

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MA Modern and Contemporary Literature				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMALIMDR_C				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	English, Theatre and Creative Writing				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Dip, PG Cert				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 or 2 years				
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>This MA is intended to allow students to look more deeply into the literature of the twentieth century than an undergraduate course would allow. It combines the analysis of a broad range of literary texts from Britain and America over the last hundred years with a theoretical consideration of how the major movements of the period - e.g. modernism, postmodernism - were shaped. Through the core modules, students will gain knowledge of some of the twentieth century's major literary figures - Joyce, Woolf, Pynchon - while optional modules offer the opportunity to explore other avenues in the literature of the period.</p> <p>One of the strengths of the programme, in comparison with similar MAs offered by other institutions, is the diversity of optional modules which students can take. These are mostly research-led, and range from the highly theoretical to single-author studies, surveys of a period, to analyses of genre.</p>

15	Entry Criteria
	The normal minimum entrance requirement is a second class honours degree from a UK university or overseas equivalent. However, under certain circumstances experiential learning may be recognised. All candidates are interviewed and some may be required to submit a piece of written work.

16	Learning Outcomes
	Students will gain a thorough grounding in the key concepts of modernism, modernity and the contemporary. They will be introduced to key texts and paradigms that shape our

	<p>conception of literature from the early twentieth century to the present. The will also encounter opportunities to join a number of graduate seminars and reading groups, and occasional discussions with practising novelists and poets.</p>
17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p>
	<p>The course involves teaching by lecture, seminar and one-to-one supervision.</p> <p>Core modules (of which there are two, making up 33% of the total assessment) are taught by a lecture (1hr20), followed immediately by a seminar (1hr20). Assessment is by one 5000 word essay per core model.</p> <p>Optional modules (of which there are two, making up 33% of the total assessment) tend to be research-led, based on the convenor's current interests and are taught by seminar. Assessment is by one 5000 word essay per optional module.</p> <p>All students are required to produce a 15,000 word dissertation (the final 33% of their assessment). For this they will attend four workshops, covering subjects such as the use of archives, scoping the project, and how to get the most out of one-to-one supervision. They will also have a dedicated supervisor whom they will meet three times during their final term.</p> <p>The development and assessment of academic writing skills, building up to the final dissertation, puts a focus on the clear expression of original thought. Through written work, and the feedback given by markers, students will learn how to carry out scholarly research at postgraduate level, the use of appropriate materials, coherent and rigorous argumentation, and the importance of proper academic presentation according to the department's rubric.</p>
18	<p>Programme Description</p>
	<p>Students must take complete two core modules, two optional modules, and a dissertation. Taught modules are worth 30 credits each; the dissertation is worth 60.</p> <p>Core modules are taught in the autumn term, optional modules in the spring term, and the dissertation over the summer.</p> <p>This means that for a full-time student, completing the MA in one year, they would take both core modules in the autumn, both options in the spring, and spend the summer working on their dissertation.</p> <p>For a part-time student, completing the MA over two years, they would take Core 1 ('Becoming Modern') in the autumn of the first year, then chose their first option that spring. In the second year, they would take Core 2 ('Post-War to Contemporary'), followed by another optional module, they then finally work on their dissertation.</p>

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme – 1 year				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ENHU049S7	Becoming Modern	30	Core
7	ENHU050S7	Post-War to Contemporary	30	Core
7		Option 1	30	Option
7		Option 2	30	Option
7	ENHU003D7	Dissertation MA Modern & Contemporary Lit	60	Core
Part Time programme - 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ENHU049S7	Becoming Modern	30	Core
7		Option 1	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ENHU050S7	Post-War to Contemporary	30	Core
7		Option 2	30	Option
7	ENHU003D7	Dissertation MA Modern & Contemporary Lit	60	Core
Indicative options				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ENHU068S7	Reading Time in the Twentieth Century	30	Optional
7	ENHU053S7	Contemporary US Fiction	30	Optional
7	ENHU119S7	A Confusion of Tongues	30	Optional
7	AREN019S7	Disciplining Sex: Sexuality, Society & C19 Lit	30	Optional
7	ENHU035S7	Aesthetics and Cultural Theory	30	Optional
7	AREN197S7	Freud in the world: psychoanalysis, literary writing and the legacies of history	30	Optional
7	ENHU122S7	Language Matters	30	Optional

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	Roger Luckhurst
21	Start Date (term/year)	Prior to 2008/09
22	Date approved by TQEC	Prior to 2008/09
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Prior to 2008/09
24	Date(s) updated/amended	19 April 2013