

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 35333
Name: Introduction to English literature
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Introduction to English literature studies	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

GAVIÑA COSTERO MARIA

SUMMARY

The course seeks to provide students with guidelines about how to read and build a critical response to fiction, plays and poems of English literature; and to familiarize them with the main conventions, genres, works and authors in the different periods of English-speaking literatures in Great Britain, Ireland and the Commonwealth. Students are expected to be able to locate individual works and authors in their historical and cultural context, and to gain knowledge of the basic techniques and conventions of playwriting, the writing of poems, and the writing of prose and fiction.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE**

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

None.



COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Apply ICT and computer programs, either locally or through a network, in the field of English Studies.

Demonstrate, within the field of English Studies, an ethical attitude that focuses on aspects such as gender equality, equal opportunities, the values of the culture of peace and democracy and a sensitiveness regarding environmental problems and sustainability while, at the same time, knowing about and being able to appreciate linguistic diversity and multiculturalism.

Demonstrate communicative and social competence in the English language (oral and written comprehension and expression, communicative interaction and mediation that includes correct grammar and style).

Develop a critical ability to explain literary texts in English and to identify aesthetic conventions, movements, periods, genres, authors and works in English language and their modes of production.

Know and apply the currents and methodologies of literary theory and criticism.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. What is English literature?

Contexts and definitions. Periodization and canon formation in English literature.

2. Introduction to reading and analysing English literature.

Close reading. Writing critical and stylistic analysis of short literary texts.

3. How to read a poem.

Rhythm and metre in English literature; verse forms and stanzas; imagery; main genres in the English poetic tradition.



4. How to read a play.

Dramatic text and performance. Main genres in the English dramatic tradition.

5. How to read fiction.

Narratology. Main narrative genres in English literature.

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to accomplish the following **Learning Outcomes:**

- Locate individual works and authors in their historical and cultural context.
- Explain how some titles and authors are included or excluded from literary canons.
- Describe the conventions and techniques used in specific texts as related to genres, periods and movements in English literature.
- Identify passages from literary works in English that they have read.
- Describe the plot, structure, character, setting, style, and mood or atmosphere of a literary work they have read.
- Discern the meaning and theme(s) of literary works or excerpts in English.
- Explain the way the meaning and effect of a literary text are conveyed through its linguistic choices in a stylistic commentary, 'close reading' or 'practical criticism' essay.
- Explain how a poem's prosody contributes to its communicative purpose.
- Explain how the use of types of narrators and focalization conditions the unfolding of the narrative.
- Translate a text in English into the official languages of the Valencian Community.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	3,00
Individual or group project	27,00
Independent study and work	30,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	30,00



Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

In-class activities:

Critical evaluation of primary and secondary source material: In-class discussion of the most outstanding and controversial issues relating to the major genres, historical periods, intellectual contexts, literary movements, key authors and works.

Lectures will focus on clarification and discussion of key concepts and techniques for students rather than on exposition of matter they can find in the dossiers and bibliography. Consequently, students are expected to work on assigned tasks (reading sections from course dossiers, answering questions set in advance) before attending class.

Close-reading of relevant texts taking into account the texts' specific circumstances of production and reception.

Other activities: Tutorials for individual orientation.

The following **Sustainable Development Goals** will be worked on in class:

4 - Quality education

5 - Gender equality

10 - Reduced inequalities

16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions

EVALUATION

Assessment breakdown in the First and Second Calls:

- Individual written exam: 40%

- Critical and stylistic analysis: 30%

- Activities carried out during the course: 30%



To pass the subject, students must obtain a minimum of 5 out of 10 in both their written exam and their critical and stylistic analysis. For the second call, they will only have to repeat the activity that has not reached the 5-point out of ten minimum.

The mark obtained in the 'Activities carried out during the course' will be carried over to the second call. This section will not be re-assessed in the second call, but will keep the same mark as in the first call.

The ability to communicate at the B2 (CEFR level) is required to pass the course as a whole. Students whose communication (written and/or oral) displays errors that are not consistent with the above level will fail the module regardless of their performance related to the course contents.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated; it is a serious academic offence. Any student who is found to have committed plagiarism in his/her work for the course will face serious consequences, which will lead to failing the whole subject.

Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for the fair evaluation of the student's work. All work submitted in this course must be originally authored by every student. No student shall engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software.

The general grading system will follow the regulations of the Universitat de València approved by the Consell de Govern on 30 May 2017. ACGUV 108/2017.

REFERENCES

Basic:

Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 7th ed., Heinle & Heinle, 1999.

Bate, Jonathan. *English Literature: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford UP, 2016.

Cavanagh, Dermot et al. *The Edinburgh Introduction to Studying English Literature*. Edinburgh UP, 2010.

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. 2nd ed., Blackwell, 2008.

Greenblatt, Stephen, gen. ed. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Norton, 2006.

Lennard, John. *The Poetry Handbook: A Guide to Reading Poetry for Pleasure and Practical Criticism*. 1996. Oxford UP, 2005.

Mikics, David. *A New Handbook of Literary Terms*. Yale UP, 2007.



Miller, Lindy. *Mastering Practical Criticism*. Palgrave, 2001.

Rainsford, Dominic. *Studying Literature in English: An Introduction*. Oxford UP, 2014.

Rimmon-Kenan, Shlomit. *Narrative Fiction*. 1983. 2nd ed., London, 2002.

Whitla, William. *The English Handbook. A Guide to Literary Studies*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

Further reading:

Gómez Lara, Manuel J., and Juan A. Prieto Pablos. *The Ways of the Word: An Advanced Course on Reading and the Analysis of Literary Texts*. Universidad de Huelva, 1994.

Fraser, G. S. *Metre, Rhyme and Free Verse*. Routledge, 1991.

Harmon, William and C. Hugh Holman. *A Handbook to Literature*. Prentice Hall, 2000.

Murfin, Ross and Suprya M. Ray. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*. Bedford/St. Martin's / Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

Peck, John. *How to Study a Poet*. Palgrave, 1988.

Peck, John, and Martin Coyle. *How to Study a Shakespeare Play*. 2nd ed., Palgrave, 1995.

Peck, John. *How to Study a Novel*. Palgrave, 1995.

Wales, Katie. *A Dictionary of Stylistics*. Longman, 1991.

Widdowson, Peter. *The Palgrave Guide to English Literature and its contexts, 1500-2000*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.