

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

for the award of

**MA English Literature (MA-XX)**

**Managed by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**delivered by Department of English and Modern Languages**

<b>Date approved:</b>	June 2015
<b>Applies to students commencing study in:</b>	September 2020

**RECORD OF UPDATES**

<b>Date amended*</b>	<b>Nature of amendment**</b>	<b>Reason for amendment**</b>

Extend list as necessary.

\*Date of meeting of Faculty AESC, validation panel, or other authorised body at which changes were formally approved.

\*\*Give brief outline of what has been updated and why (e.g. section 4.2 updated due to changes in PSRB requirements).

## SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Awarding body:</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Teaching institution and location:</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Language of study:</b>	English
<b>Final award/s:</b>	MA
<b>Programme title:</b>	English Literature
<b>Interim exit awards and award titles available:</b>	PGCert, PGDip
<b>Brookes course code:</b>	HU52/MA-XX
<b>UCAS code:</b>	N/A
<b>JACS code:</b>	
<b>HECoS code:</b>	100319
<b>Mode of delivery:</b> (Mode of Study given in brackets)	Face to face/on-campus (full-time) Face to face/on-campus (part-time)
<b>Duration of study:</b>	1 year – Full Time 2 years – Part Time 8 years – Maximum possible duration
<b>Subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:</b>	<a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-english-15.pdf?sfvrsn=4f9df781_12">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-english-15.pdf?sfvrsn=4f9df781_12</a>
<b>Professional accreditation attached to the programme:</b>	N/A
<b>Apprenticeship Standard:</b>	N/A
<b>University Regulations:</b>	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: <a href="http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/">http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/</a>

## **SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?**

The MA English Literature programme offers students the opportunity to study literatures of the British Isles and of the Anglophone world through a model of progressive focalisation and specialisation that teaches literary critical skills to postgraduate level in the context of periodised, thematised and theoretical modules. The emphasis on developing core discipline and research skills in the 'Critical Debates and Methods' module embeds subject knowledge and awareness. At the same time students embark on specific elective modules related to the advanced study of literary and/or cultural production from the Renaissance to the present day. This grounding in the social, intellectual, political and cultural drivers of literary development enable students to make an informed choice about the topic of their Dissertation which enables them to practise research methodologies of a high order and engage with a subject over a substantial piece of work.

The specific aims of the English Literature programme are to:

1. provide students with the opportunity to acquire advanced knowledge of aspects of English literature, language, and drama across a broad historical period, in a variety of genres, with a central focus on imaginative literary texts, and with due attention to the regional and global range of literatures in English;
2. develop a profound understanding and appreciation of a variety of sophisticated critical approaches to the study of literary texts and language, with attention to the structure, levels and discourse functions of both, and to the appropriate terminology for the discussion of these;
3. cultivate a sense of historical sensitivity through the study of literature from different historical periods;
4. give training and demand higher-level practice in the skills required for research, using both primary and secondary sources in both written and electronic form;
5. develop the capacity to gather, evaluate, synthesise and present evidence and critical approaches, and the ability to frame considered and appropriate research questions;
6. develop the ability to construct coherent arguments, and to communicate ideas clearly and effectively, both in written work and oral presentations;
7. inculcate habits of independent study and thought necessary for life-long learning and for further research or training;
8. prepare students for employment by developing transferable skills, including presentation and communication skills, problem solving, the ability to evaluate evidence, teamwork, and the ability to understand and use feedback.

Staff profiles including their teaching and research specialisms can be accessed at:

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/english-languages/staff-and-students/academic-staff/>

## **SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

### **3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY**

- demonstrate a wide, broad-based knowledge of approaches to the study of a wide variety of texts in English, displaying the ability to apply critical, theoretical, linguistic and historical concepts to the analysis of cultural production.
- determine and implement modes of critical interpretation which are appropriate to particular texts and effective for the purposes of literary analysis at postgraduate level.
- demonstrate an familiarity with a variety of fundamental issues that motivate and orient the contemporary understanding of English Literature as an academic discipline.
- locate texts within appropriate historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts.
- produce well-conceived, well-researched and well-structured arguments supported by appropriate literary and theoretical evidence in both oral and written discussion.

### **3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY**

- acquire substantial quantities of complex information of diverse kinds in a structured and systematic way and using a variety of resources.
- engage in research using scholarly information retrieval skills of a high order, involving the ability to gather, sift and organise material critically and with intellectual flexibility.
- accurately and rigorously cite primary and secondary sources within an approved system of scholarly reference.

### **3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY**

- develop to a high level advanced critical skills of textual analysis involving the evaluation of different critical, formalistic and theoretical approaches to literary texts and the study of language.
- recognise and challenge ways in which power relations (e.g. in terms of sexuality, gender, ethnicity, and class) are constructed and perpetuated in English language, literature and culture.
- Communicate ideas and critical opinions effectively and with confidence in speech and writing, individually and in groups.
- develop time-management and advanced organisational skills, as shown by the ability to plan and present arguments and conclusions effectively.

### **3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY**

- use information-technology skills with word-processing and presentation programmes, and display an ability to access, process and produce electronic data as necessary.
- learn to evaluate critically a wide range of information resources (including digital, online and printed) and access databases and catalogues.
- display familiarity and competence with virtual learning platforms.

### **3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP**

- acquire a flexible appreciation of human diversity through the study of English as a global language with distinct variations across times, places and cultures.
- explore the treatment of issues of global significance through a range of creative and critical cultural products.

## **SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE**

### **4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Coursework: Exam ratio</b>
P64008/ FILM7007	Narration in Classical Hollywood Cinema	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67001/ ENGL7001	Critical Debates and Methods	40	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P67050/ ENGL7002	Spaces and Bodies in Early Modern English	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67051/ ENGL7003	Romanticisms	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67052/ ENGL7004	Modern and Contemporary Fiction	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67053/ ENGL7005	Victorian Texts: Visions and Revisions	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67054/ ENGL7006	Twentieth-Century Texts	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67055/ ENGL7007	Shakespeare and his Afterlife	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67065/ ENGL7008	Migrants & the Metropolis	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67068/ ENGL7009	Modern and Contemporary Poetry and Poetics	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW

P67069/ ENGL7010	Twentieth-Century American Poetry	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67070/ ENGL7011	Twentieth-Century Women Poets	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67072/ ENGL7012	Fiction in Britain since 1945	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67074/ ENGL7013	Twentieth-Century Irish Poetry	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67088/ ENGL7014	Independent Study Module	40	7	Acceptable	100%CW
P67098/ ENGL7016	Independent Study (English and Modern & Contemporary Poetry)	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW
P67099/ ENGL7017	Dissertation	60	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P69003/ FILM7009	Gender Performance in Film	40	7	Acceptable	100% CW

#### 4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Indicate any specific requirements for progression and awards in respect of the modules that must be passed, including any requirements that must be met to qualify for interim exit awards:

1. **PG Cert: 80 credits, comprising**
  - P67001/ENGL7001 Critical Debates and Methods (40 credits)
  - One 40 credit Elective Module
2. **PG Dip: 120 credits, comprising:**
  - P67001/ENGL7001 Critical Debates and Methods (40 credits)
  - 2 x 40 credit Elective Modules
3. **MA: 180 credits, comprising:**
  - P67001/ENGL7001 Critical Debates and Methods (40 credits)
  - 2 x 40 credit Elective Modules
  - P67099 Dissertation (60 credits)

Students must have obtained passes in P67001/ENGL7001 and in 40 credits of approved elective modules before proceeding to the Dissertation module, P67099/ENGL7017. Part-time students will normally have completed all their elective module requirements (80 credits) before proceeding to P67099/ENGL7017.

Students who have achieved passes in both elective modules only after resubmission may be counselled against proceeding with the Dissertation module and advised to proceed to the award of Postgraduate Diploma. Permission to proceed to the writing-up phase of the Dissertation will be dependent on the production of a satisfactory Dissertation proposal which students are asked to submit mid-way through semester 2 (full-time students) or Semester 4 (part-time students). A student who fails to submit a satisfactory Dissertation proposal in the course of module P67099/ENGL7017 will be advised to withdraw from this module and proceed to the award of Postgraduate Diploma.

#### 4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

N/A

### SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

There are a variety of teaching and learning methods used across the programme. All modules use more than one learning and teaching method, and this ensures students experience a range of different learning opportunities, which helps maintain student motivation and interest and which results in effective learning.

*Updated January 2018*

Some of the key teaching methods used are:

**Seminars:** Teaching is mostly by small-group seminar. We value the close working environment enabled by small groups and therefore enrolments on elective modules will usually be limited to a maximum of 12 students. Some modules will be team-taught, in which case a team of staff will share the weekly sessions between them.

**Group discussion** is a key feature of seminar teaching. Prepared readings are usually set for weekly classes and students should be prepared to discuss these in the seminar with their peers. In each module students may be asked to give occasional presentations to the class on a prepared topic, either based on shared reading, or on their own work-in-progress.

**Independent Study:** Academic work at Master's level requires a high degree of independently motivated research and preparation. Students should expect to undertake an average of 30 (full-time Students) or 15 (part-time students) study hours per week, in addition to scheduled class time.

### **Linking Teaching with Research**

Teaching at Level 7 is all based on teams of staff working within historical or other conceptual frameworks within which their own research and scholarship is concentrated. Elective modules offer students the opportunity to work in an academic area with a specialist who is researching and publishing in the area of her/his teaching.

### **Internationalisation of the Curriculum**

The programme is informed intellectually by the global nature of English as a language of mass communication, and by the impact of literature of the British Isles on global culture. On a modular level, elective modules often address cultural production outside the context of British writing through modules such as 'New York Stories', 'Madness, Psychoanalysis and Writing', and 'Reading Metafiction'. The central 'Critical Debates and Methods' module addresses critical and theoretical ideas from across the globe as a means of broadening students' intellectual horizons.

### **Assessment and Feedback Policy**

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/getmedia/f614bd44-70b4-4d1a-85d8-1fd580819d3a/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy.pdf>

### **Regulations for Study**

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/assessment-and-progression>

## **SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME**

### **6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants should normally hold a good honours degree (2:1 or above), or its equivalent, in an appropriate discipline. Applicants will usually be interviewed, either in person or electronically.

Applicants whose first language is not English should hold one of the following qualifications:

- British Council (IELTS) Test: band 7 overall with at least 6 in each band
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency: grade C or above
- NEAB University Test in English for Speakers of Other Languages: Pass
- JMB Test in English for Overseas Students: grade 1, 2 or 3

An offer of a place on the course is subject to acceptance by the student of the conditions of acceptance set out in the University's prospectus. Staff will not enter into detailed feedback on portfolios or on any other aspect of the application process.

### **6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED**

N/A

*Updated January 2018*

### **6.3 JOB ROLE/EMPLOYER PROFILE (DEGREE AND HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS)**

N/A

## **SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

Please provide information about how the programme has been designed to prepare students for employment. This may include, for example: the involvement of visiting lecturers from relevant industries/professions; involvement of relevant professionals/employers in other learning activities; mentoring; work placements (optional or integral to the programme); any other opportunities for work-based learning.

English Literature graduates go on to a wide variety of jobs in a number of different employment sectors. The following list is indicative of common destinations but is in no way comprehensive:

- Arts administration and management
- Charity work
- Civil Service
- Creative Industries
- Law
- Marketing
- Publishing
- Retail
- Teaching

The Subject team has positive relations and contacts with local employers in a number of areas (such as museum work, the leisure industry, marketing organisations, charities and NGOs), and these can be of significant benefit to postgraduate students not considering continuing study. The team has also contributed to a number of careers events with local, national and international employers and has forged links through research-based activities with a variety of creative arts, healthcare and environmental projects.