

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MA Psychoanalytic Studies				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMAPSANY_C				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	Psychosocial Studies and History, Classics, Archaeology				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Cert/PG Dip				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 year FT or 2 years PT				
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable)	This programme is co-taught by the departments of Psychosocial Studies and History, Classics and Archaeology. It additionally offers a module taught by the British Psycho-Analytical Society				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable) (N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>Rationale:</p> <p>MA Psychoanalytic Studies is the new title for the programme MA Psychoanalysis, History, Culture, set up by the Departments of Psychosocial Studies and History, Classics and Archaeology in 2011. The programme takes psychoanalysis as its object of study. It examines the clinical and theoretical developments of the tradition of thought and practice pioneered by Sigmund Freud, and considers the wider relationship between psychoanalysis, culture and history in the modern age. The course explores how psychoanalytic thought has been used to illuminate pressing social and political concerns, and examines the controversies that have surrounded its application outside the clinical setting. The course focuses on the interface between psychoanalysis as an evolving clinical practice, as a form of knowledge, and as a mode of critique.</p> <p>The core teaching staff includes researchers in psychosocial studies, historians and practising clinicians. The aim is to enable students to study closely the numerous modern developments within psychoanalysis, from Freud through to contemporary psychoanalytic theory and practice: to examine its key concepts in detail; to place those concepts in context; and to explore the methodological, epistemological and ethical issues that have resulted from diverse elaboration and extension of psychoanalytic ideas, not only in a clinical setting, but also in social and cultural inquiries, and in the interpretation of the historical past.</p>

	<p>The particular approaches of history, psychosocial studies and psychoanalysis have been brought to bear upon many of the most urgent problems of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. In important ways, contemporary understandings of ‘civilization’ and of ‘barbarism’ have been shaped by these approaches. This MA asks how far modern thought on war and other forms of violent conflict, fascism, terrorism, racism and xenophobia has had an influence on the way we think about the unconscious mind, and vice versa. It also investigates how psychoanalytic accounts of inter-personal and intra-psychic relationships have shaped – or been shaped by – wider cultural attitudes to love, intimacy and friendship. Each of the core disciplines investigated in this MA have addressed our precarious and increasingly interconnected collective fates, and have influenced the way we understand the most intimate aspects of personal and psychic life. This course asks how far their different approaches can be brought into productive dialogue and explores the potential for working across disciplinary boundaries.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide postgraduate level teaching addressing the intersection of psychoanalysis with cultural and historical issues, with a focus on British, American, Latin American and Continental European psychoanalysis as it has developed in the past 100 years. • To provide an opportunity for students to engage critically with key psychoanalytic concepts and to understand them in their historical and cultural context. • To introduce students to the history of psychoanalysis as it has developed from its European base, including some coverage of psychoanalysis outside Europe and America. • To critically explore applications of psychoanalysis to the understanding of culture and history.
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15	<p>Entry Criteria</p> <p>Usually a minimum of an upper second class honours degree or its equivalent in any discipline relevant to the course. These will include most humanities and social science disciplines, for example Psychology, Sociology, Politics, History, Cultural Studies, Anthropology, English. In exceptional circumstances, the Admissions Tutor will consider applicants who do not meet this criterion but who have substantial professional experience (e.g. teaching, social work, counselling & psychotherapy, mediation, development work, etc) and who can demonstrate through interview and a written assignment that they have the required academic abilities to complete a Masters level course.</p> <p>In order to undertake the double-weighted optional module at the British Psycho-Analytical Society, students will be required to attend an additional interview with the BPAS.</p>
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16	Learning Outcomes
	<p><i>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate a firm grasp of a range of interdisciplinary theoretical approaches to understanding the development and impact of psychoanalysis in its historical and cultural context. 2. Demonstrate understanding of central psychoanalytic concepts 3. Demonstrate the capacity to apply psychoanalytic ideas to key cultural and historical problematics and phenomena and to evaluate the strengths and limitations of such applications. 4. Demonstrate a conceptual grasp and practical understanding of psychosocial epistemologies and methodologies for empirical and theoretical research 5. Carry out a piece of independent research (either empirical or theoretical) on a topic of their choice relevant to the programme. 6. Work effectively in a small-group so as to perform a number of small-group tasks including group oral presentations. 7. Manage their own independent reading and learning outside staff contact-time so as to produce assignments of the required standards.
17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Teaching and learning methods include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal teaching and lecturing by specialist staff in the departments of Psychosocial Studies and History, Classics and Archaeology 2. A module run by the British Psycho-Analytic Society that includes formal lectures and small-group discussion of case work or work-related dynamic issues 3. Additional workshops, film-screenings and lectures by a range of external staff who visit the department in the Summer Term, including Visiting Professorial Fellows from the British Psycho-Analytical Society who are linked with BISR and BIH. 4. Seminars, tutorials, group and individual supervision provided by core staff in both departments 5. A range of small-group work carried out by students outside of teaching time in order to develop generic skills in listening, negotiation, leadership, co-operation, collective organisation, collective writing and document preparation and oral presentation. 6. A range of writing, documenting and recording projects that may include the production of case notes, field notes, reflective process notes, creative and autobiographical writing, journalistic pieces, etc. 7. Student teaching experience in the form of small-group mini-lectures to fellow

	<p>students on developing research topics.</p> <p>8. Group visits to libraries, archives and places of relevance such as the Freud Museum, London.</p> <p>These learning and teaching methods are designed to take seriously the need for a wide variety of generic and specialist skills provision beyond the specialist focus of a student’s academic and intellectual engagements with psychoanalytic studies, and are tailored to skill students with transferable skills for future employment.</p> <p>Assessment Strategy:</p> <p>The assessment strategy and methods are designed to test and develop a student’s capacity to achieve the learning outcomes of the course. The assessment for the course takes the form of a range of written pieces of work associated with each module, and a dissertation of between 10,000-12,000 words that is that is the culmination of the student’s independent research. Students are given formative and summative feedback consisting of written comments and numerical marks for each piece of assessed work. The weighting of the assessed components takes into account the potential development of students’ abilities during the course.</p> <p>Students produce assessed work at regular intervals during the year (or two-years for part-time students), using the online discussion board as a way to test out and develop ideas with peers prior to writing formal assignments, and are offered individual and small-group tutorials during term-time to discuss their workload and to monitor student progress and identify any individual difficulties.</p> <p>Students are formally assessed through academic essays, a ‘portfolio of learning’ and the dissertation.</p>
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18	<p>Programme Description</p> <p>The programme is made up of three core taught modules, one module that students can choose from a range of options, and a double-weighted dissertation module.</p> <p>The three core modules introduce students to the main theories, epistemologies and methodologies used in psychoanalytic thinking and places them in historical and cultural context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts in Psychoanalysis • Psychoanalysis and Culture • Psychoanalysis and History <p>Students choose one further module from a range of Options that may include a more specialist module on key concepts in psychoanalysis, inter-subjectivity and recognition, gender and sexuality, queer theory, human rights, visual culture and Lacanian</p>
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	<p>psychoanalysis, as well as courses on substantive topics on relevant areas of historical research in the 20th century.</p> <p>As an alternative, students can apply to take the British Psychoanalytic Society's Foundation Course as a 60-credit option.</p> <p>The double-weighted independent research module enables students to attend the taught element, Psychosocial Research Methods, and pursue a supervised research project of their choice. It includes a 2500 word essay and culminates in a 10,000-12,000 word dissertation.</p>
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19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPA103S7	Concepts in Psychoanalysis	30	CORE
7	SSPA078S7	Psychoanalysis and Culture	30	CORE
7	SSPA077S7	Psychoanalysis and History	30	CORE
7		Optional Module	30	OPTIONAL
7	SSPA085D7	Independent Research Module	60	CORE
Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPA103S7	Concepts in Psychoanalysis	30	CORE
7	SSPA078S7	Psychoanalysis and Culture	30	CORE
Year 2				
7	SSPA077S7	Psychoanalysis and History	30	CORE
7		Optional Module	30	OPTIONAL
7	SSPA085D7	Independent Research Module	60	CORE

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Programme Director	Stephen Frosh
21	Start Date (term/year)	October 2011
22	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2011
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2011
24	Date(s) updated/amended	17 February 2017