

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	MA Culture, Diaspora, Ethnicity PG Dip Culture, Diaspora, Ethnicity PG Cert Culture, Diaspora, Ethnicity (Level 7)
Name and title of any interim exit qualification(s)	PG Dip, PG Cert
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Social Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMADIASP_C (MA) TPDDIASP_C (PG Dip) TPCDIASP_C (PG Cert)
HECoS Code	101233
Start date of programme	Autumn 2010
Date of programme approval	Summer 2010
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2023
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Date of last revision to document	10/08/2022

Admissions requirements

A second-class honours degree (2:2) or above in a social sciences or arts and humanities subject is normally required.

Applications are however reviewed on the basis of their individual merits and relevant work experience, professional qualifications and/or a lively interest in the subject area can be taken into consideration instead. We actively support and encourage applications from mature learners.

Course aims

The innovative, interdisciplinary MA Culture, Diaspora, Ethnicity stretches across the social sciences and arts and humanities. It examines histories and cartographies of 'race' and racism, multiculturalism and postcoloniality, empire and the formation of modern Britain and contemporary transnational political communities, social identities and urban cultures. The programme examines connections between histories of colonisation and contemporary social formations and inequalities in the UK and how local debates on 'race' and racism are shaped by the global geopolitics of the twenty-first century.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time MA programme – 1 year					
7	FDRE017S7	'Race' Empire Postcoloniality	30	Core	Autumn
7	FDRE012S7	Culture Community Identity	30	Core	Spring
7		Option 1	30	Option	Autumn
7		Option 2	30	Option	Spring/ Summer
7	SSPA085D7	Independent Research Module/Dissertation	60	Core	Autumn/Spring/ Summer
Part-time MA programme – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	FDRE017S7	'Race' Empire Postcoloniality	30	Core	Autumn
7		Option 1	30	Option	Spring/ Summer
Year 2					
7	FDRE012S7	Culture Community Identity	30	Core	Spring
7		Option 2	30	Option	Autumn/ Summer
7	SSPA085D7	Independent Research Module/Dissertation	60	Core	Autumn/Spring/ Summer

The PG Dip programme is as shown above, but without the dissertation module.

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

Indicative Optional Modules:

PSYCHOSOCIAL STUDIES

Term 2

- Texts and Interpretation
- Investigating the Social World
- Psychoanalysis and Culture

Term 3

- Lacanian Psychoanalysis: Theory and Practice (Intensive 5 day course – 6.00 -9 .00 pm)

HISTORY, CLASSICS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Term 1

- Mastering Historical Research
- Themes and Concepts in Archaeology
- Introduction to Classical Culture
- Queer Histories, Queer Cultures
- Greeks and the Sea
- Theorising Gender
- Capitalism
- Early Modern London

Term 2

- Historians Craft
- Methods Medicine and Culture
- Research Skills for Historians
- Me Myself and You: Histories of Self and Belonging from 1500 to the 21st Century
- Barbarians, Monsters and Other Others: Encountering the Other, c. 200-1000
- The Silk Road: Imagining Global Cultures from the Middle Ages to UNESCO
- Cultures of Hate and Oppression. Connecting the Conversations about Antisemitism, Holocaust, Gender, Colonialism
- Digging for China: A Political, Cultural and Social History of Chinese Archaeology

Term 3

- MOLA Fieldschool
- Crescent of Crisis
- Archaeology of Greek Sanctuary

FILM, MEDIA & CULTURAL STUDIES

Term 1

- British Cinema and Television 1960-85
- Media, Digitalisation and the City
- Curating As Critical Practice

POLITICS – TBC

Term 1

- Food Politics and Society (level 7)
- European and International Public Policy

Term 2

- International Political Economy

- Nationalism, Religion, and Conflict
- War Politics and Society

Term 3

- Emerging Powers in World Politics

GEOGRAPHY

Term 1

- Critical Social Geographies
- International Political Economy of Childhood
- Gender and Development
- Understanding the City
- Development Studies: Theoretical Approaches
- Living with Climate Change

Term 2

- Social Studies of Childhood: Key Concepts and Issues
- Anthropology, Culture & Development
- Cities & Urban Inequalities
- Environment & Policy
- Development, Aid and Power
- Energy & Climate Change
- Race, Environment and International Development

Term 3

- Cities in the Global South

ENGLISH, THEATRE AND CREATIVE WRITING

Term 1

- Modernising Victorians
- Progress and Anxiety 1789-1859

Term 2

- Psycho-Social Research: Working Below the Surface
- Being Human: Posthumanism and the Twenty-First Century
- A Confusion of Tongues: Illness, Language, Writing

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

The programme is designed to develop a range of critical yet transferable analytical and communication skills that will be invaluable for students in their professional and personal lives.

The programme utilises a range of learning and teaching methods:

- Formal lecturing by specialist staff across the college
- Seminars, tutorials, group and individual supervision
- A research training programme comprising taught sessions and workshops on method and methodology, research design and constructing a dissertation
- A Summer Programme consisting of a range of teaching and learning modes, including masterclasses, film screenings, specialist workshops, and dissertation support sessions

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

The core modules of the programme will be assessed through methods designed to hone different analytical skills and abilities such as essays and presentations. Forms of assessment for option modules will vary.

Students will also complete a dissertation of 10,000-12,000 words or alternatively a practice-based dissertation which consists of a work such as a film, a series of photographs or a curated exhibit to be accompanied by a 5000 – 6000 word written essay.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate a rigorous understanding of a range of approaches on histories and cartographies of 'race' and racism, multicultural and postcoloniality
- Demonstrate a thorough multidisciplinary understanding of the connections between histories of colonisation and contemporary social formations and inequalities
- Demonstrate an innovative, interdisciplinary understanding of the connections between interlocking colonial histories across the globe and our ordinary, local, everyday life here in contemporary Britain
- Demonstrate a practical understanding of postcolonial methodologies for empirical research
- Carry out a piece of independent research on a subject of your choice
- Develop a range of critical yet transferable skills in analysis, argumentation, reasoning and writing
- Demonstrate the capacity to apply knowledge developed to a range of contexts and phenomena
- Communicate complex ideas to a range of audiences
- Manage your own independent learning and complete your assignments

Careers and further study

You will find Culture Diaspora Ethnicity graduates in the following kinds of roles:

Graduates can pursue career paths in organisations and charities concerned with criminalisation and policing; domestic violence; refugees and asylum; human rights; housing and homelessness; imprisonment; addiction and youth and community work.

Graduates have also pursued careers as teachers, film-makers, activists, curators, architects, novelists, poets, musicians and journalists; lecturers and social researchers in the areas of sociology, cultural studies, postcolonial studies and urban studies; psychoanalysts, psychotherapists and psychiatrists and barristers and solicitors.

There are also currently several graduates undertaking doctoral research in this subject area.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services](#). This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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