



## **Module Specification**

### **Poets and Cultural Commentators**

Version: 2026-27, v1.0, Approved

#### **Contents**

<b>Module Specification .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part 1: Information .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 2: Description .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 3: Teaching and learning methods .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Part 4: Assessment.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Part 5: Contributes towards .....</b>	<b>6</b>

## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Poets and Cultural Commentators

**Module code:** UPNB73-30-2

**Level:** Level 5

**For implementation from:** 2026-27

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**College:** College of Arts, Technology and Environment

**School:** CATE School of Arts

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Linguistics

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** Poets are the "unacknowledged legislators" of society, and in this module, the critical and expressive aspects of poetics combine with the intellectual rigour of cultural commentary to throw focus on developing sharp ideas suitable for publication today and inventive texts that explore and push forward the limits of our understanding.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** In this module, you will explore the character of the conversation that poetry can have with the world, the ways in which poets and other cultural commentators interpret the world through their writing, and how writers can contribute to ongoing debate and discussion in relation to subjects such as societal change. Enquiry into the nature of the 'new' underpins this course, with an interest in both new modes of creative expressions and new forms, which fuel its inherent emphasis on curiosity.

**Outline syllabus:** Indicative content is outlined below:

The purpose of poetry

"Unacknowledged legislation"

What is cultural commentary?

Poetry and social engagement

Cultural Commentary and writing about poetry / music / literature / visual cultures

Portfolio preparation

Critical reflection

Issues of race, class and social justice will be foregrounded, building on work from separate modules. The reading list will represent this accordingly.

Using the PERMA framework as means of structuring in class learning behaviours during the term, students will build a route towards publishing through the development of new poetry and the critiquing of new poetry.

The module offers a chance to explore and contrast creativity and reflection. Students will research understanding genre conventions, narrative structures and literary influences. They will engage in peer feedback and editorial discussions, participating in analytical thinking and reflection – critically assessing published fiction and applying insights to their own work, namely:

Poetry Writing – Developing voice, style, and structure in poetry

Non-Fiction writing – developing voice, style and structure in cultural commentary

Indicative reading: many of the essays and articles considered in this course may be published in The New Yorker, The Guardian, Granta, Tolka, The White Review, The London Review of Books, The New York Review of Books, The Irish Times, The New York Times, The Times Literary Supplement, etc.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** Scheduled learning

Workshops and seminars are at the core of this module. This allows a flexible approach to be taken to combining workshop and seminar sessions, and to combining lecturer input with practical work. This flexible approach also enables students to develop the skills necessary to engage with different modes of learning. Students will develop a module workbook, which may contain, for example, completed exercises, original notes, outline and plans. The module may require students to work both independently and in small groups on a variety of tasks. Guidance on work briefs and set reading or tasks will be available either in the module handbook, via the module information on UWE Online or through any other vehicle deemed appropriate by the module/programme leaders.

Independent learning

Independent study may include a variety of tasks such as written exercises, assignment preparation, and recommended further reading. It will be guided by a clear syllabus outline in the module handbook and preparation questions and/or tasks communicated via the VLE.

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** Create focused creative writing, experimenting with diverse forms using inventive poetry and prose to engage with readerships and audiences today.

**MO2** Express contemporary ideas and information focused on poetics and cultural analysis and commentary, adapted for today's media and readers.

**MO3** Explore and analyse established conventions within the field by identifying opportunities for innovation and pushing creative boundaries in commentary and poetics.

**MO4** Explore a wide range of historical and cultural contexts, deepening understanding of the influence of poets and cultural commentators and their impacts.

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](http://readinglists.uwe.ac.uk) via the following link

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The module will be assessed with a single portfolio submission comprising poems, essays and reflective material. Formative feedback will be provided through one-to-one discussions, workshop engagement and, where appropriate, writers' rooms.

The resit will be the same as the first sit.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Portfolio of work - approx. 4000 words

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: Portfolio of work - approx. 4000 words

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Creative and Professional Writing [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26