

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Aim and Title	BA (Hons) Creative and Professional Writing
Intermediate Awards Available	BA Creative and Professional Writing, Dip HE Creative and Professional Writing, Cert HE
Teaching Institution(s)	UEL
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	N/A
UEL Academic School	Arts & Creative Industries
UCAS Code	W800
Professional Body Accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Creative Writing (2019)
Additional Versions of this Course	BA (Hons) Creative and Professional Writing with Foundation BA(Hons) Creative and Professional Writing with Placement Year
Date Specification Last Updated	25/05/22

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Explore a wide range of writing practices, while simultaneously allowing for specialisation
- Discover how to research and write effectively in different genres, employing a variety of source materials
- Develop editorial skills, with an emphasis on giving and receiving constructive feedback
- Reflect critically on the process and products of your own writing
- Explore other creative and professional avenues for your writing

What you will learn:

Knowledge

- Demonstrating an understanding of, and articulating the similarities and differences between, a variety of writing practices
- Demonstrating an understanding of structural templates for a variety of forms
- Demonstrating an understanding genre theory and distinctions between genres

Thinking skills

- Problem-solving as it relates to the development of creative work
- The ability to place your own and others' work within an historic, creative and cultural context
- How to develop a capacity for self-critical reflection

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Continuous improvement of basic writing skills including spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Increasing mastery of structures and formats over a variety of forms and genres in creative writing
- Development of editorial skills
- Development of an ability to incorporate others' feedback into your work
- Experience in working in multi- and interdisciplinary contexts

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Enhanced communication skills, both written and oral
- Enhanced problem-solving skills
- Enhanced collaborative skills
- An understanding of academic conventions and styles
- Experience in working collaboratively

Learning and Teaching

Teaching Strategy

Knowledge, thinking skills, practical skills and skills for life and work are developed in modules across the course through individual and project work that integrates your writing skills, collaborative skills, and the application of creative practice in professional contexts.

You will also develop the ability to reflect critically on their work and the work of others, the ability to develop a broad theoretical appreciation of creative writing, as well as related disciplines, such as drama, dance, and music. You will also explore the interconnections between disciplines. The nature of teaching, learning and assessment will reflect the multi-disciplinary environment in which writers work and the variety of forms and contexts within which writing is produced.

Teaching and Learning Activities

1. Individual and group-based work (creative practice skills and knowledge)
2. Workshops (creative practice skills and knowledge)
3. Formal and interactive lectures (thinking skills and knowledge)
4. Interactive seminar discussions (thinking skills and knowledge)

5. Individual and group presentations (creative practice skills, thinking skills and skills for life and work)
6. Individual tutorials and independent learning (thinking skills and knowledge)
7. Analysis of practical and theoretical issues (thinking skills and knowledge)
8. Project sessions (creative practice skills, thinking skills and knowledge)
9. Research seminars (creative practice skills, thinking skills and knowledge)
10. Performance (creative practice skills and knowledge)
11. Project supervision (creative practice skills, thinking skills and knowledge)
12. Work placement and/or external projects (creative practice skills, thinking skills, skills for life and work, and knowledge)

Projects

As a Creative Writing student, you will contribute to both disciplinary and multi-disciplinary projects, and will be involved with interdisciplinary creative projects, providing a context for learning and skills development and operating as a vehicle for the development of creative practice and skills development, critical analysis, research skills, and theoretical understanding.

Types of project include:

Soft Projects: modelled on professional practice to develop skills and collaborative capacity, applied in the context of a simulated industrial or public environment. Project briefs will be designed and based upon previous live briefs from previous years.

Soft Projects will exist predominantly but not exclusively at level 3 and 4.

Industry Projects: live projects delivered in collaboration with an industrial or public context, reflecting professional practice in the development and application of skills, collaboration and standards of presentation and public engagement.

Industry Projects will exist predominantly but not exclusively at Level 5

Student-led Projects: As you progress through the levels of the courses within the cluster, you will develop independence and creative agency, to the extent that by Level 6, you will be designing and managing their own projects, supervised by lecturers and mentors.

Student-Led projects exist predominantly but not exclusively at Level 6.

Sometimes, you will work on a project with other years in Creative and Professional Writing, and occasionally with students from other courses.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

A wide variety of assessment tasks and artefacts will be used to assess your knowledge, skills and understanding. Project-based delivery will integrate a range of practice and documentation representative of the professional contexts in which it is taught and produced.

Knowledge is assessed by:

- Application of relevant structures, genres and formats to individual pieces of creative writing
- Coursework essays, reports, evaluations, reviews, reflections and presentations
- Exercises and discussions undertaken in seminar and workshop sessions

Thinking skills are assessed by:

- Coursework essays, reports, evaluations, reviews, reflections and presentations
- Exercises and discussions undertaken in seminar and workshop sessions
- Long dissertation / extended essay / written reports
- Response to feedback in creative writing projects

Creative Practice skills are assessed by:

- Completion of practical work relevant to the discipline or interdisciplinary practice
- Presentation and delivery of practical work
- Portfolios
- Use of the rehearsal studios and theatre production spaces for devising, rehearsal, and performance, where appropriate
- Production skills
- Reflexive reports / portfolios on creative work
- Ability to work individually and in groups

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by:

- Involvement in and contribution to collaborative project and presentation work
- Ability to think and work independently
- Quality of written work (including non-academic writing) in assignments
- Ability to understand and meet requirements of module specification
- Strict assignment deadlines
- Ability to work in professional contexts / placements

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Assessment Tasks and Portfolios

Assessment frequently includes the creation of portfolios, comprising production reports, written reports, extended essays, and live practical assessments relevant to disciplinary and interdisciplinary practice.

Portfolio content will depend on the module assessment task in which the portfolio features, consisting of a wide variety of mediums from digital content, such as video and audio recordings, or digital images, which capture the production and performance/ media of practical work and technical 3D outcomes. Portfolios will be digital documents presented online using web publishing tools.

Details of the requirements and content for portfolios and assessment tasks will be provided in module guides for each module. To allow for diversity and inclusivity across course clusters, it will be appropriate, based on relevant course subject, to further stipulate the form of assessment required i.e. artefacts and performance/ media pieces captured as evidence digitally and or non-digital formats (e.g. published printed book), which may subsequently be documented digitally (i.e. coursework portfolio).

Portfolios will take the form of digital and physical documents presented online using web publishing tools and or physical portfolios that have been printed and curated into a portable portfolio.

From this practice, students demonstrate and reflect upon the process of creating and preparing a final professional body of work for professional display, further development in production and or industry.

Work or Study Placements

You will have the opportunity to gain practical editorial experience. This includes editing and producing our literary e-zine *THE GALLION*, which publishes a range of the best student work, and is produced the end of the year. In addition, you will be encouraged to participate in literary reading events on and off the campus and will be involved with external projects and events as part of your Mental Wealth modules.

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.

- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

4	PA4016	Forms & Genres	20	Core	N
4	VA4011	Contextual Studies 1	20	Core	N
4	PA4026	Technique 1: Establish (Writing Craft)	20	Core	N
4	MS4023	Mental Wealth: Professional Life – Agency 1	20	Core	N
4	MS4041	Production Lab 1	20	Core	N
4	PA4024	Technique 2: Poetry Forms & Structures	20	Core	N
5	PA5026	Long Form Narratives	20	Core	N
5	PA5025	Scriptwriting	20	Core	N
5	PA5051	Signs and Symbols	20	Option	N
5	MS5031	Mental Wealth: Professional Life – Agency 2	20	Core	N
5	PA5030	Script Development	20	Core	N
5	PA5028	Practice as Research	20	Core	N
5	PA5050	Work-Based Learning / Study Abroad	20	Option	N

5	PA5055	Optional Placement Year	120P	Option	N
6	PA6034	Book Publishing 1	20	Core	N
6	PA6035	Book Publishing 2	20	Core	N
6	PA6051	Advanced Practice & Innovation	20	Core	N
6	PA6052	Mental Wealth: Copywriting and Writing for Social Media	20	Core	N
6	PA6036	Major Writing Project (Dissertation)	40	Core	N

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, in order to create the best learning experience.

Additional detail about the course module structure:

A core module for a course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a course is a module selected from a range of modules available on the course.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 360 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

N/A

Typical Duration

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic

commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

The expected duration of this course is 3 years full-time or 4 years part-time.

A student cannot normally continue study on a course after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply, and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a course in part time mode is 7 years from first enrolment.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional Costs

Students are likely to incur small additional costs. The purchase of materials such as individual journals/notebooks (as of May 2020, approximately 4 pounds for a pack of 3), the printing of draft writing for feedback sessions (as of May 2020, A4 paper = 5p per sheet through Student IT Services), the printing of a hard copy book in their final year (as of May 2020, approximately 10 pounds for a proof copy with further shipping costs of up to 10 pounds, and a final version, approximately 10 pounds with shipping of up to 10 pounds) and other related matters. We expect students will take a *maximum* of three required field trips per level to sites in London. Each trip will incur the costs of transportation and will potentially be required to pay admission. No mandatory trip will incur a cost of more than 30 pounds. Computers are available in the Writers Room and Library, but some students find owning their own laptop useful. As of May 2020, laptops are available for purchase from sites online from approximately 200 pounds.

Alternative Locations of Delivery

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