

**Quality Assurance**

**Masters, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate in Contemporary Literature and Film**

Information for students: the programme specification is the definitive document summarising the structure and content of your degree programme. It is reviewed and updated every year as part of Keele’s Curriculum Annual Review and Development process. The document aims to clarify to potential and current students what you can expect from the study of the subject over the course of your programme.

<b>Names of programme(s):</b>	MA Contemporary Literature and Film  Postgraduate Diploma in Contemporary Literature and Film  Postgraduate Certificate in Contemporary Literature and Film
<b>Mode of study:</b>	Full time / part time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award:</b>	MA
<b>Duration:</b>	One year full time / two years part time

Details of professional, statutory and regulatory body (PSRB) (If appropriate): Not Applicable.

External Examiner(s) names: TBC <http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/>

**1. What is the philosophy of the Programme?**

***What are the broad educational aims of the programme? What makes the programme distinctive?***

The educational aims of the MA Contemporary Literature and Film are:

- to provide students with an intense period of study in which they can engage with specific issues related to the aesthetic, historical, cultural and political contexts informing the production and consumption of literary and filmic texts;
- for students to gain a thorough understanding of material, philosophical and theoretical approaches underpinning the study and research of contemporary literature and film.

English Literature, American Literature and Film Studies at Keele are taught by research specialists, offering expertise in a range of themes and topics related to the focus of the programme. The modules available on the MA will involve research-led teaching and provide students with the necessary independent research skills to pursue their own research interests and topics.

The combination of studying contemporary literature and film is one distinctive aspect of the programme. The possibility of specialising in literary analysis, film analysis and /or adaptations provides a flexible structure to the

programme. Students will be taught in seminar format and through assessments that will develop their independent research skills. There will be core modules that will cover broader themes and issues in contemporary literature and film and a selection of optional modules that will enable students to develop individual interests and specialisms. The programme is designed in such a way that students will be given the flexibility to produce assessed work on **either** literature **or** film **or** on approaches which combine the study of both. There is also the opportunity for those who wish for students to take option modules in creative writing. This flexibility makes the MA distinctive in its appeal to students and researchers of both literature and film.

***What are the intended learning outcomes of the programme - i.e. what students should know, understand or be able to do by the end of the programme of study in terms of subject specific knowledge, subject specific and key skills and attitudes.***

Students who complete the programme will be able to:

- Locate resources relevant to the research of contemporary literature and film;
- Critically assess the relevance and usefulness of primary and secondary sources;
- Demonstrate a rigorous knowledge of debates and issues relevant in contemporary literature and film;
- Communicate a systematic understanding of relevant theoretical perspectives and their relevance to the study of contemporary literary and filmic texts;
- Engage critically with research at the forefront of contemporary literature and film;
- Demonstrate originality in the application of their knowledge of contemporary literature and film to a variety of substantive examples;
- Evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the study of contemporary literature and film;
- Reflect critically on the politics of production related to contemporary literature and film;
- Communicate in written form a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current issues in contemporary literature and film;
- Engage critically with issues of form, style and genre with respect to contemporary literature and film;
- Research independently areas related to contemporary literature and film;
- Use oral presentational skills tailored for peers on subjects related to contemporary literature and film;
- Plan and construct a substantial independent research project in a recognised aspect of contemporary literature and film;
- Demonstrate the ability to make innovative connections in research;
- Reflect critically on the place of a specific research topic within wider debates in the humanities;
- Engage in a research culture commensurate with postgraduate study;
- Evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the field of contemporary literature and film;
- Demonstrate autonomy and originality in solving theoretical and practical problems in the field;
- Communicate research processes and research findings to diverse audiences using a variety of written, oral and visual media;
- Work productively to an advanced level in a largely unstructured context exercising initiative and personal responsibility;
- Make decisions and plan activity in uncertain and unpredictable contexts;
- Design and complete a research project and demonstrate a knowledge of the importance of the research process;
- Use high levels of presentation, referencing and bibliographical skills commensurate with written work at the postgraduate level;

By the end of their studies, students will have:

- a critical understanding of the major issues and debates in contemporary literature and film;
- enhanced skills at analysing literary and filmic texts, including the ability to discuss texts from a number of approaches including close reading, discussions of form and genre, and historicist approaches;

- the ability to write about, discuss, and present on contemporary literature and film and apply key research methodologies in order to develop their own subject-specific interests;
- the ability to carry out independent research;
- the ability to manage their time effectively,
- skills in the appropriate presentational requirements for written work, oral presentations, and group discussions.

***What is the principal purpose of the programme? How does it equip students for further study or employment? Is the programme professional in nature and, if so, what professional recognition is entailed?***

The principal purpose of the MA Contemporary Literature and Film is to provide students with the necessary skills to engage in debates in contemporary culture with respect to literary and filmic texts and contexts. It will also equip students with the tools to undertake independent research in their chosen area. The MA will provide the analytic skills required to discuss literature and film with respect to wider cultural issues and politics. The focus on the contemporary will mean that students will be engaging in debates that are relevant to the present day. There will be an emphasis in core modules on the ways in which the study of literature and film can be used in a number of professional contexts including teaching, journalism, publishing, and the medical humanities. Students will also gain high level communication skills that will enable them to flourish in a wide range of careers in both the public and private sectors, for example (but not limited to) the civil service, advertising, broadcasting, and any career within which the gathering, assessment and analysis of data and evidence is of importance.

### ***Keele Graduate Attributes***

Engagement with this programme will enable you to further develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Whilst you will undoubtedly have already developed these skills and abilities to varying degrees, such existing capabilities can always be deepened and enriched. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to develop further as a well-rounded postgraduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in during and after your studies at Keele.

Please refer to the programme webpages for a statement of how you can achieve the Keele Graduate Attributes through full engagement in the programme and other educational opportunities at Keele.

## **2. How is the Programme taught?**

***a. List the principal learning and teaching methods used in the programme, including the relevant mode of study and attendance.***

The principal learning and teaching methods will be through taught seminars led by tutors with expertise in the field. The seminars will include discussion of directed reading and watching of primary and secondary materials. The programme will also foster guided independent study and the development of independent research.

***b. Explain how these methods enable learners to achieve the stated outcomes.***

The seminars will enable students to discuss with tutors and peers key issues related to the primary and secondary texts and broader relevant contexts. They will encourage discussion and presentation of ideas to the group. There

will also be guided close analysis of primary and secondary texts. The seminars will also identify further areas of study intended to encourage independent research and specialisation of topics and approaches.

The programme will be divided into core modules and optional modules. The core modules will provide students with the key skills necessary to analyse, discuss and engage critically with a variety of material. They will also encourage students to think of the relationship between issues represented in literature and film and broader social and cultural contexts. The core modules will discuss both literary and filmic texts, but will also offer the students the flexibility to produce assessed work on **either** literature **or** film **or** on approaches which combine the study of both.

A range of option modules will be available for students to pursue aspects of contemporary literature and film that they find particularly stimulating or in which they are interested in carrying out independent research.

***c. List the number of teaching staff and their academic qualifications, the number of staff who are associates or fellows of the Higher Education Academy and/or who have relevant professional qualifications.***

The programme will draw on the expertise of several members of the academic teaching staff in the School of Humanities, especially those located primarily in the programmes of English Literature, American Studies, Film Studies, and Media, Communications and Culture.

The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and at conducting supervision at Masters and PhD level, in universities in the UK, continental Europe, North America and Australasia. All of the teaching staff contributing to the Masters have completed training as part of their induction to University teaching.

For staff teaching on the programme, see <https://www.keele.ac.uk/english/people/> and <http://www.keele.ac.uk/filmstudies/people/>

### **3. What is the Structure of the Programme?**

All students on the MA programme will take two core modules, one in the first semester and one in the second semester of the programme. The cores modules are Working in Contemporary Literature and Film (30 credits) and Studying Contemporary Literature and Film (30 credits).

Working in Contemporary Literature and Film (30 credits) will provide students with the core skills required to analyse and discuss film and literature at Masters level and to develop strategies and techniques for independent study. It will provide students with the necessary research skills for postgraduate study. It will also provide examples of the way in which the study of literature and film can be applied in professional contexts including sessions on teaching literature and film, working in media contexts, and the application of literature and film in the medical humanities.

Studying Contemporary Literature and Film (30 credits) will enhance students' knowledge and application of a range of theoretical approaches to the study and analysis of literature and film. It will also direct students to the social, historical and cultural contexts informing the selected primary texts on the module. It will provide students with a knowledge of the current debates and issues in contemporary literary and film studies.

In addition to the core modules, students will be able to take two from a range of option modules, one in each semester. These modules will be chosen from either existing MA programmes in the School of Humanities, or specially adapted Masters versions of current Level 6 module topics taught by members of the teaching team. Masters students undertake the same teaching programme as Level 6 students, but there are additional requirements (extra reading and additional contact with tutors) and Masters students complete different assessments, tailored to postgraduate level. Each of these option modules will be worth 30 credits. The modules offered from year to year may vary from those listed in the tables below.

Students on the MA programme will complete a Dissertation (60 credits). Preparation for the dissertation will begin in the first semester, with students establishing their research topics. During the second semester, students will meet regularly with allocated dissertation supervisors to discuss their topic. In the third semester, students will continue to research their research and write up their dissertations.

**Full-time programme in diagrammatical form**

<b>SEMESTER 1</b>	<b>SEMESTER 2</b>	<b>SEMESTER 3</b>
<p><b>ENG-40050: Working in Contemporary Literature and Film (30 credits) (Core)</b></p> <p>ENG-40007: Criticism, Analysis Theory (30 credits) (Option)</p> <p>MDS-40017: Contemporary Cultural and Media Theory (30 credits) (Option)</p> <p>ENG-40018: The Writer as Critic; The Critic as Writer (30 credits) (Option)</p> <p>ENG-40037: Contemporary British Fiction (30 credits) (Option)</p> <p>ENG-40042: Postcolonial and World Literature in English (30 credits) (Option)</p> <p>FIL- 40004: British Society Through the Eyes of British Film (30 credits) (Option)</p>	<p><b>ENG-40049: Studying Contemporary Literature and Film (30 credits) (Core)</b></p> <p>ENG-40044: Postmodernism: Fiction, Film and Theory (30 credits) (Option)</p> <p>ENG-40046: Contemporary American Fiction (30 credits) (Option)</p> <p>AMS-40040: High Culture: Drink, Drugs, and the American Dream (30 credits) (Option)</p> <p>FIL-40005: British Women Directors (30 credits) (Option)</p> <p>FIL-40006: Parody in British Film and Television (30 credits) (Option)</p>	<p><b>ENG-40051: Dissertation (60 credits) (Core)</b></p>

**Part-time programme in diagrammatical form**

<b>YEAR 1</b>	<b>YEAR 1</b>	
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>	<b>SEMESTER 2</b>	
<p><b>ENG-40050: Working in Contemporary Literature and Film (30 credits) (Core)</b></p>	<p><b>ENG-40049: Studying Contemporary Literature and Film (30 credits) (Core)</b></p>	
<b>YEAR 2</b>	<b>YEAR 2</b>	<b>YEAR 2</b>

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 3
ENG-40007: Criticism, Analysis Theory (30 credits) (Option) MDS-40017: Contemporary Cultural and Media Theory (30 credits) (Option) ENG-40018: The Writer as Critic; The Critic as Writer (30 credits) (Option) ENG-40037: Contemporary British Fiction (30 credits) (Option) ENG-40042: Postcolonial and World Literature in English (30 credits) (Option) FIL-40004: British Society Through the Eyes of British Film (30 credits) (Option)	ENG-40044: Postmodernism: Fiction, Film and Theory (30 credits) (Option) ENG-40046: Contemporary American Fiction (30 credits) (Option) AMS-40040: High Culture: Drink, Drugs, and the American Dream (30 credits) (Option) FIL-40005: British Women Directors (30 credits) (Option) FIL-40006: Parody in British Film and Television (30 credits) (Option)	<b>ENG-40051: Dissertation (60 credits (Core))</b>

*b. State in a table as below the learning outcomes for the programme, alongside the modules that fulfil them and the forms of assessment used to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes.*

Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered	Principal forms of assessment (of the Learning Outcome) used
<b>Subject knowledge and understanding</b>		
Students will be able to:		
Locate resources relevant to the research of contemporary literature and film	All modules approved as part of the MA Contemporary Literature and Film programme	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Critically assess the relevance and usefulness of primary and secondary sources	All modules approved as part of the MA Contemporary Literature and Film programme	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Demonstrate a rigorous knowledge of debates and issues relevant in contemporary literature and film	Working in Contemporary Literature and Film; Studying Contemporary Literature and Film;	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation

	Dissertation	
Communicate a systematic understanding of relevant theoretical perspectives and their relevance to the study of contemporary literary and filmic texts	Working in Contemporary Literature and Film; Studying Contemporary Literature and Film; Dissertation	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Engage critically with research at the forefront of contemporary literature and film	Working in Contemporary Literature and Film; Studying Contemporary Literature and Film; Dissertation	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Demonstrate originality in the application of their knowledge of contemporary literature and film to a variety of substantive examples	Working in Contemporary Literature and Film; Studying Contemporary Literature and Film; Dissertation	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the study of contemporary literature and film	Working in Contemporary Literature and Film; Studying Contemporary Literature and Film; Dissertation	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Reflect critically on the politics of production related to contemporary literature and film	Working in Contemporary Literature and Film; Studying Contemporary Literature and Film; Dissertation	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; dissertation
Communicate in written form a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current issues in contemporary literature and film	All modules approved as part of the MA Contemporary Literature and Film programme	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Engage critically with issues of form, style and genre with respect to contemporary literature and film	Working in Contemporary Literature and Film; Studying Contemporary Literature and Film;	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation

	Dissertation	
Research independently areas related to contemporary literature and film	Dissertation	Research proposal; dissertation
Use oral presentational skills tailored for peers on subjects related to contemporary literature and film	Working in Contemporary Literature and Film	oral presentation
Plan and construct a substantial independent research project in a recognised aspect of contemporary literature and film	Dissertation	Research proposal; dissertation
<b>Subject specific skills</b>		
Students will be able to:		
Demonstrate the ability to make innovative connections in research	All modules approved as part of the MA Contemporary Literature and Film programme	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Reflect critically on the place of a specific research topic within wider debates in the humanities	Dissertation	Research proposal; dissertation
Engage in a research culture commensurate with postgraduate study	Working in Contemporary Literature and Film; Studying Contemporary Literature and Film; Dissertation	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the field of contemporary literature and film	Working in Contemporary Literature and Film; Studying Contemporary Literature and Film; Dissertation	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Demonstrate autonomy and originality in solving theoretical and practical problems in the field	Dissertation	Research proposal; dissertation
Communicate research processes and research findings to diverse audiences using a variety of written, oral and visual media	All modules approved as part of the MA Contemporary Literature and Film programme	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation

<b>Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)</b>		
Students will be able to:		
Work productively to an advanced level in a largely unstructured context exercising initiative and personal responsibility	All modules approved as part of the MA Contemporary Literature and Film programme	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Make decisions and plan activity in uncertain and unpredictable contexts	All modules approved as part of the MA Contemporary Literature and Film programme	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation
Design and complete a research project and demonstrate a knowledge of the importance of the research process	Dissertation	Research proposal; dissertation
Use high levels of presentation, referencing and bibliographical skills commensurate with written work at the postgraduate level	All modules approved as part of the MA Contemporary Literature and Film programme	Long essays; short papers; oral presentations; critical review articles; research proposals; dissertation

***c. List the exit routes from the award (e.g. PGCert, PGDip) and specify the numbers of credits needed for these.***

To gain the MA award you need to complete successfully both the 30-credit core modules, two of the option modules and the Dissertation (180 credits in total).

To gain the Postgraduate Diploma you need to complete successfully both the 30-credit core modules and two of the option modules (120 credits in total).

To gain the Postgraduate Certificate you need to complete successfully both the 30-credit core modules, OR one of the 30-credit core modules AND one of the option modules (60 credits in total)

**4. How is the Programme assessed?**

***a. Explain the function of the methods of assessment listed in the table above in testing the achievement of stated programme learning outcomes.***

Long essays will assess the ability of students to communicate ideas and arguments related to the selected themes and topics in a systematic way in written form.

Short papers will assess the student's ability to carry out guided tasks (such as close reading of selected extracts from primary and/or secondary sources) in a written form.

Oral presentations will assess the student's ability to communicate ideas and arguments related to the selected themes and topics in a systematic way in written form.

Critical review articles will assess the student's ability to write for a specific mode of publication in a written form appropriate to the task.

Research proposals will function to ensure students have early planning for the dissertation topic. They will test the ability of the student to identify a coherent, manageable and original research project. They will also suggest the ability of students to carry out relevant literature reviews of relevant primary and secondary materials and sources.

The Dissertation will assess the ability of students to carry out advanced research skills and communicate complex ideas and analyses of primary and secondary texts in a written form. It will test the ability of students to produce a sustained argument in a large piece of written work. It will assess the ability of students to work productively and independently in the production of a piece of original research. It will also assess the ability of students to show presentational skills to a professional academic standard.

***b. Briefly explain how students in the programme are supported through formative (i.e. non-mark-bearing) assessment.***

All modules will combine short papers (or other modes of assessment) submitted in the middle of the semester with final assessments. Although all assessments will be summative, the earlier assessments will partly function as formative and be used to offer feedback directed specifically towards the final component of assessment.

**5. What are the typical admission requirements for the programme?**

Students should have a good degree, high 2:2 minimum, from an awarding UK institution (or overseas equivalent) in a relevant subject area. For students who fall short of this requirement, relevant work experience or evidence of experience in the field can be considered as an alternative. Students for whom English is not a first language require IELTS 7.0 with at least 6.5 in each component.

**6. How are students supported on the programme?**

Each student is normally allocated the MA Programme Director as their Personal Tutor. Meetings are arranged for the Tutee to meet with their tutor, normally face to face, to review overall progress. Extra meetings can be scheduled following the completion of the formative assessment in the first semester in order to discuss any issues that arise.

Students are given written feedback on their written work, and are encouraged to meet with their module tutor to discuss the feedback. Students can also consult their personal tutor about any feedback or any academic issue about which they require further clarification.

**7. Learning Resources**

The main body of the course is delivered through self-study materials, which comprise mainly traditional text based resources available in the library and through e-journals, supported by, where appropriate, electronic resources accessed through the Keele Learning Environment. Copies of set primary texts will be made available in the library, although students will be encouraged to acquire their own copies of the literary texts and films discussed in the core and optional modules.

**Keele University Library**

The Library has many resources for your subject, both on campus and online. Further information about the library can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/library>

To access online library services off campus you will need an Athens username and password, which is available from the IT help desk.

## **Computer facilities**

IT Services is located in the library building. The IT Services Department is responsible for the computing infrastructure in the university and for the support of all staff and students undertaking academic computing tasks.

There is a large number of open access PCs available for students. All student PCs use a standard platform, which includes software such as Microsoft Office, web browsers, and other standard applications you may need.

Printing facilities are available in the library building.

Opening Hours: in order to check if the computer facilities and the Help Desk are open, you should telephone: 01782 733636 or 783535. Further information can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/it/>

## **8. Other learning opportunities**

Students will be encouraged to engage in the postgraduate research culture promoted at Keele. They will be invited to Postgraduate meetings hosted within the Faculty and School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and offered the opportunity to contribute to the annual Postgraduate Symposium at Keele. They will also be invited to the English Research Seminars, The David Bruce Centre Visiting Speaker series, the Keele Writing series of events and any other singular events in the School of the Humanities or in the University generally that is of relevance to the content of the MA.

Students will be notified of these events by email.

Individual modules on the programme are available as units for continuing professional development (CPD), which is to say that people can enrol on individual modules without registering for the MA. They can choose to use these credits to complete the MA later on.

## **9. Quality management and enhancement**

The Programme Board, which comprises the academic staff who are responsible for the taught modules, is responsible for the day to day management of the programme. The Programme Director is the Chair of the board and reports to the School's Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC), where programme specifications, CARD and minutes of the Student Staff Liaison committee are considered. The SLTC has overall responsibility for quality assurance.

The programme is monitored and reviewed in the following ways:

- Student evaluation of teaching: Students have the opportunity to evaluate each module and the programme. Data from the evaluations is reported at regular programme board meetings.
- Peer observation of teaching: The academic staff responsible for delivering the programme undertake regular peer observation of teaching that is used to identify teaching strengths and areas of development.
- External examination by a qualified academic from another institution.
- Postgraduate Staff Student Liaison Committee; this is an integral part of the monitoring and review procedures and provides a valuable source of management data for the programme team.
- Annual Programme Review; a range of data is used to inform the annual programme review, it comprises student evaluations, external examiners report, academic and pastoral tutor reports and internal programme review and monitoring data.

## 10. The principles of programme design

The programme has also been designed with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in the following documents.

- Guidelines for preparing programme specifications, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, 2006
- The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, 2008
- Learning and Teaching Strategy, Keele University 2015-20

## 11. Programme Version History

<b>Version History</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>CHANGES / NOTES</b>
Date first created (if known)	08/12/2015	Original document written by Nick Bentley
Date last reviewed / revised	June 2016	Final version revised by Claire Evans
Date last approved at SLTC		
Date last approved at FLTC	22.6.16	By Chair's Action (Jon Herbert)