

Module code: MOD009580	Version: 1 Date Amended: 30/Oct/2023
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1. Module Title
Reading Critically, Old English to Enlightenment

2a. Module Leader
Cassie Gorman

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

On this module you will survey the history of literature in English between the Old English period and the end of the eighteenth century, using volumes A-C of The Norton Anthology of English Literature as your key text. The juxtaposition of pieces by well-known authors (who may include, for example, Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton) with less familiar texts is intended to encourage reflection upon what constitutes the 'canon' and the discipline of literary study more broadly. At the same time, you will be introduced to an exciting range of social, cultural and political theories that can be used to further the analysis of literary texts. These include psychoanalysis, Marxism, structuralism, feminism, postcolonialism and queer theory. You will put these theories into practice by applying them to the set literary texts during seminars. You will also exercise your theoretical knowledge beyond the classroom, by applying theory to your critical review of a historical artefact in a local museum.

6b. Outline Content

- English literary history from the Middle Ages to the French Revolution
- Exploring writings by major authors (such as Chaucer and Milton) in addition to lesser-known texts
- Debate of issues around how literary traditions and cultures are formed
- Knowledge of different ways of periodising English literature, such as 'Renaissance', 'Early modern', 'NeoClassical' and 'Enlightenment'
- Understanding of individual texts in relation to their historical and cultural contexts
- Introduction to theories such as psychoanalysis, Marxism, structuralism, feminism, postcolonialism, postmodernism or queer theory
- Presentation skills

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Show knowledge of the history and development of English Literature prior to 1789
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand literary texts and cultural artefacts in relation to their historical period and genre
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Exhibit understanding of a range of social, cultural and political theories
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate close, attentive skills in reading literary and critical texts
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate the above knowledge and understanding in coherent, competently written and/or presented English
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Construct and present a coherent argument in written and spoken work

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	24	1-4	2x1 hour lectures a week
Other teacher managed learning	28	1-6	1x2 hour seminar a week, plus teacher-led visit to a museum in Cambridge to prepare for Assessment 011
Student managed learning	248	1-6	Reading, seminar preparation and research, planning and writing of assignments (presentation, review and essay)
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1-6	25 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

In-class conference presentation, 1000-word equivalent (10 minutes)

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	2-6	25 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

2000-word critical review of a historical artefact

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
012	Coursework	1-6	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

3000-word coursework essay

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]