

Course Specification

Published Date:	21-Sep-2020
Produced By:	Laura Clode
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Humanities		
Course Code(s):	MZ003P01UV MZ003P31UV	Full-time Part-time	1 Years 2 Years
Course Title:	MA Popular Culture		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Arts Popular Culture Postgraduate Diploma Popular Culture Postgraduate Certificate Popular Culture University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	26/Apr/2017		
Last Review:	2014/5		
Course Specification valid from:	2010/1		
Course Specification valid to:	2020/1		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Mark Jones
Head of Department:	Dr Frank Wilson

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

- You should normally have a good Honours degree in an arts, humanities, or social sciences subject
- Substantial relevant experience or professional qualifications can substitute for graduate status

Distinctive Features of the Course:

This is one of very few courses of this nature in the country. It draws on internationally acknowledged expertise in the fields that contribute to the programme.

Educational Aims of the Course:

MA Popular Culture will introduce you to advanced level study of various aspects of popular culture, principally that produced and consumed in Britain since the late nineteenth century. It is an interdisciplinary programme, befitting the range of approaches and methodologies applicable to the area of study. Central aspects of the course include the role of popular culture in everyday life, the archiving and memorialising of popular culture, and popular genres. On completion of the course, you will be equipped with the contextual knowledge and analytical tools to advance your encounters with popular culture in a variety of careers and academic environments.

Intakes:

September
January

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time	£6400.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time	£13350.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3200.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

January (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 1

You must select 180 credits for your award.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7PP004	Theories and Concepts for the Analysis of Popular Culture	20	IN YR	Core

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 80 credits

7HS002	Popular Consumerism in Britain, c. 1900-1939	20	IN YR	
7PP006	Science Fiction and Fantasy	20	IN YR	
7PP003	Crime of the Century - Murders and the Media	20	IN YR	
7FI003	Space, Place and Culture in Contemporary American Cinema	20	IN YR	

7HU001	Dissertation	60	CRYRA	Core
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For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 80 credits

7HS004	Youth Sub-cultures and National Identity in Post-War Britain	20	IN YR	
7PP002	The Sacred and the Profane in Popular Culture	20	IN YR	
7FI006	Screening Horror: Trauma, Fear and Fantasy in Film	20	IN YR	
7EN004	Corpus 2: Post-1900 Writers and their Work	20	IN YR	
7EN006	Connectivities 2: Literature, Genre and Period	20	IN YR	

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7HU001	Dissertation	60	CRYRA	Core
7PP004	Theories and Concepts for the Analysis of Popular Culture	20	IN YR	Core

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 100 credits and a maximum of 100 credits from the linked (*) groups.

***For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 80 credits**

7HS004	Youth Sub-cultures and National Identity in Post-War Britain	20	IN YR	
7PP002	The Sacred and the Profane in Popular Culture	20	IN YR	
7FI006	Screening Horror: Trauma, Fear and Fantasy in Film	20	IN YR	
7EN004	Corpus 2: Post-1900 Writers and their Work	20	IN YR	
7EN006	Connectivities 2: Literature, Genre and Period	20	IN YR	

***For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 80 credits**

7HS002	Popular Consumerism in Britain, c. 1900-1939	20	IN YR	
7PP006	Science Fiction and Fantasy	20	IN YR	
7PP003	Crime of the Century - Murders and the Media	20	IN YR	
7FI003	Space, Place and Culture in Contemporary American Cinema	20	IN YR	

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

None

Reference Points:

Quality Code - [Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards](#). Including :

[Qualifications Frameworks](#)

[Characteristics Statements](#)

[Credit Frameworks](#)

[Subject Benchmark Statements](#) – *see below*

[University Policies and Regulations](#)

Equality Act (2010)

The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (QAA, 2008) provides generic level descriptors for Masters qualifications which have been used to inform the pathway outcomes for the full MA. *Masters Degree Characteristics* (QAA, 2010) has also been consulted. Masters subject benchmarks have not been produced for any arts or humanities subjects. Undergraduate subject benchmarks have been consulted, but as this is an interdisciplinary award drawing on the academic heritage, teaching staff and modules from many areas, it is impossible to prioritise one set of subject benchmarks; the following have been consulted, and are contributory in the development of the course: Communication, media, film and cultural studies; English; History; History of art, architecture and design/Art and design. The course outcomes drawn from the subject benchmarks are typically those that recognise interdisciplinarity within discipline boundaries, and are appropriately modified to reflect the specificity of this course. All statements within the course learning outcomes are drawn from *The framework for higher education qualifications* (QAA FHEQ) unless otherwise noted

Learning Outcomes:

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGCCL01)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: 1. to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline. 2. to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGCCL02)

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGCCL03)

Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGCCL04)

Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGCCL05)

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGCCL06)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: 1. the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility 2. decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations 3. the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGDCL01)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: 1. to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline 2. to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGDCLO2)

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGDCLO3)

Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGDCLO4)

Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGDCLO5)

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGDCLO6)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: 1. the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility 2. decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations 3. the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 1 (MACLO1)

Provide evidence of a high level of self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, as well as in planning and implementing tasks.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 2 (MACLO2)

Demonstrate a high capacity for independent analysis, synthesis and scholarly engagement.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 3 (MACLO3)

Contextualise and synthesise various methodologies, theories and analytical tools relevant to postgraduate English studies.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 4 (MACLO4)

Contextualise and synthesise various methodologies, theories and analytical tools relevant to postgraduate English studies.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 5 (MACLO5)

analyse closely, interpret, and show the exercise of critical judgement in the understanding and, as appropriate, evaluation of forms of popular culture

Masters Course Learning Outcome 6 (MACLO6)

show critical awareness of how texts produce and reflect cultural change and difference

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
7EN004	Corpus 2: Post-1900 Writers and their Work	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO5, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7EN006	Connectivities 2: Literature, Genre and Period	MACLO2, MACLO4, MACLO6, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7FI003	Space, Place and Culture in Contemporary American Cinema	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO5, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7FI006	Screening Horror: Trauma, Fear and Fantasy in Film	MACLO2, MACLO4, MACLO5, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7HU001	Dissertation	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6
7PP001	Youth Sub-cultures and National Identity in Post-War Britain	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO4, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7PP002	The Sacred and the Profane in Popular Culture	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO5, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7PP003	Crime of the Century - Murders and the Media	MACLO2, MACLO5, MACLO6, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7PP004	Theories and Concepts for the Analysis of Popular Culture	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7PP005	Popular Consumerism in Britain, c. 1850-1939	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO4, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7PP006	Science Fiction and Fantasy	MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO6, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

All modules are delivered principally through weekly seminars. Tutors supply directed reading and activities. Individual modules may also include, variously, online forums, reading logs, collaborative activities, presentations, assessment plans, creative work. The dissertation is researched and written with the guidance of a supervisor from an appropriate discipline.

During the course of their studies students will engage with a wide variety of materials, analysing and evaluating them through various approaches. A recurring aspect of their engagements with popular culture will be a consideration of the increasing digitalisation of archived materials. They will also become increasingly aware of the commercial determinants for the cultural industries, and the internationalisation of contemporary popular cultural forms.

The Masters is awarded upon successful submission of a dissertation on the student's chosen topic. Throughout the taught portion of the award, the standard assessment for each module is a long essay, which befits the postgraduate academic rigour of the degree programme across all its modules. Some modules employ an additional assessment method, and these vary in both nature and weighting depending on their particular function within the module's assessment regime and teaching methodologies. Each of the assessment methods is supported by the pedagogical approaches of the various modules, and are designed to test the particular modes of knowledge and enquiry fostered by the course content.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

As this is a multi-disciplinary course, each module has its own methodologies and approaches, and students are supported in developing these skills as and when necessary. More generic guidance and skills are introduced to the students through the Theories and Methodologies module, and by the judicious allocation of experienced supervisors for the dissertation.

Employability in the Curriculum:

The programme is diverse and multi-disciplinary. As this is a postgraduate course with a popular part-time route, many of the students are already working in the cultural and educational industries, and the course is being utilised to improve professional knowledge and practice. All modules on the programme include some consideration of the commercial exploitation of popular culture, either in history or current practice. Students can - and some have - chosen to concentrate on these areas more explicitly in their assignments and dissertations.

