Academic INSIGHTS

immerse EDUCATION

English Literature



AGES AND LOCATIONS

Ages 16-18: Cambridge

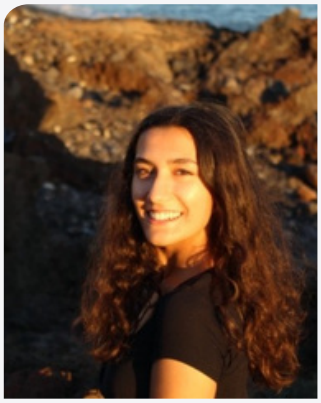
Small classes, averaging 7 students.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

An introduction to literary studies, covering genre and form, the history of criticism, experimental writing, and Shakespeare.

You'll learn how to close-read a text, situate it within critical debate, and build a written argument of your own.

You'll leave with a completed personal project and a personalised tutor evaluation to draw on in university applications.



EXAMPLE TUTOR

Shanti G

PhD candidate in English Literature, University of Cambridge; MSt English 1550-1700 (Distinction), University of Oxford; BA, UCL

Shanti's PhD examines the influence of monstrosity on Renaissance poetics. She has taught at Peterhouse, Newnham, and Downing, worked at The Guardian and the Fitzwilliam Museum, and judges entries for BBC Radio 4's Young Writers Award.

English Literature sample syllabus

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WEEK ONE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	**Introduction to literary studies** Ask what makes writing 'good' and how writers shape meaning through form.	**How genres developed** Trace how poetry, drama, and prose have changed across literary history.	**Poetic metre and rhythm** Study stressed and unstressed syllables and what gives a line of verse its beat.	**The history of criticism** Follow how readers have interpreted texts from classical antiquity to the present day.	**Close reading** Engage deeply with a text's form, imagery, and meaning.
PM	**Poetry, drama, and prose** Compare the defining features of the three main literary genres.	**Literary devices** Examine metaphor, simile, alliteration, foreshadowing, and personification, and the effects they create.	**Form and meaning** Understand how a text's architectural design (form) directly manipulates reader emotion and mirrors its central themes.	**1:1 tutorial** Talk to your tutor about the areas of English literature that interest you most, and get suggestions for reading and resources to take them further.	**The death of the author** Weigh Barthes's claim that the reader's interpretation matters as much as the author's.
		Creativity masterclass Explore divergent, convergent, and lateral thinking, then use SCAMPER to generate and pitch original ideas.		**Personal project supervision** Choose a topic for your personal project, plan your research, and start shaping your presentation.	

WEEK TWO

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	**Practising textual analysis** Analyse poems and prose extracts and build a critical argument of your own.	**Experiments in poetic form** Read anti-blazon poems that subvert conventional poetic imagery.	**The novel unbound** Explore experimental fiction that breaks the conventions of the printed book.	**Ecocriticism and the green humanities** Read Shakespeare through the lens of humanity's relationship with the environment.	**Personal project presentations** Present your English literature personal project to your tutor and peers.
PM	**The literary canon** Ask how a canon forms, who decides what enters it, and what it leaves out.	**Plays that resist plot** Examine metatheatre and drama that draws attention to its own artifice.	**Shakespeare and the canon** Ask who Shakespeare belongs to and discuss modern adaptations and "subverting" the canon.	**1:1 tutorial** Get feedback on your progress, and talk through your academic ambitions and the university courses and careers English literature can lead to.	**Personal project presentations (continued)** Respond to questions and discuss your peers' presentations.
	Critical thinking masterclass Examine the attention economy, echo chambers, logical fallacies, and cognitive bias, then debate a live issue.	**Guest speaker evening** Learn from an inspirational speaker from fields such as broadcasting, writing, philosophy, and sport, then question and debate.	**Personal project supervision** Finalise your research and slides and rehearse your presentation ready for Friday.		**Graduation ceremony** Certificates, speeches, and celebration.

Please note: this is an example syllabus and is subject to change.
Not shown: full evening and weekend social and cultural timetable.