

Introduction to English at MA level

We're looking forward to welcoming you to the MA-level English courses! Together, English 5 and English 6 aim to give you a deeper understanding of English language, communication, text, and literature, while getting you started on the path to doing your own independent research in the field. Very broadly, English 5 is the literature course and English 6 is the language course, but things you learn in one course may well turn out to have interesting applications in the other, too.

Teaching structure

- **In-person seminars:** English 5 and English 6 have three three-day seminars in Drammen over the course of the semester, in weeks 33, 39 and 46. For those of you who do not know how to get there, [here](#) are the instructions.
- **In-person seminar timings:** The seminars in weeks 33, 39 and 46 run from Wednesday-Friday. We will start in the afternoon on Wednesdays to make it possible for students who live outside Drammen to travel to campus that day, rather than having to stay an extra night.
- **Digital sessions:** The rest of the teaching will take place digitally, and will be a combination of synchronous sessions in Zoom, asynchronous sessions (for instance in the form of uploaded lectures and assignments), and individual and group work. The digital sessions are on Monday through to Wednesday in the weeks where you don't have in-person seminars. We will try to keep one week to English 5 and one to English 6 but it will not work every week, so follow the scheduling.
- **Practicum:** You will have in-service practice in weeks 42-44.

Exam format

- **English 5's examination** consists of a 20-minute oral exam and a research paper of ca. 3200 words.
- **English 6's examination** consists of a home exam.

Expectations

- **A full-time course:** English 5 and English 6 combined are a full-time course of study, that is 37,5 hours/week. The partly-online format is intended to allow for some flexibility in your schedule, but you will need to work on the course material over the whole week.
- **Attendance:** Both English 5 and English 6 have 70% mandatory attendance, which also includes absence due to illness. The online classes follow the same practice as the physical classes. You should sit at a desk and have your camera on. The camera has to be on to get attendance and you should not leave class without prior notice. The attendance cannot be disputed.
- **Preparing for classes:** The MA courses represent a step up in terms of the length and complexity of course reading material. This makes it especially important for you to complete the assigned reading ahead of sessions, so you can get the most out of the sessions. If you have any questions about the assigned reading/preparation, just ask and the lecturer for that session will be happy to help.
- **Active engagement:** If you've often been reluctant to take an active part in in-class discussions, this is a good semester to practice this. Practicing your oral skills in English is important for your professional development (and will help with the oral exam at the end of English 5), and this semester is an opportunity to immerse yourself in speaking English. It also gets easier the more you do it. If your lecturers can do anything to make participation easier for you, let us know.

- **Our platforms:** We'll use Zoom for synchronous classes and group work, and as usual, Canvas will be our platform for sending messages and uploading tasks, recorded lectures, texts, and information.
- **What you can expect of us:** We will respond in a timely way to your queries and questions, make information available as quickly as possible, guide you to discover new reading and research interests, and provide feedback on your work in class and on assignments. Please note that we do not answer emails late at night or during weekends.

Student groups

- We will make use of self-chosen student groups this semester, which will be the same in English 5 and English 6.

Syllabus

The courses syllabuses will be available in Leganto by the start of the semester. If you want to get started with reading the longer fictional texts for English 5 over the summer – which we strongly recommend – consider starting with *A Bear Called Paddington* by Michael Bond (1-7) and Barrie's *Peter Pan* (5-10). Also *Earth Girl* by Janet Edwards will be addressed early in the semester. Please note that *Earth Girl*, a text that we will be using in multiple sessions early in the semester, may need to be purchased online very soon, as it is not widely available in Norway.

Course plans

For these courses, the semester plans for 1-7 and 5-10 are identical.

Course plan for MG1EN5: https://www.usn.no/studier/studie-og-emneplaner/#/emne/MG1EN5_1_2023_HØST

Course plan for MG2EN5: https://www.usn.no/studier/studie-og-emneplaner/#/emne/MG2EN5_1_2023_HØST

Course plan for MG1EN6: https://www.usn.no/studier/studie-og-emneplaner/#/emne/MG1EN6_1_2023_HØST

Course plan for MG2EN6: https://www.usn.no/studier/studie-og-emneplaner/#/emne/MG2EN6_1_2023_HØST

Contact us

- **Email:** General questions about the course should be directed to the course leader, and questions about specific classes, assignments or tasks to the lecturer responsible for them.
- In English 5, the course leader is Lotta Strandberg (lotta.strandberg@usn.no); the other lecturer is Tom Bradstreet (tom.z.bradstreet@usn.no). Lotta is responsible for Assignment 1, and Tom and Lotta share responsibility for Assignment 2 (the research paper draft).
- In English 6, the course leader is Lotta Strandberg; the other lecturers are Victor Manteiga Montesdeoca (Victor.M.Montesdeoca@usn.no) and Islam Youssef (islam.youssef@usn.no). Victor is responsible for Assignment 1 and Islam is responsible for Assignment 2.

Have a great summer! We look forward to seeing you this autumn.