

## Minor Specification

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### Academic Year 2019-20

### MO05 English – Creative Writing

***Note: Single and Combined Honours English students are not permitted to take a minor in Creative Writing***

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Name of minor	English—Creative Writing
FHEQ level of final award	As for the Major programme
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	This programme is designed in accordance with the QAA English Subject Benchmark.
Faculty that owns the minor	Arts and Humanities
Minor Leader	Dr Stephanie Jones
Date specification was written	30-08-2013

### Overview of Minor

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#### 1 Brief outline of the minor

A Minor in Creative Writing enables you to:

- develop your skills and confidence as a writer in specific genres of your choice
- encourage you to be critically self-aware and capable of a self-reflexive grasp of the creative process
- train you to be able to articulate in discussion and essays a critical analysis of your own and others creative work

- give you an understanding of the theoretical and conceptual issues involved in writing

## 2 Learning and teaching

Creative Writing employs a wide variety of teaching methods and provides a range of opportunities for learning, so as to facilitate a progressively deeper understanding of the subject and foster independent learning. We recognise that students taking the minor are often unfamiliar with the subject or have had only limited experience of it, and we arrange our teaching provision in that light.

- You will be helped to achieve the learning outcomes of the Creative Writing minor by a broad portfolio of learning and assessment experiences. Not every course or tutor will provide all, or even many, of these, but you will certainly experience the variety of this portfolio to some degree, depending on the Creative Writing modules that you choose.
- Lectures and seminars: these two activities form the backbone of the teaching. The former can provide knowledge, instruction in method, and in skills in an economical, controlled, and communal way. It is teacher-led learning. The latter involves student discussion, which may be more or less formal, and more or less student-led, and may at higher levels and in appropriate modules, involve very light supervision. *However*, the distinction is not always clear: lectures may turn more towards seminar discussion, and may involve exercises, question and answer sessions, communal interpretation of visual material, and so on. Longer classes, whether lectures or seminars, are likely to involve a range of activities, such as lecture, student presentations (singly or in groups), use of digital, audio-visual material, etc. Seminar discussion also varies in style, and will frequently require teamwork and promote interpersonal skills.
- Your own research: you will be required to carry out personal research at all levels in the programme, but increasingly through levels 2 and 3. Independence in learning is the hallmark of the maturing student of Creative Writing at Southampton.
- Giving Presentations: presenting your ideas orally as well as in writing will be an important aspect of your work here. It is something you have to learn (and on which you are assessed) *and* an activity which helps you learn about your subject. There will be plenty of opportunities to practise your skills at oral presentation and these may form part of your assessment.
- IT: increasingly English and Creative Writing in the Faculty of Humanities uses IT in its teaching, e.g., Blackboard (which is used throughout the programme); PowerPoint; email discussion lists, student presentations posted to the group electronically in advance of seminars, feedback on group exercises, etc. You will learn to access this material and, with guidance, to provide it.

## 3 Assessment

A varied portfolio of assessment activities is central to the Southampton Creative Writing experience, and one of the ways we ensure the high quality of our graduates. It will help to develop your intellectual flexibility both for the study itself and for future work. The following methods are used currently:

- Autobiographical story
- Essay

- Portfolio
- Blogs
- Short story based on folk tale or myth
- Critical commentary
- An opening scene for a stage play
- A script for stage, film, radio, or television
- Critical reflection on a script
- An extended writing project

For further information on any of the above, please consult the English website

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/english/>

## **Educational Aims of the Minor**

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The aims of the minor are to:

- enable you to develop your skills and confidence as a writer in specific genres of your choice
- encourage you to be critically self-aware and capable of a self-reflexive grasp of the creative process
- train you to be able to articulate in discussion and essays a critical analysis of your own and others creative work
- give you an understanding of the theoretical and conceptual issues involved in writing
- allow you to appreciate the bearing of your studies in Creative Writing on the other subject(s) you are studying.
- encourage you to think critically, develop the ability to learn independently and remain receptive to fresh ideas and approaches.
- ensure that you develop the skills and abilities required for further study and/or your future career path.

## **Learning Outcomes for the Minor**

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- how to write in a specific genre
- the creative process involved in the composition of literary writing
- methods of analysing creative writing
- theories of writing and literature
- contemporary literatures
- the possibilities available in international writing
- the significance of performance writing for poetry and prose
- reader response to literary writing

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

Your knowledge and understanding are developed through lectures, seminars and workshops. In the workshop you will regularly present your own writing for constructive discussion with the entire

group and will also be involved in developing skills in supportive critical reflection on the work of all the other students. This will be supported by tutorial supervision. Seminars will be devoted to the study of specific fields and genres of contemporary writing as a context for creative work. You will be strongly encouraged to make use of the Library and Internet resources throughout the course and to extend your independent learning skills. Visits by writers will also complement the teaching on the course. To ensure you achieve these learning outcomes, English and Creative Writing employs a wide variety of teaching and learning methods. For example:

- Lectures
  - These are an effective way of conveying information concerning literary texts, genres and contexts. As your study progresses, the lectures explore the relevant issues in greater depth to reflect and further the development of your knowledge and understanding.
- Tutorials, workshops and seminars
  - These small group activities offer further opportunities to engage in debate (facilitated by the tutor) concerning the issues raised in lectures. In addition, they aim to develop your skills in presenting and evaluating creative writing both in writing and orally.
- Consultation with academic staff
  - All academic staff hold 'office hours' during which you can drop in for individual discussion of the ideas and arguments encountered in lectures and your reading, or which you have arrived at yourself.
- Independent study
  - Given the nature of the subject, independent study forms an essential part in the development of your knowledge and understanding of Creative Writing. This will involve careful reading of primary and secondary texts, thoughtful reflection on literary meaning and context raised in those texts or in class, and arriving at your own considered opinions on the topics you are studying.

### ***Assessment methods***

A wide range of assessment methods are used to ensure that you attain the learning outcomes of this minor (see Overview above). Different assessment tasks allow you to develop and demonstrate different skills.

### **Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills**

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- deal with complex creative issues in a systematic and analytic manner
- make literary judgements in an informed way
- independently evaluate and apply compositional methods
- demonstrate originality in writing
- demonstrate linguistic skills necessary for producing writing at an advanced level
- interact with readers effectively via your writing
- present your writing discursively in both spoken and written forms

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

These skills are acquired through lectures seminars and student-centred learning experiences, such as oral presentations, group discussion of creative work, individual consultation, and through the extended process of self-aware revision guided by the pedagogic processes. Library and Web resources will be used throughout the course and you will be encouraged to read widely.

### ***Assessment methods***

Your thinking skills are tested through assessed creative and critical writing. The assessment for each module is specifically designed to test your acquisition of cognitive skills, taking you from the generation of ideas and their textual expression to the creation of well-structured pieces of writing capable of eliciting appropriate reader responses.

## **Transferable and Generic Skills**

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- write fluently in a range of styles
- present ideas effectively both orally and in written form
- demonstrate interpersonal skills and be able to work with contested responses to a piece of writing to arrive at a considered judgement
- identify, select and utilise a wide range of printed and internet sources
- manage deadlines and make effective use of your time
- position your writing within a market or cultural context
- demonstrate self-confidence and self-awareness both in collaborative activities and independent study, as well as respect for the ideas and work of others

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

Your key skills are developed through the minor programme's emphasis on active participation, independent learning, creativity, and personal initiative. You are expected to read widely, to experiment freely with your writing and composition beyond the parameters of individual modules. Your ability to take responsibility for your work is aided by activities such as the presentation of your writing to a group, assessments of creative work, and essays. The final assessment for each module will enable you to demonstrate your ability to use your initiative in developing an individual vision, realising it in textual form, and managing any problems that emerge along the way.

### ***Assessment methods***

You will be asked to demonstrate your key skills through participating in individual and group presentations (assessed), class exercises, class discussion. All of our assessment activities are geared to developing your transferable skills, most obviously those related to researching, planning, writing and speaking.

# Structure of Minor

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## 1 Typical content

This broad and flexible programme will offer you the chance to explore some of the texts and contexts central to Creative Writing. The modules (or units of study) on offer explore particular genres and approaches, while others introduce you to the experimental dimension of creative writing.

## 2 Special Features of the programme

N/A

## 3 Details of the minor

The Minor in Creative Writing is undertaken at three levels (year 1 corresponding to 12.5% of one year of full-time study, and years 2 and 3 corresponding to 25% of one year of full time study excluding study abroad). The English programme is divided into modules. Single modules have a credit value of 15, while double modules have a value of 30.

All modules are optional for students on the Creative Writing minor programme and the modules have no pre-requisites.

Our teaching is research-led at levels 2 and 3. As a result, the modules on offer vary from year to year as staff research interests and priorities develop and change. The following is an indicative list of the modules on offer:

### Part 1

ENGL1091	World Dramas
ENGL1080	Literary Transformations

### Part 2

ENGL2075	Brief Encounters: Writing Short Stories
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### Part 3

ENGL3004	Writing the Novel
ENGL3092	Great Writers Steal
ENGL3049	Creative Writing in Schools
HUMA3011	Narrative Non-fiction

## 4 Progression Requirements

The programme of which this minor comprises a part follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found on the minor website at [https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page#what can i take a minor in%3F](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page#what%20can%20i%20take%20a%20minor%20in%3F)

### Revision History

1. Written 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013.
2. Revised modules list – CQAFH – Nov 2015
3. Updated October 2016
4. Updated March 2017
5. Updated April 2018
6. Updated April 2019