

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MA Victorian Studies				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMAVCSTD_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 year full-time; 2 years part-time				
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	History, Classics and Archaeology				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	N/A				
14	Programme Rationale & Aims	<p>The MA Victorian Studies is an interdisciplinary programme taught by staff within the Department of English and Humanities and the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology. It aims to introduce students to the methods and debates surrounding interdisciplinary study of this period at an advanced level, and - in accordance with the college's mission - to foster the research, analytical and critical skills necessary to understand, assess, contextualise and analyse complex and sometimes heterogeneous texts published in this period. It aims to introduce students to some of the key themes in understanding Victorian culture, literature and history, and to foster an intellectually curious and scholarly level of debate around and research into both the topics taught through core and option courses and those chosen by students for essays and the dissertation. Finally, the course aims to foster scholarly writing and research at an advanced level appropriate to a master's degree.</p>				
15	Entry Criteria	<p>Normally a second-class honours degree (2:2) or above in a relevant subject such as English, history, philosophy or history of art, but a degree in other subjects will be considered, as will other qualifications, as will other qualifications where students are able to demonstrate a well developed knowledge of and interest in the Victorian period.</p>				
16	Learning Outcomes	<p>Subject Specific:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The students will have acquired a defined body of knowledge related to the Victorian period across more than one discipline. 				

	<p>2. The students will be abreast with recent developments in the field of Victorian Studies and will have a good grasp of the secondary field and of current debates in the subject at the highest level.</p> <p>3. The students will be familiar with a wide range of nineteenth-century primary sources and with modes of understanding and contextualising such sources in relation to more than one discipline.</p> <p>Intellectual:</p> <p>4. The students will be able independently to formulate research questions that will lead to the topics for assessed essays and the dissertation.</p> <p>5. The students will have highly developed critical skills and will be able to sustain a critical argument at a high level.</p> <p>6. The students will be familiar with a range of methodological approaches to their field of study.</p> <p>7. The students will be able to communicate complex concepts and critical arguments in a lucid manner.</p> <p>Practical:</p> <p>8. The students will be competent independent researchers. They will be competent uses of databases, digital archives and other electronic resources.</p> <p>9. The students will be competent users of a range of primary source materials including manuscripts and archive materials.</p> <p>10. The students will have gained skills in group work through the student-led reading project.</p> <p>Personal and social:</p> <p>11. The students will be able participants in a discussion forum.</p> <p>12. They will be able to present arguments orally in a confident and clear manner and to respond to other students’ oral presentations.</p> <p>13. The students will have highly developed organizational skills and will be able to work independently as well as within a group.</p>
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>The programme is taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, individual tutorials, supervisions, and workshops. These various forms allow for a fully-rounded and diverse educational experience.</p> <p>The teaching and learning methods of the MA are designed as a tiered structure of courses, beginning with core courses, specialising in optional courses, and ending with a dissertation with accompanying dedicated and graduated study skills. Teaching reflects the increasing specialisation of knowledge, moving from large core course classes (the first of which bridges students’ previous training by addressing the particular expectations of MA level work with study skills and early exercises; the second of which encourage more independent critical work), through to smaller optional classes, to a one-to-one supervisory role. Modes of assessment are also structured to reflect this sense of progression.</p> <p>Lectures provide the students with a model for the lucid presentation of material, and with a model for sustaining and developing an argument.</p>
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	<p>Seminars encourage a discursive and argumentative approach to learning. The use of student presentations in seminars helps to develop presentational skills.</p> <p>Independent study for the Dissertation, as well as for coursework essays, develops independent learning and research skills.</p>
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18	<p>Programme Description</p> <p>The course consists of a combination of two Core and two Option modules, along with a compulsory Dissertation of c. 15000 words.</p> <p>Full-time students take the two Core Modules in Autumn term, and select two Option Modules from a range on offer within the Department, School and University in Spring Term. They write their Dissertation in Summer term.</p> <p>Part-time students take the first Core module in Autumn term of their first year, and the second Core module in the Autumn term of their second year. They also take one Option module in the Spring terms of both first and second year. They write their Dissertation in the summer term of their second year of study. In the summer term of first year, Part-time students must take part in the Summer Term Reading Project.</p>
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19	<p>Programme Structure</p> <p>Full-Time programme – 1 year</p> <p>Year 1</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Level</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Module Code</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Module Title</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Credits</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Status*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">AREN232S7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Progress and Anxiety, 1789-1859</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Core</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">AREN166S7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Modernising Victorians</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Core</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Option from range of approved modules 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Option</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Option from range of approved modules 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Option</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">ENHU007D7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dissertation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">60</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Core</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Part-Time programme – 2years</p> <p>Year 1</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Level</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Module Code</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Module Title</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Credits</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Status*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">AREN232S7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Progress and Anxiety, 1789-1859</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Core</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Option from range of approved modules</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Option</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Year 2</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Level</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Module Code</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Module Title</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Credits</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Status*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">AREN166S7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Modernising Victorians</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Core</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Option from range of approved modules</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Option</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">ENHU007D7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dissertation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">60</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Core</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*	7	AREN232S7	Progress and Anxiety, 1789-1859	30	Core	7	AREN166S7	Modernising Victorians	30	Core	7		Option from range of approved modules 1	30	Option	7		Option from range of approved modules 2	30	Option	7	ENHU007D7	Dissertation	60	Core	Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*	7	AREN232S7	Progress and Anxiety, 1789-1859	30	Core	7		Option from range of approved modules	30	Option	Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*	7	AREN166S7	Modernising Victorians	30	Core	7		Option from range of approved modules	30	Option	7	ENHU007D7	Dissertation	60	Core
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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

Year of entry: 2022/23



²⁰	Programme Director	Dr Carolyn Burdett
²¹	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Prior to 2008/09
²²	Date approved by TQEC	Prior to 2008/9
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Prior to 2008/9
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	June 2017