

BA (Hons) English & History

Department	Humanities
Awarding Body	UEA
Additional Accreditations	N/A
Full-time Duration	3 Years
Part-time Duration	N/A
Full-time Annual Fee	£8,500
Course Code	B004
Entry Requirements	UCAS Tariff: 96 points A Level: CCC GCSE Maths and English at Grade C/4 or above. BTEC L3 Extended Diploma: MMM English language requirements: IELTS (Academic) Grade 6 IELTS 6.0 overall (minimum 5.5 in all components) where English is not the student's first language. Other: Non-standard applicants who do not meet the published entry requirements maybe considered on an individual basis and we encourage such applicants to contact Universitystudiesadmissions@easterneducationgroup.ac.uk for further guidance. The university does not accept International Applications for this course.
Study Location	University and Professional Development Centre, 73 Western Way, Bury St Edmunds UK
Subject to Validation	No
Additional Potential Costs	Tuition fees will provide access to all the usual teaching and learning equipment; however, there may be additional costs such as materials and equipment that are associated with your course. Books (approx. £100 - £200 per year) Printing – all students will be credited with the equivalent of £10 printing/copying at the start of the academic year. After that, students will need to pay for their own printing/copying. Most work is submitted electronically. Student ID cards – The first issue of your ID card is free. Replacement cards will be charged at £10 to replace lost or stolen cards.

Narrative	The BA (Hons) English and History, provides you with both subject-specific knowledge and the additional intellectual enrichment that comes from an inter-disciplinary approach. English and History complement one another - history provides a vital framework for understanding fictional texts in their contexts, whilst the written word provides a substantial part of the material with which historians work. This course is built upon the strong philosophy of encouraging appreciation of the contemporary relevance of both subjects and contains a strong mix of theoretical knowledge, research techniques, and current, 'real world' application. The English on this course is designed to represent literature from as wide a range of periods, cultural contexts and global varieties as possible, from classical tragedy through to postmodern parody. It balances the study of poetry, prose and drama in order to hone critical thinking, communication skills, and creativity. The History element is designed to develop an understanding of historical processes through the study of a range of periods and geographical contexts. Over the course of study, students experience key varieties of history with their own distinctive focus, theoretical underpinning and methodological approaches. Together, these subjects help to cultivate a well-rounded, adaptable mindset, ideal for navigating today's complex world.
Key Course Features	The course is delivered on campus and requires students to attend two days per week. Delivery of the course is through a range of methods including lectures, seminars, discussions, and workshops.
Career Prospects	Career Paths Directly Related to English & History • Education: ○ Secondary School Teacher (English or History) – requires PGCE/QTS for UK schools. ○ Lecturer or Academic Researcher (often needs postgraduate study). • Publishing & Media: ○ Editor, Proofreader, Copywriter. ○ Magazine or Newspaper Journalist. • Cultural & Heritage Roles: ○ Archivist, Museum Curator, Heritage Officer. • Public Sector & Policy: ○ Civil Service roles, Local Government, Policy Analyst. • Libraries & Information Management: ○ Academic Librarian, Records Manager.

Module Summary

Level 4 (Year 1)

Literature and Contexts

This module introduces key perspectives in the study of English literature and develops skills in the critical analysis of prose fiction. Students explore major twentieth-century theoretical approaches, including Formalism, Historicism/Cultural Materialism, Feminist, Marxist, and Post-colonial standpoints.

Through short stories, novels, and selected critical writings, students practice close reading and apply theoretical frameworks to literature. The module prepares students for advanced English study at Levels 5 and 6, including dissertation work, and complements historical modules for interdisciplinary insight.

Reading Poetry

This module introduces skills for analysing poetic language and builds foundational knowledge of poetry, from the Greek epic to the spoken word artists of the present day. Weekly seminars focus on close reading of a diverse range of texts to develop critical vocabulary and informed responses. Students study a single poet and a school of poetry (e.g., English Romanticism).

The module complements Level 4 English modules on fiction and drama, preparing students for broader literary study.

From Cradle to Grave in England 1560-1720

This module explores aspects of life in early modern England (1560–1720), examining social and cultural history through primary sources and historiographical debate. Students study key aspects of human experience—birth, marriage, parenthood, death—within the context of political, religious, and economic change. Topics include attitudes to mortality, courtship rituals, childhood, witchcraft, crime, and poverty, with attention to rank, gender, and occupation.

The module builds core historical skills and complements other Level 4 history and literature modules, including *The Pursuit of History* and *Introduction to Drama*.

From Machiavelli to Marx, Wollstonecraft to De Beauvoir: An Introduction to Political Ideas

This module introduces some key political philosophers and philosophies in Western Europe from the Renaissance to the mid-twentieth century. A different philosopher is explored each week taking a close account of the contexts in which their ideas were produced and disseminated; their philosophies are also studied in their own right. Students are encouraged to read widely, to examine a range of primary texts as well as key commentaries on the history of political thought. They are guided to make comparisons between thinkers as well as question the relevance of these ideas today. Students are also introduced to the skills required to critically

evaluate political ideas and concepts through their exploration of these thinkers and their philosophies.

The module compliments other Level 4 modules in offering a useful and sound basis for future historical studies. It provides a foundation for study at levels 5 and 6; in particular, *Mentalities of Empire 1750-1950*; *Shaping a Nation: Victorian Society, Culture and the State*; *Seeing the Past: Representations of the Spanish Civil War*.

The Pursuit of History

This module introduces key study skills for history—research, note-making, essay writing—while exploring fundamental debates about the discipline. Students examine historical methods, the nature of historical knowledge, and its social and political significance.

Topics include major theoretical approaches (Marxism, Annales, Cultural, Gender, Post-colonial history, linguistic turn) and issues in public history. Students engage with diverse sources—prints, photographs, film, personal documents—and consider history in popular culture through museums, TV, novels, and genealogy.

The module prepares students for advanced History modules and complements theoretical elements in English studies.

Introduction to the Study of Drama

This module introduces skills in analysing dramatic language, staging, and drama in context, alongside the development of Western drama. Students study Classical and Renaissance tragedy, nineteenth-century realism, and twentieth-century expressionism, focusing on playwrights such as Sophocles, Shakespeare, Ibsen, and Tennessee Williams.

Through close reading and exploration of performance styles, staging techniques, and cultural contexts, students examine the relationship between text and performance and themes such as class, gender, power, and politics.

The module complements Level 4 English modules on fiction and poetry and supports interdisciplinary study with history modules.

Level 5 (Year 2)

Dissertation Preparation

This mandatory module prepares English and History students for their final-year dissertation/project. It covers topic selection, question formulation, literature review, research methods, resource use, and planning. Students develop a draft topic, identify suitable methodologies, and understand available resources.

Sessions introduce key research concepts and practicalities, combining classroom teaching with self-directed work and tutor support.

Late Victorian Writing

This module explores key texts and cultural developments of the late Victorian “Decadence” (1880–1900) across poetry, drama, and prose fiction. Students examine themes of transition and conflict, including the New Woman, imperialism, fin-de-siècle anxieties, and artistic innovations.

Topics include gender and sexuality debates, aestheticism vs. social commitment, and experimentation in literary forms such as the short story and novella. The module situates literature within its cultural context and highlights links to Modernism studied at Level 6.

Weird Fiction: The Gothic Genre 1818-1897

This module examines Gothic fiction from 1818 to 1897, tracing its evolution from a Romantic sub-genre to a major literary form. Students explore its origins, development, and how it comes to represent the major concerns and anxieties of the time.

Themes include gender, race, otherness, psychology, Darwinism, and secularism, alongside key interpretative approaches. The module builds on Level 4 foundations and complements related Level 5 and Level 6 modules in English and History.

Listening to the Past

This practical module introduces oral history as a way to study the past century through personal memories. Students learn interviewing and transcription techniques, conduct their own interviews, and work with archive material while addressing ethical considerations.

Topics include memory and subjectivity, storytelling, audience influence, and the challenges of recording distressing histories. The module also explores empowerment of social groups and examines major oral history projects since WWII.

It offers an engaging, hands-on approach that often inspires Level 6 dissertations and complements modules on family and community history.

Mentalities of Empire 1750-1950

This module examines the British Empire (1750–1950) from a postcolonial perspective, exploring attitudes to imperialism from the Enlightenment to decolonisation. Key themes include race, class, gender, and the role of the colonial ‘other’ in shaping British identity.

A case study on India highlights changing views before and after the Mutiny, alongside the impact of scientific theories on race. Students analyse a wide range of sources—literary texts, speeches, travel writing, images, and popular culture—while engaging with Modernist responses to empire.

The module builds interdisciplinary skills and complements Level 5 history and English modules.

Shaping a Nation: Victorian Society, Culture, and the State

This module explores Victorian Britain and its lasting impact, focusing on the making of a liberal society through social, cultural, economic, and political history. Students study urban and rural life, mass democracy, social reform,

religion vs. science, penal policy, gender ideology, and institutional growth. Later topics include fin-de-siècle fears of decadence and decline.

The module complements *Mentalities of Empire* and supports interdisciplinary learning with English modules such as *Weird Fiction* and *Late-Victorian Literature*.

Level 6 (Year 3)

Dissertation

The Dissertation provides the opportunity for students to undertake a substantial piece of independent research. Accordingly, the module enables them to draw upon the knowledge, skills and understanding gained across previous modules, in order to organise, design, conduct and communicate interests and issues of their choice, within their chosen field of study.

Dissertation topics are chosen in consultation with subject tutors as early as possible, preferably via the prerequisite level 5 module *Dissertation Preparation*. The pursuit of students' own ideas is positively encouraged, although original research or the study of unpublished or primary material, is not necessarily expected. Interdisciplinary topics that include both subjects of the combined honours degree are welcome and may be supervised by tutors of either of the subjects.

For dissertations involving research with humans and other animals, the UEA ethical framework must be adhered to and approved by US Ethics Panel.

Modernism and the City

In this module we study a range of texts that 'write' the city, in order to explore the centrality of urban culture to modernity, and the crisis of identity that comes with it. The experience of exile and dislocation will form a focal point in an ongoing discussion of the cultural exchanges occurring between London, Paris, Dublin, and in the case of Katherine Mansfield's short stories, the British 'empire' transported to New Zealand.

Themes include subjectivity, psychology, and stylistic innovation, applied to key authors such as Conrad, Joyce, Woolf, Eliot, and Mansfield. The module connects Modernism's historical and ideological context to complement *Seeing History: Representations of the Spanish Civil War* and Franco's counter reaction against modernity and the 'new woman'.

Writing Rebellion: Literature 1956-70

This module explores literature of the 1950s, '60s and beyond, highlighting radical stylistic and thematic innovations that paved the way for postmodernism. Students examine how drama, fiction and poetry challenged received givens, reflected and shaped the cultural revolution, and considers 'rebellion' against authority, class and gender norms, and colonial legacies.

The module connects with themes in the Level 6 History module *Family Affairs: Blood, Contract, and Intimacy*.

Family Affairs: Blood, Contract and Intimacy in Britain, 1837-2000

This module examines the history of the family in Britain (1837–2000), exploring ideals, state intervention, family ideology in wartime, and the impact of the sexual revolution. Students engage with theoretical perspectives and historiographical debates while analysing class, gender, race, and the influence of state and empire.

Sources include official records, film, literature, and oral testimony. The module builds on *From Cradle to Grave* and *Shaping a Nation*, linking family and community studies from early modern to contemporary Britain.

Seeing the Past: Representations of the Spanish Civil War

This module examines the Spanish Civil War (1936–39) in its social, cultural, economic, and political context. Students explore ideological conflicts, international impact, and contemporary experiences through diverse sources—eye-witness accounts, photojournalism, propaganda art, literature, and music.

The module introduces non-traditional historical resources and recent historiography, highlighting how memory and interpretation evolve over time. It complements *Listening to the Past* and supports contextual understanding for *Modernism and the City*.

Staff Team

Lecturing staff are qualified to at least Master's degree level or hold a PhD, and all our staff have a wealth of experience working within the education sector and their academic disciplines.

Assessment Methods	A variety of assessment methods are used which include essays, presentations, research reports, and critical reviews. Modules have one or two summative assessments. The number of summative assessments for each module is made clear in the assessment schedule and module handbook. Modules are assessed by the module leader and internally verified by another member of staff.		
Typical Module Diet All modules are 20 credits unless stated	Year 1 (L4)	Year 2 (L5)	Year 3 (L6)
	Introduction to the Study of Drama	Dissertation Preparation	Modernism & the City
	From Cradle to Grave	Weird Fiction: Gothic Genre 1818 1897	Seeing History: Representations of the Spanish Civil War
	Reading Poetry	Shaping the Nation	Writing Rebellion 1956 – 1970
	The Pursuit of History	Listening to the Past	Family Affairs: Blood, Contract, and Intimacy 1837 – 2000
	Literature and Contexts	Challenging Shakespeare	Dissertation (40 credits)
	From Machiavelli to Marx	Late Victorian Writing	
		Mentalities of Empire	
Study Hours	Study Hours per 20 credit Module: 200 hours Lectures and Seminars: 36 – 42 hours Preparation and Independent study: 158 – 164 hours *Typically, three 20 credit modules will be studied per Semester. There are two Semesters a year.		

This programme is regulated by the Office for Students under the Quality Assurance Agency framework for UK Higher Education. Where studying may incur additional incidental or optional costs these are listed on the relevant course page on our website. Our Terms and Conditions, Admissions Policy (including baseline English language requirements) can be accessed via the University Studies website at <https://www.universitystudies.wsc.ac.uk/policies>