

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- [www.unine.ch/lettres](http://www.unine.ch/lettres)

## Introduction to Literature in English (2AN1004)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Equivalences</b>		Voir ci-dessous	
<b>Pilier B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Cours: 1 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	3

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne, Semestre Printemps

### Equipe enseignante

Prof. Emma Depledge / Dr. Honor Jackson  
Prof. Patrick Vincent

### Contenu

Lecture Course (Monday, 10h-11h)

This mandatory, year-long course will equip students with the skills of analysis and the knowledge required for study of literature in English at the BA level. Students will be introduced to approaches to literature, to key works of drama, prose, poetry and critical theory and to the vocabulary and terminology used to describe literary texts. They will also be invited to explore definitions of literature, the politics of the English literary canon, and the value of the humanities and social sciences in today's society.

In the autumn semester we will study William Shakespeare's Hamlet and select short stories. Students will be invited to ponder questions such as 'what is literature?' and 'why do we study literature?' Lectures explore the history of the dramatic genre, rhetoric and persuasive writing, and the development of prose fiction. Students will be encouraged to explore key topics such as dramatic language, character types and constellations, narrative voices and techniques, and dramatic structure.

The second part of the year-long course (spring semester) will begin with poetry. Within the framing question — what is poetry? — we will explore how to analyse characteristic features, such as patterns of sounds, imagery and rhetorical figures, in order to appreciate how form works with content to produce meanings. In the second half of the spring semester students will be introduced to different critical and theoretical approaches to literature. Taking a novel as our focus we will discuss the interpretations generated by different theoretical and critical approaches.

Literature and Writing Workshop

The lecture course must be taken in conjunction with a workshop. The accompanying workshops will provide students with an opportunity to study the aforementioned texts in greater depth. They will also receive detailed instruction on how to write academic essays on literature in English.

### Forme de l'évaluation

Students will write four tests (predominantly open book), two per semester. Failure to attend a test, without prior approval from the course tutor, will result in a grade of 0n for the test in question.

The overall mark for the year-long lecture course is the average of the grades received in the autumn and spring semester tests. To pass the year, an overall average of 4.0 is needed.

Students are entitled to one test "rattrapage" (rewrite) per semester. All retakes must have taken place before June 30 2026.

In-class tests will take place either during the usual lecture course (45 minutes) or else during the usual workshop sessions (90 minutes).

In the event of a sanitary crisis, tests will take place online via WebEx meetings and / or Moodle tests.

### Modalités de rattrapage

Students who fail a test are entitled to one test "rattrapage" (rewrite) per semester. All retakes must have taken place before June 30 2026. If students are required to retake a test then the new grade replaces the first grade for that test.

In case of a sanitary crisis, the in-class tests will be replaced by Moodle quizzes / tests to complete at a distance and upload to Moodle.

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## **Introduction to Literature in English (2AN1004)**

### **Documentation**

#### Autumn

William Shakespeare. Hamlet. Ed. by Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. Folger Shakespeare Library Edition. 2012, Paperback, 432 Pages. ISBN-13: 978-0-7434-7712-3. Copies are available cheaply from Payot, Neuchâtel. Unine students are entitled to 20% discount during the rentrée. You are strongly encouraged to buy your course texts from Payot.

A reader will be available for purchase from the English Institute secretariat. This reader will contain the short stories and essays to be covered in the autumn semester.

#### Spring

Poetry dossier and novel, all available on the Moodle teaching platform.

### **Pré-requis**

- Regular attendance. No more than three justified absences will be allowed (see institute regulations)
- Reading of the assigned texts / watching assigned videos for each week's lecture
- Two in-class written tests (based on the lecture and workshop) per semester

### **Forme de l'enseignement**

A 1-hour lecture and (for autumn) pre-recorded videos

### **Objectifs d'apprentissage**

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Examine links between literary texts and the historical periods in and for which they were produced
- Analyse texts from different literary periods
- Apply appropriate vocabulary to describe literary texts and the literary devices they contain
- Communicate ideas orally and in written essays
- Review and analyse the politics of the English literary canon, and the value of the humanities and social sciences in today's society
- Develop their critical thinking skills
- Compare texts written in different genres – drama, prose, poetry and theory – and identify key developments in the history of each genre
- Identify different literary devices

### **Compétences transférables**

- Carry out critical and evidence-based analyses
- Manage a project
- Discuss complex issues and interactions