

School of Humanities

Title of Programme: MA Literature and Culture (Online)

Programme Code: HUWLCM

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:
21 September 2020

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



Signature

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 (Online)

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 suitable for graduates who have an undergraduate degree in Literature or another Humanities-based programme of study. 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, through online learning, in current and new 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;
- Interrogate and debate issues of canonicity and literary tradition through a wide range of texts 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 which creates and interprets knowledge in the discipline;
- Provide students with a flexibly-delivered, supportive, academic 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>B5 marshal and critically analyse a large body of material.</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>
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 14,000-word dissertation.</p>
<p>Transferable skills:</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods & strategies</p>	<p>Assessment</p>
<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 in a variety of media.</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 transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan.</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 assessed via students' selection of one assessment from a range which includes, but is not restricted to, a brief formal presentation in Research Methods 1 (WHU00019)</p>

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 an MA Degree in English Literature and Culture. 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

Entry point Semester A

Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Research Methods 1: Theoretical and Critical Debates	7WHU0019	15	English	0	100	0	A
The Networks of Modernism	7WHU0018	30	English	0	90	10	A
US Culture and #BlackLivesMatter	7WHU0016	30	English	0	90	10	A
Reading the Vampire: Science, Sexuality and Alterity in Modern Culture	7WHU0017	30	English	0	100	0	B
Research Methods 2: Advanced Research Skills	7WHU0020	15	English	0	100	0	B
Dissertation	7WHU0021	60	English	0	100	0	C

Compulsory Modules

Mode of study: Part-time

Entry point Semester A

In year 1 Part-time students study 45 credits in semester A and 30 credits in semester B.

In year 2 Part-time students take 30 credits in semester A, 15 credits in semester B and 60 credits in semester C.

Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Research Methods 1: Theoretical and Critical Debates	7WHU0019	15	English	0	100	0	A
Reading the Vampire: Science, Sexuality and Alterity in Modern Culture	7WHU0017	30	English	0	100	0	B

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

Year 1 Optional Modules

Module Title

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
The Networks of Modernism	7WHU0018	30	English	0	90	10	A
US Culture and #BlackLivesMatter	7WHU0016	30	English	0	90	10	A
Year 2 Compulsory Modules							
Earth Words: Literature Place and Environment*	7WHU0015	30	English	0	100	0	A
Research Methods 2: Advanced Research Skills	7WHU0020	15	English	0	100	0	B
Dissertation	7WHU0021	60	English	0	100	0	C

The Networks of Modernism is offered in 2020-2021 and Earth Words: Literature Place and Environment is offered in 2021-2022.

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	A subset of the programme learning outcomes (see table 2) depending on the modules completed
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, C2, C3, D1, D2, D3, D4, D6

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

Further points of clarification and interpretation relevant to this specific programme are given below:

- None

E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning

Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- A Dean of School who has overall responsibility for all programmes in the School
- An Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) who has overall responsibility for academic quality, assurance and enhancement with and on behalf of the Dean of School
- An Associate Dean of School (Learning and Teaching) who has overall responsibility for learning and teaching with and on behalf of the Dean of School.
- An Associate Dean of School (Student Experience) who has overall responsibility for induction with and on behalf of the Dean of School.
- A Programme Leader who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the programme
- Admissions Tutors, with specific responsibility for selection
- A Head of English Literature who is responsible for all the modules on the programme
- A designated Humanities and UH Online Administrator to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the courses and modules within the Programme
- The programme committee which has a membership which includes all of the above plus student representatives
- Module Leaders who are responsible for individual modules

Support

At university level, students are supported by:

- Technical support from UH Online Educational Technologists
- Access to extensive digital collections of information resources
- The University's Managed Learning Environment – StudyNet – a University-wide set of systems and tools for educational delivery
- Essential electronic material provided on a CD for international students with connectivity challenges
- A Student Centre which provides advice on issues such as Finance, University regulations, legal matters, international student support etc
- The Office of Dean of Students, incorporating Chaplaincy, Counselling and nursery
- Student Wellbeing: Disability Services • Student Wellbeing: Counselling Centre
- An Equality Office
- 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
- The Head of English Literature
- A personal academic tutor
- 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 Community Organiser (SCO)
- An induction to the programme at the beginning of each new academic session

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, which will be available to all students in digital format:

- A Programme Handbook;

- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.

The [Ask Herts](#) website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

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/secreg/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.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>. Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK. Consequently, the University received a Gold award in the 2018 Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes (TEF) exercise. This award was made in June 2018 and is valid for up to 3 years. The TEF panel's report and conclusions can be accessed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147>

G. Entry requirements

For current entry tariff point requirements, please refer to the relevant page for the Course on the University website or on the online prospectus.

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 the Ask Herts (de Havilland), DHAdmin@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 ago@herts.ac.uk

MA 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	7WHU0016	x	x							x	x	x	x					x		x						x	x	x	x				
Dissertation	7WHU0021	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*	7WHU0017	x	x							x	x	x	x					x		x						x	x	x	x				
Earth Words: Literature, Place, Environment*	7WHU0015	x	x							x	x	x	x					x		x						x	x	x	x	x	x		
Research Methods 1	7WHU0019	x	x							x	x	x	x					x		x						x	x	x	x	x	x		
Research Methods 2: Advanced Research Skills	7WHU0020	x	x							x	x	x	x					x	x	x						x	x	x	x	x	x		
The Networks of Modernism	7WHU0018	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 2020-21 and Earth Words: Literature Place and Environment is offered in 2021-22.

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 in a variety of media.

Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements	English
Type of programme	Taught Postgraduate
Date of validation/last periodic review	March 2020
Date of production/ last revision of PS	March 2020
Relevant to level/cohort	Level 7 entering September 2020
Administrative School	School of Humanities

Table 3 Course structure

Course details		
Course code	Course description	HECOS
HUWLCM	MA Literature and Culture (Online)	100320