

### What is this course about?

Get ready to dive into the world of Taylor Swift! This course takes you on a journey through Taylor's discography, exploring her chart-topping hits and deep cuts. We'll unravel the stories she tells through her lyrics, examining how her songs have shaped and been shaped by the music industry and society, and relate them to a wide range of other voices and texts. With a literary twist, we'll break down her narrative techniques, themes, and unique style. Whether you're a die-hard Swiftie or just curious about her influence, this course will give you a new appreciation for the cultural phenomenon that is Taylor Swift! Maintaining the same standards and assessment opportunities as Level 3 English, you will take your critical thinking skills to the ultimate level by choosing English (Taylor's Version). This is a robust, challenging and exciting course for students who are truly passionate about studying texts and language, and who are enthusiastic Swifties or quietly curious.

*This course can be taken in place of 3ENG as they share the same standards and qualifications.*

### What sorts of things will I do?

- Analyse Taylor Swift's lyrics as literary texts, examining the use of narrative, symbolism and themes.
- Understand the evolution of Swift's musical style and its impact on the industry.
- Explore the societal and cultural influence of Taylor Swift.
- Find connections with other texts, voices, and cultures, particularly those from Aotearoa.
- Write, speak and create texts confidently to express your own comprehensive ideas.
- Critically evaluate perspectives and ideas in and of Taylor Swift related texts and demonstrate your understanding of these through creating your own texts.

### Learning capabilities/critical skills

- Develop proficiency in analysing lyrics, music videos, and related texts using various critical lenses such as formalism, biographical criticism, feminist criticism, and more.
- Learn to identify and interpret literary devices, themes, and narrative techniques
- Gain insights into contemporary cultural issues, societal norms, and historical contexts and examine how texts reflect and respond to cultural debates and social movements.
- Engage in creative writing tasks inspired by Swift's music, fostering your ability to express yourselves imaginatively and critically.
- Reflect on personal and societal themes in Swift's songs and apply these insights to your own creative work.
- Evaluate multiple perspectives and support your viewpoints with evidence from Swift's music and related texts.

### Rangatiratanga: (as it appears in the Hikairo Schema)

Rangatiratanga (self-determination) supports ākonga to achieve. Thinking and meaning-making are promoted. Learning is meaningful and connected.

**To experience success, students will have opportunities to develop their learning dispositions through:**

#### Engagement:

- You will: engage with kaiako instruction, think critically, access and utilise resources during class time, at home and during self-directed learning.
- You will work in partnership with kaiako to be reflective and inclusive of indigenous texts and multiple perspectives in your learning.

#### Managing self:

- You will work in partnership with kaiako to establish and meet personal learning goals and milestones.
- You will take the initiative to make informed text choices, develop language skills, and clarify understanding.

#### Learning relationships:

- You will develop and demonstrate good communication skills with your teachers and peers to be able to relate to others effectively. This will enable you to extend your learning and deepen your understanding through

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will take control of your learning, participate in activities or tasks and seek to clarify and understand learning objectives, assessment criteria, and your learning needs.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will manage your time to avoid distractions and complete a variety of learning tasks.</li> </ul> | questioning, dialogue, discussion, and group work. |
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| What standards can I enter?                                           |                 |                                                                                                                    |               |                 |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| NCE A                                                                 | Standard Number | Name of standard                                                                                                   | Credits (W/R) | Assessment Mode | Time frames |
| 3                                                                     | AS91479         | Develop an informed understanding of literature and/or language using critical texts                               | 4 (R)         | Internal        | Term 1      |
| 3                                                                     | AS91475         | Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains and structures ideas                   | 6 (W)         | Internal        | Term 2      |
| 3                                                                     | AS91476         | Create and deliver a fluent and coherent oral text which develops, sustains and structures ideas                   | 3             | Internal        | Term 1      |
| 3                                                                     | AS91478         | Respond critically to significant connections across texts, supported by evidence                                  | 4             | Internal        | Term 3      |
| 3                                                                     | AS91490 (Media) | Demonstrate understanding of an aspect of a media industry                                                         | 4             | External        | Term 3/4    |
| IN TERM 4 STUDENTS CAN CHOOSE THE FOLLOWING EXTERNAL FOR ENDORSEMENT: |                 |                                                                                                                    |               |                 |             |
| 3                                                                     | AS91474         | Respond critically to significant aspects of unfamiliar written texts through close reading, supported by evidence | 4 (R, W)      | External        | Term 4      |

Please note that time frames will be negotiated with the class.

Key for Credits column: R - UE reading literacy | W - UE writing literacy

| Scholarship Opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <p><b>In this subject area - Scholarship opportunity looks like:</b></p> <p>Scholarship English Examinations are available at the end of the year. A scholarship study group will meet weekly throughout the year to help prepare for this specialised assessment. During these meetings we will encounter and explore an extended range of texts and critically evaluate their various contributions to the landscape of English literature. Please ask your English teacher about the program that will run in 2025 or see Phillipa Wintle or Nathan Garton.</p> |

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I take this course instead of Level 3 English?

Yes. This course covers the same standards and curriculum requirements as Level 3 English. Because of this, it is also a University approved subject and the credits from which can contribute to your University Entrance qualification. Similarly, you can get endorsements in this subject as an English course endorsement.

### Do I have to be a fan of Taylor Swift to take this course?

No! But, you should be open to learning more about her music and her impact on society and the music industry in order to have enthusiastic engagement in the learning.

### Will I engage with texts other than Taylor Swift's?

Absolutely. In class, themes and patterns in Swift's music will be a jumping-off point for exploring a range of other voices, including Māori and other indigenous texts. You will also be able to choose from a wide range of authors, directors, and texts for individual study.