

School of Humanities

Title of Programme: MA Literature and Culture

Programme Code: HUHML

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:
17 September 2018

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):
Marjolein Groefsema



Signature

A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

Summary of amendments to the programme

Date	Section	Amendment

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email AQO@herts.ac.uk

Programme Specification **MA Literature and Culture**

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

Section 1

Awarding Institution/Body	University of Hertfordshire
Teaching Institution	University of Hertfordshire
University/partner campuses	De Havilland
Programme accredited by	Not applicable
Final Award (Qualification)	MA
All Final Award titles (Qualification and Subject)	Literature and Culture
FHEQ level of award	7
Language of Delivery	English

A. Programme Rationale

The rationale for this programme is to offer a carefully structured programme of study in English Literature which introduces students to a stimulating and specialised range of topics and materials and to a variety of critical and theoretical approaches. The programme is designed to recruit graduates who have a degree in Literature or whose degree contains at least 50% of Literature topics. The minimum classification for the degree should normally be a second class first division. The structure of the programme is designed to provide students with a thorough grounding in current critical and theoretical approaches to Literature with an emphasis on Literature in context and the concept of literary traditions. The modules will provide examples of the synchronic and diachronic study of literary cultures. Students will be required to apply these approaches through a series of shorter assignments building towards a programme of research-led independent study. Students are also introduced to some of the practical skills important for successful post-graduate study which will enable them to produce an extended piece of research, and which may be transferred to a range of graduate careers.

B. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in [UPR TL03](#).

Additionally this programme aims to:

- Explore the various ways in which texts engage with topical cultural issues and how textual representations both reflect and shape social values;
- Allow students to interrogate the relationships between texts and history, both at a specific moment and across time;
- debate issues of canonicity and literary tradition through a wide range of texts that sit beyond the boundaries of conventional literary study;
- encourage students to practice and develop advanced techniques of scholarly research and inquiry;
- encourage students to develop and supplement a range of general transferable skills which are of relevance to academic research and to a wide range of careers;

- give students the opportunity to conceive, progress and deliver a substantial independent literary project;
- provide students with a supportive, academic and pastoral environment in which to carry out their studies.

C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2016) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>A1 demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a selection of texts, issues and advanced debates which relate to literature in its social and historical context;</p> <p>A2 demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of theoretical approaches to literary texts and their intellectual contexts.</p>	<p>Acquisition of A1 and A2 is through a combination of independent learning, supplemented by seminars, workshops and on-line discussion.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding are assessed through written assessment in the form of essays, editorial tasks, presentations, videoed workshop discussion, a research proposal and a dissertation.</p>
Intellectual skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>B1 analyse complex literary, critical and theoretical ideas and problems;</p> <p>B2 demonstrate conceptual understanding of the relationships between literature and context and apply this theoretical understanding to the analysis of literary and cultural texts at an advanced level;</p> <p>B3 demonstrate engagement with significant established and current literary debates, together with the ability to evaluate critical methodologies and critique them;</p> <p>B4 articulate a well-informed and nuanced analysis of literary texts;</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are developed through the methods and strategies outlined in Section A, above.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are assessed through written work in the form of essays, editorial tasks, presentations, videoed workshop discussion, a research proposal and a dissertation.</p>

B5 marshal and critically analyse a large body of material.		
Practical skills - able to:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>C1 deploy a range of advanced research skills systematically and creatively;</p> <p>C2 formulate, plan and write a self-directed project proposal according to agreed criteria;</p> <p>C3 present an extended and innovative piece of written work that demonstrates independent research and critical engagement with existing scholarly work.</p>	<p>Practical skills are developed through introducing students to the facilities offered in the Library and a Dissertation Workshop</p>	<p>Practical skills are assessed through assessment assignments, including the compilation of a research proposal and annotated bibliography and 13,000-15,000 word dissertation.</p>
Transferable skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>D1 take responsibility for their own learning, using initiative, time-management and self-discipline;</p> <p>D2 communicate complex ideas and arguments effectively in writing and reach appropriate conclusions;</p> <p>D3 use ICT software applications for word processing and electronic communications to access electronic information retrieval systems and the Internet;</p> <p>D4 have a regard for the points of view of others;</p> <p>D5 demonstrate skills in extended project work; organising a longer piece of work, presenting discrete components in a coherent structure</p> <p>D6 deliver research findings via a presentation or student-led seminar</p>	<p>Transferable skills are developed throughout the programme:</p> <p>Skill D1 is developed with students learning to manage their time to meet assignment submission deadlines.</p> <p>Skill D2 is developed in the written work which all modules require. Students receive feedback not only on their knowledge and understanding but also on their ability to communicate their ideas effectively.</p> <p>Skill D3 is developed when students are inducted into the facilities of the Learning Resources Centre (use of e-mail, Internet) at the beginning of their program and in the use of StudyNet. All written assignments must be word processed.</p> <p>Skill D4 is developed through seminar discussion and in selected coursework assignments.</p> <p>Skill D5 is developed primarily through the dissertation.</p> <p>Skill D6 is developed throughout the programme via class exercises.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop</p>	<p>Transferable skills D2 and D4 are assessed formally by a range of assignments built into the curriculum, e.g. coursework, presentations and seminar leadership.</p> <p>Skill D5 is assessed via the dissertation.</p> <p>Skill D1 is not formally assessed but is demonstrated particularly in the production of assignments, culminating in the dissertation.</p> <p>Skill D6 is on 7HUM0180 and 7HUM1085</p>

transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan.

D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

The programme is offered in full-time (1 year) and part-time (2 years) modes, and leads to the award of MA English Literature. Entry is normally at Masters (7) Level with a related degree qualification at 2:1 or above, but is also possible with a high 2:2 degree, via references and assessed writing. Intake is normally Semester A (September)

Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

N/A

Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

N/A

Programme Structure

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is provided for the award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed.

Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

Mode of study: Full-time and Part-time

Entry point Semester A

Please note that modules rotate from year to year.

Entry point Semester A: Full-time

Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Research Methods 1: Theoretical and Critical Debates	7HUM0180	15	English	0	100	0	A
Research Methods 2: Advanced Research Skills	7HUM0179	15	English	0	100	0	B
Dissertation	7HUM0152	60	English	0	100	0	C
Reading the Vampire: Science, Sexuality and Alterity in Modern Culture*	7HUM1011	30	English	0	100	0	A
The Networks of Modernism	7HUM1077	30	English	0	100	0	A
US Culture and #Black Lives Matter	7HUM1085	30	English	0	100	0	B

Entry point Semester A Part-time

Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Research Methods 1: Theoretical and Critical Debates	7HUM0180	15	English	0	100	0	A
Networks of Modernism	7HUM1077	30	English	0	100	0	A
US Culture and #Black Lives Matter	7HUM1085	30	English	0	100	0	B

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

Master's Programme Specification / February 2017 /
AS Review Date October 2017
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Year 2 Compulsory Modules

Research Methods 2: Advanced Research Skills	7HUM0179	30	English	0	100	0	B
Dissertation	7HUM0152	60	English	0	100	0	C
Earth Words: Literature Place and Environment*	7HUM1059	30	English	0	100	0	A

* Reading the Vampire: Science, Sexuality and Alterity in Modern Culture is offered in 2018/19 and Earth Words: Literature Place and Environment is offered in 2019/20.

The award of an MA requires 180 credits at Level 7 including the dissertation.

Table 1b Final and interim awards available

The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

Final Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of (normally):	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Masters	Literature and Culture	180 credit points including at least 150 at level 7	3 Semesters	All programme learning outcomes (see Table 2)

Interim Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Postgraduate Certificate	Literature and Culture	60 credit points, including at least 45 at level 7	1-2 Semesters	A1, A2, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, D1, D2, D3, D4
Postgraduate Diploma	Literature and Culture	120 credit points, including at least 90 at level 7	2, 3 Semesters	A1, A2, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, D1, D2, D3, D4

Masters and Diploma awards can be made "with Distinction" or "with Commendation" where criteria as described in [UPR AS14](#), Section D and the students' handbook are met.

Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme is compliant with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12](#) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been specifically approved by the University:

- none

E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning

Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- A Programme Leader to help students understand the programme structure
- A designated programme administrator
- Student representatives on programme committees
- Module Leaders

Support

At university level, students are supported by:

- Attractive modern study environments in two Learning Resource Centres, incorporating libraries and computer centres
- StudyNet, a versatile on-line interactive intranet and learning environment
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- A Student Centre which provides advice on issues such as Finance, University regulations, visa applications, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
- The Office of Dean of Students, incorporating Chaplaincy, Counselling and nursery
- Overseas Orientation
- A Medical Centre
- University Disability Advisors
- An Equal Opportunities Officer
- The Students' Union
- A Careers and Placement Service for all current students and graduates

At School level, students are further supported by:

- A Programme Leader to help students understand the programme structure, and provide confidential academic and pastoral support
- A Tutor for Employability
- Scheduled weekly Student Drop-In hours for all academic staff for student support and guidance
- A designated Programme Administrator to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the modules within the Programme
- Module Leaders who are responsible for individual modules
- Student Representatives on the Programme Committee
- A School Student Representative Officer (SSRO)
- An induction session at the beginning of each new academic session
- An Academic Skills Tutor
- A Student Experience Tutor
- An International Student Support Tutor

F. Other sources of information

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Programme (or Student) Handbook;
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.

The [Herts Handbook](#) is an introduction to the academic, social, cultural and sporting services and opportunities available at the University of Hertfordshire, and includes the Student Charter and Student Code of Conduct.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/segreg/upr/>. In particular, [UPR SA07](#) 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

The UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) has confirmed the quality and standards of provision at the University of Hertfordshire. A key part of QAA's role is to review and report on how universities maintain their academic standards and quality, to inform students and the wider public. The team of QAA

reviewers visited the University of Hertfordshire in 2015/16 and judged that its academic standards, the quality and enhancement of its students' learning experience, and the quality of information about this learning experience all meet UK expectations. In other words, the University meets national requirements for standards and quality. The QAA's report can be accessed at: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews-and-reports/provider?UKPRN=10007147#.V-KHajXy0nE>

G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

An Honours degree in Literature with a minimum classification of second-class first division or an Honours degree, with a minimum classification of second-class first division, where 50% or more of the subject matter studied relates to Literature. Graduates with an Honours degree in any discipline who have otherwise demonstrated potential to succeed at postgraduate level in Literature will also be considered for admission. All International Students are required to demonstrate an English Language capability of IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in [UPR SA03](#)), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact:
Andy Penn, School Administration Manager, A.Penn@herts.ac.uk

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest Programme Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (AMER) and/or the External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to aqo@herts.ac.uk

MA English Literature: Literature and Culture

Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

		Programme Learning Outcomes (as identified in section 1 and the following page)																																
		Knowledge & Understanding								Intellectual Skills								Practical Skills								Transferable Skills								
Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	
US Culture and #Black Lives Matter	7HUM1085	x	x							x	x	x	x					x		x						x	x	x	x			x		
Dissertation	7HUM0152	x	x							x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x						x	x	x	x	x				
Reading the Vampire: Science, Sexuality and Alterity in Modern Culture*	7HUM1011	x	x							x	x	x	x					x		x						x	x	x	x					
Earth Words: Literature, Place, Environment*	7HUM1059	x	x							x	x	x	x					x		x						x	x	x	x	x				
Research Methods 1	7HUM0180	x	x							x	x	x	x					x		x						x	x	x	x	x	x			
Research Methods 2: Advanced Research Skills	7HUM0179	x	x							x	x	x	x					x		x						x	x	x	x	x				
The Networks of Modernism	7HUM1077	x	x							x	x	x	x					x		x						x	x	x	x					

*Reading the Vampire: Science, Sexuality and Alterity in Modern Culture is offered in 2018/19 and Earth Words: Literature Place and Environment is offered in 2019/20.

KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding of:

A1. a selection of texts, issues and advanced debates which relate to Literature in its social and historical context

A 2. a range of theoretical approaches to literary texts and their intellectual contexts

Intellectual Skills eg

B1 analyse complex literary, critical; and theoretical ideas and problems

B2 demonstrate conceptual understanding of the relationships between literature and context and apply this theoretical understanding to the analysis of literary and cultural texts at an advanced level

B3 demonstrate engagement with significant established and current literary debates, together with the ability to evaluate critical methodologies and critique them;

B4 articulate a well-informed and nuanced analysis of literary texts

B5 marshal and critically analyse a large body of material

Practical Skills

C1.deploy a range of advanced research skills systematically and creatively

C2 formulate, plan and write a self-directed project proposal according to agreed criteria

C3 present an extended and innovative piece of written work that demonstrates independent research and critical engagement with existing scholarly work

Transferable Skills

D1. take responsibility for their own learning, using initiative, time-management and self-discipline

D2 communicate complex ideas and arguments effectively in writing and reach appropriate conclusions;

D3 use ICT software applications for word processing and electronic communications to access electronic information retrieval systems and the Internet;

D4 have a regard for the points of view of others;

D5 demonstrate skills in extended project work; organising a longer piece of work, presenting discrete components in a coherent structure

D6 deliver research findings via a presentation or student-led seminar

Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements	English
Type of programme	Taught Postgraduate
Date of validation/last periodic review	May 12
Date of production/ last revision of PS	March 2017
Relevant to level/cohort	Level 7 entering September 2017
Administrative School	School of Humanities

Table 3 Course structure

Course details					
Course code	Course description			JACS	
HUHML	MA Literature and Culture			Q200	
Course Instances					
Instances code	Intake	Stream	Instances Year	Location:	Mode of study
MLCM1F-1	A	MA Literature and Culture	1	Hatfield	Full-time
MLCM1F-2	A	MA Literature and Culture	1	Hatfield	Full-time
MLCM1P	A	MA Literature and Culture	1	Hatfield	Part-time
MLCM2P-1	A	MA Literature and Culture	2	Hatfield	Part-time
MLCM2P-2	A	MA Literature and Culture	2	Hatfield	Part-time