

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA (Hons) Theatre Studies and Creative Writing The BA (Hons) Theatre Studies and Creative Writing is a BA degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of Higher Education Theatre Studies and Creative Writing Certificate of Higher Education Theatre Studies and Creative Writing
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time, September start.
QAA subject benchmarking group(s) :	
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	Not applicable
Date of course validation/review:	21 st April 2017
Date of programme specification approval:	June 2017
Valid for cohorts :	2017/18
Course Leader	Kate M. Graham
UCAS code and URL:	WW48 http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

Aims of the course

The BA (Hons) Theatre Studies and Creative Writing has been designed to develop your understanding and knowledge of key periods, styles, genres, forms and techniques in theatre studies to an advanced level and to develop and hone your creative writing skills. The degree will equip you to utilise your learning in both creative and critical forms, whilst developing your general analytical skill and critical thinking, whilst also bringing your written and spoken academic English to a sophisticated level.

The degree offers students the ability to examine theatrical, performance and critical texts (in the broadest understanding of that term) of all periods from the Early Modern to the present day. This examination vitally includes trips to theatre, to performances and to see creative artists speak about their work. Students make extensive use of London to enhance the learning environment, visiting its theatres, performances spaces, galleries, museums, and taking part in the active and vibrant cultural debates. The course takes in a wide range of writers, thinkers and performers giving students a detailed and coherent sense of the fields of theatre and performance studies.

The degree works to integrate the two subjects and to allow both the study of theatre and the study, and practice, of creative writing to inform each other and by the end of the course students will be to show a detailed understanding of the current priorities and debates in each discipline.

The course will also give you the opportunity to consider the theoretical tools of performance analysis in detail and to think both critically and imaginatively about your creative work. Students on this degree therefore develop advanced skills:

- in reading and interpreting theatrical and performance texts (within their specific cultural contexts);
- in analysing the specific genres and forms of a variety of significant creative works;
- and in relating their acts of interpretation to contemporary critical writing and larger cultural debates and controversies.

Overall, the course aims to prepare articulate, discerning and critically aware scholars of theatre and performance and skilled, confident creative writers.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements of what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** you will gain from your course (KU).
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA).
- **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)
- **Key transferable skills** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 4 learning outcomes

Upon completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:

- L4.1 that you have successfully made the transition from the expectations of the study of Theatre and/or Creative Writing at level 3 to the expectations of the subject at university;
- L4.2 an understanding of the characteristics of different theatrical forms and genres, and the ability to utilise them in creative contexts;
- L4.3 an ability to relate your own creative work to wider cultural contexts and traditions;
- L4.4 a detailed and sophisticated knowledge of the development of theatre history;
- L4.5 clear and confident communication of ideas in a variety of written and verbal forms and in appropriate registers; and
- L4.6 developing research skills, including the ability to locate, select and evaluate sources and to deploy basic bibliographic conventions particular to theatre studies.

Level 5 learning outcomes

Upon completion of level 5 you will be able to demonstrate:

- L5.1 Increased resourcefulness in relation to your studies that is evident in study choices and selection of assessment;
- L5.2 an ability to reflect critically on your own work and to use materials, concepts and techniques across modules in both creative and analytic fashion;
- L5.3 competence in discussing theatrical and performance texts (including your own) in the context of theoretical debates about performance;
- L5.4 a critical understanding of the political debates around theatre and performance;
- L5.5 an active engagement with your own learning through the tutorial system and Seminar series; and
- L5.6 enhanced study skills, including written and oral expression, use of scholarly conventions and use of sources.

Level 6 learning outcomes

Upon completion of level 6 you will be able to demonstrate:

- L6.1 The development of your own specialised interests in the study of theatre and performance and practice;
- L6.2 the ability to write at extended length, both creatively and critically, with fluency, clarity and confidence;
- L6.3 advanced independence of thought and critical judgement;
- L6.4 broad knowledge and understanding of current critical debates in the study of theatre and performance;
- L6.5 advanced reflexivity as students, on the evidence of the ability to make the fullest use of feedback and guidance; and
- L6.6 preparedness for work or further study.

How will you learn?

The learning and the teaching of the course is constructed around a clear and rigorous sense of the current state of each discipline. In keeping with this, innovative and imaginative methods of learning and teaching are used which will engage you and inspire in you a keen sense of the lively and mobile nature of your subjects. These methods are focused particularly in developing your critical self-reflexivity and your awareness of your own learning experience throughout the modules, not just when engaging in summative assessments.

The learning and teaching methods on the course vary according to the nature of the modules and their materials. This is to ensure that the effective development of knowledge and skills is matched to the particular nature of the subjects. There are very few formal lectures and the principal mode of teaching and learning is two-hour seminar sessions, in which groups of around 20 students participate in a flexible range of activities. This format allows for teacher and student presentations, for analysis, discussion, teacher and peer feedback, group work and group debates, and you will find all these activities, and many others, in our theatre studies seminars. Theatre studies modules will also involve trips to theatre performances and discussions of those performances. Creative writing seminars are often in the form of a workshop on drafts of your writing. Many modules also arrange field trips to museums, galleries, or to libraries so as to offer a varied and stimulating learning environment. In addition to these types of class, we also offer tutorials. These are very small group classes, of three or four students, in which you will be offered detailed, personalised help and support in the skills and topics that are central to success in your studies. At level 6, you will receive individual supervision for your writing project or your dissertation.

All modules employ the online learning system, Blackboard, for the dissemination of information, the accumulation of study materials, for assessment, and in some cases online discussion. Many modules will offer video, film or other recordings among their materials as well as links to other sources.

Contact time is designed to introduce new concepts and information, to help frame debates, to focus your analytical and critical skills, and to guide your own further study and to support your increasingly independent academic and intellectual development. The great majority of learning time takes place in guided and independent study beyond the contact time, both individually and in groups, whether in the well-resourced and newly refurbished library, at home, or via the online learning provision.

Assessment plays a central role in developing your learning and skills, rather than merely testing it. Many of your modules will use formative assessment to help you with feedback on your ongoing studies, while all summative assessments receive full, written and oral feedback which will also help you to improve your work.

How will you be assessed?

The course offers a variety of assessment to students: coursework essays, creative exercises, critical analyses, reviews, examinations, presentations, journals, blogs and portfolios. They have been designed to match the content of the modules and to provide experience of different forms.

The variety of assessment is designed to help as well as to measure your academic development. It aims to enhance your learning, not merely to test it, and helps you to demonstrate what you have learned in particular modules and across the range of your degree. The assessments help you build up your knowledge and skills, linking issues and knowledge within and between modules, while also developing and reinforcing your independent study.

Synoptic assessments link work on more than one module, and so they encourage you to demonstrate your deeper understanding of the subject as a whole. You will also be given formative assessments, which means you will be given work to help you towards the module assessments that count. Those summative assessments, like all the other, will receive written feedback explaining the grade (where applicable), the strengths of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your work in the future.

Employment and further study opportunities

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Literate and effective communication
- Entrepreneurial attitude
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

The BA (Hons) Theatre Studies and English Literature aims to create graduates who:

- Are able to engage in and promote informed, thoughtful dialogue about human life and society, both past and present;
- have a confident knowledge and understanding of key periods, themes, styles and techniques of theatre texts, performance texts and other writings;
- show creativity in analysis of works and ideas, and in the practical production of writing;
- can show highly advanced skills of research, analysis, evaluation and communication; and
- use the skills and knowledge that they have acquired for the betterment of themselves and others in their communities.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Credit Level 4				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4CREW001W	Beginnings in Writing	Core	40	20
4CREW001W	Reflective Writing 1	Core	20	10
4THTR001W	Reading, Interpreting, Reviewing	Core	20	10
4THTR002W	Past Theatres, Present Theatres	Core	20	20
4ELIT005W	Shakespeare and Performance	Option	20	10
Award of Certificate of Higher Education available				

Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5CREW002W	Forms of Writing	Core	40	20
5CREW001W	Reflective Writing 2	Core	20	10
5THTR001W	Theories, Debates, Interventions	Core	40	20
5CREW003W	Writing Life	Option	20	10
5THTR002W	Theatre and Race	Option	20	10
5THTR003W	Specific Company/Theatre	Option	20	10
5THTR004W	Special Topic	Option	20	10
Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available				
Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6THTR001W	Theatre Studies and Creative Writing Dissertation*	Core	40	20
6CREW001	Individual Writing Project*	Core	40	20
6THTR003W	New Writing Festival	Core	20	10
6CREW002W	Screenwriting	Option	20	10
6CREW003W	Special Writing Topic	Option	20	10
6THTR004W	Renaissance Now	Option	20	10
6THTR005W	London's Fringe	Option	20	10
6THTR006W	Space and Adaptation	Option	20	10
Award /BA/BSc/LLB available				
Award /BA Honours/BSc Honours available.				

*Students take ONE of these modules

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

Each module that you take has a module leader who is responsible for the management and the quality of the teaching and learning on that module, including the co-ordination of all staff who teach on it. The module leader's name is on the module outline, on SRSWeb and on Blackboard.

Each module belongs to a course and each course has a course leader. The Course Leader for the BA Theatre Studies and Creative Writing is Dr Kate M. Graham. She is responsible for the day-to-day running of your course and she reports to the head of the department. The

Head of Department is Professor Alexandra Warwick and she is responsible for all the courses in the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students¹ can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2017. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous

¹ Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

years e.g. from Course Committees is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peer. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which seeks the opinions of students about their course and University experience. Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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