

# BA (hons) English



## Highlights of the course

- Small classes and a warm, friendly environment
- Assessed by coursework
- All staff are published academics with PhDs
- A Hogwarts style campus to provide an atmospheric backdrop
- Flexibility to follow a pure literature pathway or a combination of language, literature and practical communication
- Your own personal tutor, one-to-one help with essay writing, and a full range of support services
- Internships, creative projects and communication workshops to gain skills and build your CV
- A wild selection of field trips in the UK and abroad, theatre trips, class visits to the Cheltenham Poetry and Literature Festivals, guest speakers and workshops.



For full information please see the course website ([www.glos.ac.uk/enl](http://www.glos.ac.uk/enl)) and our course blog (<http://EnglishGlo.uk>). If you have any questions then please email the course leader, Prof Arran Stibbe ([astibbe@glos.ac.uk](mailto:astibbe@glos.ac.uk)).

# Pathways

There are two suggested pathways through the BA English at the University of Gloucestershire. The first is pure Literature and the second is English Studies, which is a flexible combination of language, literature and practical communication. Which pathway you choose will depend on your interests and experience, but it's possible to swap between the two later on.

## The Literature Pathway

a strong focus on English literature

### Year 1

The Human Experience  
Humanities Skills  
Introduction to English  
Writing the Self  
Myths and Folktales  
Foundations of Drama

### Year 2

Research and Enquiry  
Engaging Humanities  
*and these options:*  
Victorian Empire and Underworlds  
Reason, Revolution and Romanticism  
Postcolonial Writing  
Crime Fiction  
Shakespeare's Drama  
The Search for New Stories to Live By  
Field Trip

### Year 3

The Dissertation  
*and these options:*  
Modern Drama and Social Change  
Contemporary North American Literature  
Literature and Nation  
Travel Fictions  
Inventing Modern Ireland



## The English Studies Pathway

language, literature and practical communication

### Year 1

The Human Experience  
Humanities Skills  
Introduction to English  
Writing the Self  
The Stories We Live By  
The Power and Magic of Language

### Year 2

Research and Enquiry  
Engaging Humanities  
*and these options:*  
Teaching English As A Foreign Language  
Postcolonial Writing  
Language Structure  
The Search for New Stories to Live By  
Crime Fiction  
Reason, Revolution and Romanticism  
Victorian Empire and Underworlds  
Shakespeare's Drama  
Linguistic Comparison  
First and Second Language Acquisition  
Field Trip

### Year 3

The Dissertation  
*and these options:*  
English Dialects  
Communication and Leadership  
Communication and Ethics  
Language and Society  
Modern Drama and Social Change  
Contemporary North American Literature  
Literature and Nation  
Travel Fictions  
Inventing Modern Ireland

# First year modules

## Introduction to English

*This module will be run in two groups for the two pathways*

**Literature Pathway:** the module will focus on developing students' skills in analysing the language of literature. It will also seek to foster wider reflections about the nature of criticism, literary representation and literary theory.

**English Studies pathway:** the module will take students on a journey from the distant past to the present and explore the origins, development and changing face of the English language. Along the way we will examine great works from across the centuries and you will gain the skills you need to read and understand them.



## Writing the Self

*This cross-disciplinary module will be taught in one group*

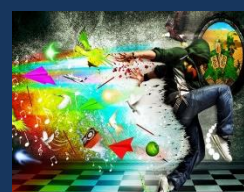
Who are we, what do we look like, and who do we want to become? This module aims to introduce students to key concepts of writing, representation and identity. Students will learn, through the study of literary, critical and everyday texts from across various periods, how the self is established, explored and transformed. Building on this, students will reflect on the personal and professional language skills they need to 'write' their own self and become the person that they want to be.



## The Power and Magic of Language

*This module is for those on the English Studies pathway*

In this module, we investigate the power of language to inspire, amuse, insult, entertain and, in general, move people. We will analyse a range of genres including speeches, comedy, performance poetry, storytelling, hypnotherapy and hip-hop, using videos and class trips to live performances. There are also optional workshops where students can gain confidence and practical communication skills in inspirational speaking.



## Foundations of drama

*This module is for those on the Literature Pathway*

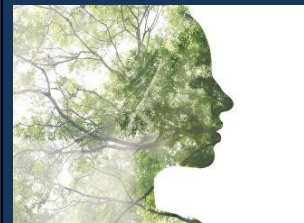
Our study will begin in the classical world as we investigate the ritual and civic origins of drama and their implications for later periods. Students will learn how cultural and historical contexts shape playtexts, and there will be particular emphasis on stagecraft and performance spaces. Texts may include: Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*; Seneca, *Medea* and *The Trojan Women*; *Everyman*; Shakespeare, *Pericles*; J.M. Synge, *Riders to the Sea*; Timberlake Wertenbaker, *The Love of a Nightingale*.



## The Stories We Live By

*This module is for students on the English Studies pathway*

In this module we will be exploring a wide range of texts from advertisements and lifestyle magazines to inspirational literary works. The aim is to reveal the underlying stories they tell about the society we live in and ask whether these stories are serving us well or leading us down a path of inequality and environmental destruction. Along the way you will discover some powerful tools for analysing language and literature that can help in the search for new stories to live by.



## Myth and Folk Tales





*This module is for those on the Literature Pathway*






Beginning with ancient modes such as epic and folk tale, we will explore how myth and myth-making has shaped literature and language to the present. We will consider the implications of translation, adaptation and cultural inheritance, as ancient texts and beliefs are reconfigured and reinterpreted in a continuous process. Texts may include, but are not limited to, the following: *The Odyssey*, *The Metamorphoses*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm, and *The Mabinogion*.





## The English Staff

Charlotte Beyer	Kirsten Daly	John Hughes	Paul Innes
 <p>Charlotte is a contemporary literature specialist, with a background in gender and women's studies. Her teaching includes crime fiction, postcolonial writing, and American and British literature. She has published widely on crime fiction, gender, and contemporary literature.</p>	 <p>Kirsten studies the relationship between literature and history. Her current work on private theatrical performances in eighteenth-century Ireland is based on archival research and brings into play her interest in material and visual culture.</p>	 <p>John runs modules that allow students to address and develop their individual approaches. His research interests are in the work of Thomas Hardy, William Wordsworth and also Bob Dylan</p>	 <p>Paul is a specialist in Shakespeare studies and is particularly interested in what his plays meant at the time they were written and how they were performed on his own stage.</p>

Jonathan Marshall	Rowan Middleton	Nicola Rivers	Arran Stibbe	Hilary Weeks
 <p>Jonathan's research area is socio-linguistics and dialectology. He specialises in developing theoretical models of the diffusion of language change.</p>	 <p>Rowan's research and teaching explores the way in which literature and creative writing allows us to explore ourselves and the world around us.</p>	 <p>Nicola's research and teaching explores diversity within feminist thought and contemporary social issues such as globalisation, multiculturalism, diversity, race and identity.</p>	 <p>Arran's teaching and research focuses on how language makes us who we are as people, and the role of language in building the kind of society we live in, using discourse analysis and ecolinguistics.</p>	 <p>Hilary researches and teaches in nineteenth-century British and European literature, travel writing, art and architecture, and visual and verbal affinities.</p>

## Assessment

All assessments are individual written coursework assignments where you know the questions at the start of term. Academic standards are high, and the assignments are stimulating and challenging, but you have plenty of time to do background reading, work on the assignments and get advice and support. Most assignments are standard academic essays, but in some modules there is freedom to explore a wider range of writing styles including creative pieces, digital stories (i.e., combinations of words, music and pictures), reflective writing, persuasive writing and journalistic writing. There are occasional oral presentations, poster presentations and groupwork tasks, but they do not count toward the module marks.



## Skills

The course aims to help you develop the communication skills you need to become an effective and ethical leader in the future. You will gain the academic skills necessary for conducting research, discussing advanced topics, and sharing findings in written form. Depending on your module choices, you will also have the opportunity to take part in practical workshops on:

- rhetoric and the art of giving inspiring oral presentations
- persuasive writing and ethical argumentation
- improvisation (drawing from improv comedy)
- listening skills and constructive criticism
- voice projection, articulation and body language
- visual design including posters, PowerPoint, and digital stories
- communication for leadership
- teaching English as a foreign language



The dissertation has an optional 'artefact' element, where you can apply the findings of your research and create something of practical use, e.g., a teacher's guide, an app, materials for school children, a website or policy recommendations. This shows employers that you have the ability both to conduct high quality academic research and use that research to create something of practical value.

## Field Trips, visits and guest speakers



There are lots of activities to take part in outside of class. Each year is different, but in the past we've had theatre trips to the Stratford, Bristol and Shakespeare's Globe in London. There have been trips to the Forest of Dean to investigate dialect, behind the scenes tours of the Everyman Theatre, voice workshops, student conferences, improvisation workshops, guest readings from well-known poets and authors, and class trips to the Cheltenham Literature Festival and Cheltenham Poetry Festival. We've also been to the Tower of London and many historic locations around the UK, and every year there is a one-week trip to Cordoba, in Spain. See <http://EnglishGlo.uk/trips> for more information.

## Contact

If you have any questions then please email the course leader, Arran Stibbe ([astibbe@glos.ac.uk](mailto:astibbe@glos.ac.uk)).

*All information in this document is indicative and subject to change. Some modules may be subject to validation. Further information about the course can be found on the official University website here (<http://www.glos.ac.uk/en/>)*