PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	**MA English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions** The MA English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions is a masters degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma: English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions Postgraduate Certificate: English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Regent site, University of Westminster
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Full time and part time September and January start
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	n/a
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	n/a
Date of course validation/review:	Last review 2012
Date of programme specification approval:	June 2017
Course Leader:	Georgina Colby
Valid for cohorts:	From September 2017
Course URL: Westminster Course Code: JACS code: UKPASS code:	westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate PMENG06F (Full-time) PMENG06P (Part-time) Q320 P021675

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply

Aims of the course

The MA English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions is part of a suite of Masters programmes under the title of Cultural, Critical and Literary Studies that is based within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. This suite also includes the MAs in Critical and Cultural Studies, in Art and Visual Culture, and in Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture. The MA English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions provides a course that is wide-ranging in terms of historical period, but also has specific focus on particular topics. Options are offered across the four MAs, enabling students to construct a programme of study in which they can follow particular themes in the areas that most interest them.

Specifically the MA English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions aims to:
- develop and scrutinise the ideas of reading, re-reading and interpretation
- provide an advanced, wide-ranging study of English Literature
- examine recent critical developments in literary studies
- set literary studies within an interdisciplinary contextual framework
- conduct specific examination of particular periods, movements and locations
- foster an ability to apply theoretical perspectives to texts
- develop advanced skills in argument, synthesis and critical expression
- enhance advanced skills of research and presentation specific to English
- provide a route to further research.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses

- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students

- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision

- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

The MA English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions is intended to provide students with sophisticated critical skills and a widely applicable knowledge base. This enables further study at MPhil or PhD levels, but is also particularly relevant to teaching and to a range of professions in the creative and cultural industries.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and understanding

Graduates of the MA will:
- have examined a range of literary texts and other forms of cultural production
- be able to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of some recent critical developments
- be familiar with the interdisciplinary connections of literary studies
- have a sophisticated knowledge of particular periods and movements
- understand and use the critical ideas of re-reading and interpretation
- have a sophisticated knowledge of current critical positions and debates
- be able to deploy advanced theoretical approaches in relation to a variety of texts
- have developed advanced skills of argument, synthesis and critical expression
- have enhanced skills of research and presentation.

Specific skills

Graduates of the MA will acquire a range of advanced scholarly and critical skills such as:
- critical skills in the close reading and analysis of texts
- critical skills in the reading and assessment of a range of critical works
- advanced use of an appropriate critical terminology
- sophisticated awareness of generic conventions and of the shaping effects upon communication of context, authorship, textual production, and intended audience
- the ability to place critical arguments and debates within the discipline as an historical and conceptual discourse
- an ability to articulate how different formal, linguistic and cultural contexts affect the nature of language and meaning
- a sophisticated response to the central role of language in the creation of literary meaning
- advanced skills in effective communication and argument, oral and written
- the scholarly skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and use of bibliographical conventions.

Key transferable skills

Graduates of the MA will be able to demonstrate:
- the ability to present sustained and persuasive written and oral arguments, advanced literacy and communication skills, and the ability to cogently and clearly apply these in appropriate contexts

- the capacity to critically examine any form of discourse using close reading and analysis of texts
- the ability to acquire quickly substantial quantities of complex information of diverse kinds in a structured way, involving the use of sophisticated interpretive skills
- competence in planning and execution of essays and other kinds of work
- capacity for independent thought and judgement
- advanced skills in critical reasoning
- the ability to comprehend and develop intricate concepts in an open-ended way which involves an understanding of purpose and consequences
- the ability to work with, and in relation to, others through the presentation of ideas and information
- the ability to understand, interrogate and apply a range of theoretical positions, as well as the importance of alternative perspectives
- the ability to handle information and argument in a critical and self reflective manner
- sophisticated research skills, including scholarly information retrieval
- information-technology skills such as word processing and electronic data access information
- interpersonal and team skills, relating to the ability to work flexibly and creatively with other people and engage in rational debate
- time-management and organisational skills, as shown by the ability to plan and present findings effectively
- confidence in expression and the articulation of complex ideas.

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Modules are taught by one two-hour or three-hour seminar per week, depending on the subject. Seminars are focussed on student-centred learning, with use of nonassessed presentations and in-class projects to encourage student participation. Teaching will also centrally involve the use of London institutions as a resource, including the directed use of various archives, museums, and galleries. Further to this each student will be assigned an academic tutor from among the academic staff with whom they will have at least one timetabled session in the first semester. Assessment methods deployed on the course include coursework in the form of essays, reports and oral presentations, as well as the final 12,000 word dissertation. There are no formal examinations.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Part-time students will normally complete 180 credits in two academic years. The MA consists of three core modules (of which the dissertation is one) and four options modules.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7ELIT007W	Themes and Problems in Modern and Contemporary Literature	Core	20	10
7ELIT002W	Materialities, Institutions and Contexts	Core	20	10
7ELIT001W	Dissertation	Core	60	30
7ELIT003W	London and Modernism: Manifesto, Literature, Painting, Film	Option	20	10
7CLST015W	Urban Cultures	Option	20	10
7CLST018W	Work Placement in Cultural Institutions	Option	20	10
7CREW010W	Experimental Women's Writing, Photography and Film	Option	20	10
7ELIT010W	Trauma in American Modernity: The Nation and its Limits	Option	20	10
7ELIT011W	Queer Now	Option	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

The Course is hosted in the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, one of the departments within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. The Course is directly managed by a Course Leader within the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, and will be overseen by a Programme Director with responsibility for the management and co-ordination of the Cultural, Critical and Literary Studies MAs suite as a whole. Each module on the course also has a designated Module Leader responsible for the administration and monitoring of its design and delivery. The course teaching team consists of staff from the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies. Key members of the course team meet regularly each year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of the course. Staff undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by colleagues leading to staff development through course attendance and/or

research and scholarly activity. Staff teaching on the course also attend events organised by the Faculty Academic Standards and the Faculty Teaching and Learning Groups around current teaching, learning and assessment issues. The MA course intersects with, and draws upon, the institutional resources provided by the wider set of events and research initiatives co-ordinated by staff within the Faculty as well as both the research seminar series hosted by the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, and by the various events and collaborative ventures organised under the umbrella of the Institute of Modern and Contemporary Culture.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students[1] can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2001. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a

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[1] Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years e.g. from Course Committees is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peer. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.

- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.

- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.

- The University also has an annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey or PTES which helps us compare how we are doing with other institutions, to make changes that will improve what we do in future and to keep doing the things that you value.