
Postgraduate guide

English Literature



UiO : **Institutt for litteratur, områdestudier og europeiske språk**
Det humanistiske fakultet



Dear MA student,

In your second year of your MA you will write a 60 credits master's thesis, ENG4390. During your first year you will attend the obligatory courses ENG4310 and ENG4391, where you will write a thesis outline. You, together with the teachers, decide the topic for your thesis in the outline. You can choose between many topics inside the academic field of English literature, but not everything.

It is important that your MA thesis topic derives from one or more of the courses that you attend in your first year. You cannot choose a topic for your M.A. thesis that is outside of the academic field of English Literature. To receive a supervisor you need to attend ENG4391/4310 and hand in your thesis outline at the end of the course and get it approved. You will then be handed a supervisor based on your thesis outline. You will be able to indicate who you want as your supervisor, but it is first and foremost the topic of your thesis that decides which supervisor you get. Other factors like availability are also taken into account. You will receive an e-mail from your supervisor once it has been decided. It is important that you print out and sign the "agreement of supervision" together with your supervisor as soon as possible and hand it in to your student advisor. The agreement can be found on the webpage for your M.A. thesis ENG4390.

- READ THE COURSE DESCRIPTION AND INFORMATION FOR ENG4390 ONLINE. YOU WILL FIND MOST OF THE INFORMATION YOU NEED THERE.
- READ THE "AGREEMENT OF SUPERVISION" THOROUGHLY AND KNOW WHAT WE DEMAND OF YOU. YOU SHOULD GO THROUGH THE AGREEMENT WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR THE FIRST TIME YOU MEET. YOU SHOULD ALSO AGREE WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR ON HOW MUCH, AND HOW OFTEN, YOU SHOULD HAND IN WORK EACH TIME, AND OTHER PRACTICAL MATTERS THAT ARE USEFUL TO HAVE A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE A SMALL PROGRESSION-REPORT.
- YOU HAVE TWO YEARS TO FINISH YOUR DEGREE AS A M.A. STUDENT AT THE ENGLISH LITERATURE PROGRAM. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A FULL TIME STUDENT, OR YOU NEED LEAVE, THEN YOU CAN APPLY FOR IT HERE: [HTTP://WWW.HF.UIO.NO/STUDIER/ADMIN/MASTER/](http://www.hf.uio.no/studier/admin/master/)

All the supervisors in English Literature are presented in the following pages with information about their current research, what courses they teach, and what topics they can supervise. For a more detailed list of their publications you can go to www.uio.no and visit their UiO homepage by searching on their name.

Førsteamanuensis

Bruce Barnhart

My research areas and interests:

American literature, 19th and 20th century; 20th Century American poetry; American modernism; Caribbean literature; African American literature, especially the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts movement; music and literature; economics and literature; critical theory, including the Frankfurt School, theories of temporality, psychoanalysis, queer theory, deconstruction, Marxism and post-Marxism, critical race theory, and deconstruction; theory of the novel.



Førstelektor

Erika Johanna Kvistad

My research areas and interests:

Victorian literature and culture; women's writing, particularly 19th and early 20th century; Horror (of any time period), the uncanny, and the gothic; feminist theory; sex in literature; death and mourning in literature; thing theory and materiality; contemporary genre writing, particularly chick lit, romance and erotica. Within these areas, some authors I'm particularly interested in (though this isn't meant as a definitive list): the Brontës, especially Charlotte; Alice James, Wilkie Collins, Christina Rossetti, Elizabeth Bowen, May Sinclair, Charles Dickens, Sheridan LeFanu, Elizabeth Gaskell.



Førsteamanuensis

Michael Lundblad

My research areas and interests:

Twentieth- and twenty-first century American literature, especially fiction; transnational American Studies; literary naturalism and progressive-era cultural politics; contemporary fiction and film; animal and animality studies; ecocriticism and environmental studies; critical theory and cultural studies, with particular emphasis on gender and sexuality studies; disability and illness studies; illness narratives (memoir, drama, film); posthumanism; biopolitics.



Professor

Nils Axel Nissen

My research areas and interests:

Nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature, particularly the period 1850-1940 and approaches relating to gender and sexuality; biography; narrative theory; Hollywood films (1930-60); literature and (new) historicism; the history of (homo)sexuality; twentieth-century American drama; African American Literature; Oscar Wilde; literature written by women.

Teaches: *ENG4340, 4363, 4364, 4365, 4366), 4456, and 4472.*



Professor

Juan Christian Pellicer

My research areas and interests:

Genres: Epic poetry , Georgic poetry, pastoral poetry and related literature; verse of all kinds and from all periods. Periods: The seventeenth century and the long eighteenth century (including the Romantic period, i.e., until 1830). Authors: Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, John Milton, Alexander Pope, William Wordsworth, Charles Dickens, Tony Harrison, Seamus Heaney, Tom Stoppard.



Professor

Tore Rem

My research areas and interests:

Victorian literature, with emphasis on the novel (particularly Dickens); history of the book; history of reading; Reception studies; theories of authorship and biography; reception of Scandinavian literature in Britain; world literature.



Førsteamanuensis

Rebecca Scherr

My research areas and interests:

Comics and graphic novels; literature and human rights; multicultural American literature; film and visual culture studies; contemporary women writers; modernism with an emphasis on modernist women writers (Virginia Woolf, Gertrude Stein, Jean Rhys, Djuna Barnes, Zora Neale Hurston); literature and the other arts; gender and queer theory; critical race theory.



Førsteamanuensis

Tina Skouen

My research areas and interests:

Early modern British literature; poetry and prose. The Renaissance and the Enlightenment; “the long eighteenth century,” including the first English novels and early Romanticism. Special interest in book history and the history of rhetoric. How books were made and circulated and who made money on it. How literature was thought to work upon the reader’s emotions, intellect, senses; texts as performances. In addition: early modern ethics, psychology, medicine; rhetoric of science, the scientific revolution; visual culture, especially emblem books. Archival research: digging up material about some unknown writer or work, tracing an image or a quote, using databases such as Early English Books Online. Other interests include Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* (1899); William Blake’s poetry; Edmund Burke’s *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790); modern British fiction.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE:

4. semester	ENG4390 - Master Thesis in English Literature			
3. semester	ENG4390 - Master Thesis in English Literature			
2. semester	ENG4310 - Literary Theory in English	ENG4391 - Writing a Thesis on a Literary Topic	Literature course	Literature course
1. semester	Literature course	Literature course	Literature course	Literature course
	10 ECTS credits	10 ECTS credits	10 ECTS credits	10 ECTS credits

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING COURSES:

Obligatory courses:

- [ENG4391 - Writing a Thesis on a Literary Topic](#)
- [ENG4310 - Literary Theory in English](#)
- [ENG4390 - Master Thesis in English Literature](#)

50 credits elective courses:

- **Minimum 20 credits selected from Group 1.** Group 1 contains courses where Bachelor and Master students are taught together (joint 2000/4000 level). If you have taken a 2000 level course, the same 4000 version of that course will not give you credits due to overlap.
- **Minimum 20 credits selected from Group 2.** Group 2 contains courses that are exclusively for MA students (4000 level only).
- Up to 20 credits may be chosen freely among other literature courses within the Master's programme in Literature Studies or, provided the course is relevant for the Master's thesis and has been approved by the supervisor, from other Master's programmes. These 20 credits can replace courses from Group 1.

Courses in Group 1:

* Please note that the Department does not offer all courses each semester. Information about when a course is taught can be found in the course description.

- [ENG4155 - Aspects of Chaucerian Language and Literature](#)
- [ENG4340 - Nineteenth-Century American Literature](#)
- [ENG4341 - English Renaissance Literature](#)
- [ENG4343 - British Literature in the Age of the Enlightenment](#)
- [ENG4344 - The Romantic Period](#)
- [ENG4345 - The Victorian Period](#)
- [ENG4361 - Colonial and Postcolonial Literature](#)
- [ENG4363 - Women Writing: Feminist Fiction in English](#)
- [ENG4364 - Homotextuality: Gay and Lesbian Literature](#)
- [ENG4365 - The Short Story in English](#)
- [ENG4366 - Fiction and Film](#)
- [ENG4367 - Shakespeare](#)
- [ENG4369 - Reception Studies](#)
- [ENG4374 - American Literature in the Fifties and Sixties](#)
- [ENG4375 - British and American Modernism](#)

Courses in Group 2:

* Please note that the Department does not offer all courses each semester. Information about when a course is taught can be found in the course description.

- [ENG4414 - The Auto-Graphic Novel](#)
- [ENG4421 - Reading the British Fin de Siècle](#)
- [ENG4453 - Jane Austen: Text and Context](#)
- [ENG4454 - Tom Stoppard's Drama of Ideas](#)
- [ENG4455 - Reading Milton's Paradise Lost](#)
- [ENG4456 - Edith Wharton: Text and Context](#)
- [ENG4457 - Alexander Pope and the Literary Imagination](#)
- [ENG4471 - The Return of the Author](#)
- [ENG4472 - The Literary History of Sexuality](#)
- [ENG4473 - World Literature in English](#)
- [ENG4474 - The Nature of the Beast in American Literature](#)

[List of courses in English](#) (sorted by semester taught)