these.

QQ203 The Construction of Scotland: Text and Context

Semester 1

This interdisciplinary class offers a wide variety of ways of thinking about Scottishness and national identity throughout the twentieth century. One of the main aims of the class is to challenge assumptions of national identity as something that is coherent and fixed by exploring its many complexities, subtleties and contradictions. Focusing on issues of language, gender, and place, the class will encourage students to deepen their understanding of Scottishness and the constructed nature of national identity through a literary and cultural lens. In doing so we will look at a range of literary texts throughout the twentieth century from writers such as Hugh MacDiarmid, Nan Shepherd, Muriel Spark, Edwin Morgan, and Leila Aboulela.

QQ211 Making the Modern Human

Semester 2

The class aims to introduce students to changing ideas about the human in relation to two key moments in the history of ideas: the concept of the human and the idea of the beast within in the early seventeenth century; and the appearance of Darwin's theory of evolution in the mid-nineteenth century. The class will look at what shifts in understanding the boundary between humans and animals meant for how people understood themselves at two very different moments in the past. Core to the class will be how scientific, philosophical and literary materials contemplate the same ideas; what different notions of the human emerge from different ways of thinking. Alongside some texts from humoral psychology, criminology, and natural history Students will read literary texts including *Hamlet*, the Sherlock Holmes story 'The Adventure of the Creeping Man', and H.G. Wells' novella *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.