



Studying English at Royal Holloway, University of London

Welcome

The English Department looks forward to welcoming students from Miami University, for your different perspective enriches our own study of English literature. As our system differs in many respects from your own, we hope that this handout will help you to choose what is right for you when thinking about studying here.

How Courses are Offered to Students on the Study Abroad Programme (SAPros)

The main thing to remember is that Royal Holloway's English Department is a highly focused, specialised literature department, with courses deriving from the research of literary scholars active in their fields. In addition, most of our students come to the department having specialised in English literature for most of their high school years. Thus even our first year courses are at an advanced level. This level of specialisation is unusual in a North American system, and with this in mind, we consider the courses offered to visiting students on a case-by case basis. Students' previous experience of studying literature determines their acceptance onto a course. For example, students who have only studied English literature as part of a composition or linguistics course will not be accepted onto third-year courses, simply because their experience will not have equipped them with the knowledge to cope at this level. Students with little or no academic experience of the study of English Literature will typically be offered first year courses, but remember that even first-year courses are at a fairly advanced level. Relevant background study is also important in choosing course options: students who have done plenty of contemporary literature may not be well prepared for a medieval literature course. By looking at each student individually, the English Department is able to help students select the most appropriate courses for them. If you have knowledge that does not show up in your transcript, be sure to mention it in your application.

Coursework

One of the big differences you will find in studying at Royal Holloway is the distinction between 'coursework' and 'assessed work'. In most North American universities, every piece of work that is submitted to an instructor for marking counts toward the final mark. In English universities, it is common for students to submit work that does not contribute toward a final grade. It does, of course, count in other ways: it is an opportunity for students to learn how to analyse literature in a particular course and to receive feedback on it before being assessed. Unassessed coursework is thus an important part of our students' experience here. It should be noted that it is not optional: all coursework must be submitted in order to be allowed to complete the assessment for a course.

Assessment

We assess our students using a variety of types of assignments. These are the most common:

- formal examination: an examination paper, sat under timed conditions
- assessed essay: a take-away paper, submitted after the end of the course
- assessed coursework: an essay that has previously been submitted during the course for feedback, which is then re-written and re-submitted at the end of the course.

In most cases, a single piece of assessment, whether it is an examination or assessed essay, contributes 100% of the mark for the course, but some courses may have a combination of two or more pieces of assessment. No feedback is given on assessed work, other than the final mark. If visiting students do not stay for the full academic year, they may do a different assessment from other students (for example, if the course is normally assessed by an examination in May, students who leave Royal Holloway in December may sit an examination before they leave or write an assessed essay over the Christmas break).

Courses Available in Term 1 (September to December)

This list is still provisional, as instructors are preparing their courses for next year now. Note that first-year course-codes start with a '1', second-year with a '2', and third-year with a '3'.

- EN1001 Introduction to Medieval Literature (first half)
- EN1106 Shakespeare (first half)
- EN1107 Inventing the Novel (first half)
- EN1112 Introducing Poetry (first half)

- EN2000 Medieval Arthurian Literature
- EN2001 Medieval Poetry
- EN2002 Medieval Drama
- EN2004 Medieval Dream and Vision
- EN2201 Romantic Poetry I: Blake, Wordsworth and Coleridge
- EN2208 Ritual and Society in 19th Century Fiction and Painting
- EN2211 19th Century Children's Literature
- EN2301 Modernity and the 20th Century British Novel
- EN2314 British Drama, 1956-1996
- EN2321 Dark Reform: Scandal and Satire in American Culture
- EN2010 Renaissance Literature (first half)
- EN2311 Modern Theory (first half)
- EN2320 Critical Theories: Language, Identity, Body, Space (first half)
- DT2091 Shakespeare from Page to Stage (first half)

- EN3103 Theories of the Novel
- EN3106 Literature and Philosophy
- EN3110 Sex, Gender & Identity: The Eighteenth Century
- EN3111 Postcolonialism
- EN3204 Reading *Tristram Shandy*

Courses Available in Term 2 (January to March)

- EN2002 Medieval Drama
- EN2005 Medieval Epic and Romance
- EN2008 Old English Literature
- EN2202 Romantic Poetry II: Byron, Shelley and Keats
- EN2206 Gaskell, Eliot and Dickens
- EN2209 Fictions of Sensation
- EN2305 British Poetry since 1945
- EN2309 Literature of the Fin de Siècle

EN2317 The Modern British Novel: 1979 to the Present Day

EN2318 Writing of World War I

EN3100 *Beowulf* and the Critics

EN3104 Theories of Drama

EN310X Theories of Tragedy

EN3109 Dandies, Decadence and Art for Art's Sake? Critical Theory and Aesthetic Movement, 1860-1900

Additional Offerings for Advanced Students Coming for a Full Year

There are also third-year courses available *only* to advanced students who wish to study at Royal Holloway for a full year. These include courses on Poetic Practice and Science Fiction, as well as our Special Author courses, which are an in-depth study of individual authors such as Chaucer, Behn, Conrad, Woolf, and the Brontës.

Further Information

Futher information about the department can be found on the web. For example, for a list of staff, go to <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/English/About-Us/>, where you can click on a name to find out more about individual instructors. Information about courses, including preliminary reading lists and course outlines, is currently being prepared; you can find it here: <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/English/Studying/Undergraduate-Study/index.html>. If you want to ask a question about the department, please write to Jennifer Neville, the Study Abroad Programme (SAPro) adviser, at j.neville@rhul.ac.uk.