Plymouth University

Faculty of Arts & Humanities

School of Humanities

Programme Specification

MA English & Culture, *incorporating the exit awards*

MA English & Culture: Literature and Modernity, 1860-1960
MA English & Culture: Art, Architecture, and Literature in the Eighteenth Century

**Code: 4480**

November 2014

Approved by Minor Change 12/11/14
1. MA English & Culture

Final award title

3 possible final awards:
- MA English & Culture
- MA English & Culture: Literature and Modernity, 1860-1960
- MA English & Culture: Art, Architecture, and Literature in the Eighteenth Century

All at Pass, Merit, or Distinction

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s)

- PGCert/ Dip English & Culture
- PGCert/ Dip English & Culture: Literature and Modernity
- PGCert/ Dip English & Culture: Art, Architecture, and Literature in the Eighteenth Century

All at Pass, Merit or Distinction

UCAS and JACS codes are not applicable to this programme.

2. Awarding Institution: University of Plymouth

   Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. Accrediting body(ies)  n/a

   Summary of specific conditions/regulations

   Date of re-accreditation

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

   This programme is distinctive in a number of ways. It offers an attractive degree of optionality for students, because students seeking to pursue one particular exit award may
still take modules attached to other exit awards, thus broadening their intellectual experience and encouraging critical thinking across historical periods. The MA English & Culture allows students to trace various ideas central to contemporary literary criticism through ‘long’ historical narratives. The two specialist exit awards mean that students can graduate with named awards in areas which are under-represented nationally across the sector at PGT level. The programme retains an emphasis on interdisciplinarity, with its research skills course foregrounding this element. The two specialist awards are consciously interdisciplinary, with the Modernity award integrating cultural studies, and the eighteenth-century award incorporating teaching by colleagues from Art History or Architecture into each of its modules. The programme also makes use of distinctive local resources, such as the City Museum & Gallery, the Port Eliot estate, Saltram House, and the University’s rare books collections. The eighteenth-century award has a valuable relationship with the National Trust in the area, involving the incorporation of NT staff expertise into the programme and the use of space in an NT property. Finally, the programme is particularly good at catering for part-time students, because the modules are deliberately rotated annually, such that students doing the degree over two years will always have a fresh choice from year to year.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA M-Level Descriptors

6. Programme Structure

A map of the programme structure is attached separately, but essentially:

All students take MAEL700 (30 credits).

They then take a further 90 credits of taught modules of their choice. They take a dissertation module (ENMA720, MALT760, or MAEL740).

If they have a preponderance of credits, including the dissertation, in ENM then they get a Modernity award; if in MALT, then an eighteenth-century award; and if a mix of modules, then simply an MA English & Culture.

7. Programme Aims

1. Give students a thorough grounding in the current debates and research methodologies at the forefront of English studies
2. Give students a comprehensive understanding of research skills and techniques such as usage of appropriate specialist databases, and the deployment of appropriate research strategies

3. Develop students’ skills in appropriate and self-critical expression of original ideas, particularly through academic writing and presentations

4. Aid students in developing project management skills through their completion of a dissertation involving goal-setting and time management, as well as the production of high-quality work

5. Help students to critically evaluate current research, advanced scholarship, and methodologies pertinent to the discipline

The M.A. English & Culture aims also to:

6. Introduce students to a chronologically diverse range of material including contemporary texts not covered on our UG offering

7. Aid students in making creative and meaningful thematic connections between disparate texts

8. Give students the opportunity to set their thematically based study alongside some period-specific study to enable them to compare approaches

The exit award Literature & Modernity also aims to:

9. Engage students with debates specific to scholarship of this period and subsequent philosophical formulations of ‘modernity’

10. Introduce students to a range of texts, ideas, and cultural forms from this period, making use of University holdings in this period

11. Encourage students to explore and engage critically with the culture of this period by reading across a range of disciplines

The exit award Art, Architecture and Literature in the Eighteenth Century also aims to:

12. Broaden students’ knowledge of the ‘long’ eighteenth century in terms of literature, the built environment and material culture, and the visual arts

13. Introduce students to the idea of interdisciplinary research in this period and equip them to carry out such research themselves

14. Encourage students to explore and make use of the eighteenth-century-related resources in the local area

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:
1) Demonstrate a systematic knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of literary studies
a) for the Modernity exit award – demonstrate such understanding specifically with regard to this period
b) for the C18th pathway – demonstrate such understanding specifically with regard to this period

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research techniques in literary studies.
a) for the Modernity exit award – demonstrate such understanding specifically with regard to the specialist resources available in the University, such as special collections material
b) for the C18th exit award – demonstrate such understanding specifically with regard to interdisciplinary research in the period

Analyse and synthesize complex, contradictory, or incomplete texts and aspects of texts in relation to relevant cultural, historical, theoretical, and intellectual contexts
a) for the Modernity exit award – perform this analysis and synthesis with an eye to the historical and cultural specificities of this period
b) for the C18th exit award – perform this analysis specifically with regard to visual, written, and architectural ‘texts’ of the eighteenth century

Critically evaluate primary sources, advanced scholarship, and research methodologies
a) for the Modernity exit award – evaluate primary and secondary sources from the period, and research methodologies particularly associated with scholarship of this period
b) for the C18th exit award – evaluate primary and secondary sources from the period, and research methodologies particularly associated with scholarship of this period

Demonstrate originality and autonomy in bringing to bear methodologies and theoretical concepts on appropriate literary, visual, and other cultural phenomena

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

Undertake sophisticated research with a minimum of guidance and work autonomously

Communicate ideas and knowledge clearly in more than one medium

Use a range of learning resources.

Reflect critically on their own learning and practice.

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

Qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

Exercise initiative and personal responsibility

Present complex ideas and information in a clear and accessible fashion to a mixed audience
8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

Apply technical expertise to facilitate independent research using a range of databases and other academic tools.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

As the template provided was for an undergraduate programme, I have deleted it and provided the originally approved entry requirements as below, which have not changed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A good degree (normally a 2.1 or above) in a relevant subject (generally a Humanities subject, but this is open to negotiation). Where relevant, students may be asked to provide evidence of English language qualifications (normally, IELTS level 7). Applicants may be asked for interview or to provide a writing sample. The University has particularly good support services for students with disabilities, and accordingly welcomes applicants from appropriately qualified disabled candidates. The University also has substantial experience in supporting mature students and welcomes applicants in this category. Applicants with APL will be considered on an individual basis according to the University Regulations Framework. Students interested in transferring postgraduate credits will be considered on merit, and current University regulations regarding transfer of credits from other institutions will apply.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

n/a

11. Exceptions to Regulations

There are no special regulations associated with this programme except for the 'distinctive features' of the eighteenth-century exit award noted in the approval documentation.

12. Transitional Arrangements

n/a
13. Mapping and Appendices:

Revised programme structure diagram
Learning outcomes against modules
Structure diagram from 4480 (MA English & Culture with different exit awards)

2015-16

**Students admitted onto ‘MA English & Culture’ programme**

*Begin by doing the compulsory term 1 module Research Methods*

Research Methods – run by BL (MAEL700) – all students do this combined module

*There is then a choice of one further module in semester 1…*

C18th option – MALT710 (P. Hinds)

Modernity option – ENMA704 (R. Christofides)

*And in term 2 they each take two of these three available options, plus beginning their dissertations…*

C18th option – MALT712 (B. Latimer)

Modernity option – ENMA706 (A. Smith)

Non-period-specific option: MAEL708 (M. Wild)

*Spring/ summer module…*

**Dissertation** module – either ENMA720, MALT760, MAEL740, according to exit award

Students with a preponderance (60 cr + dissertation) in either Modernity or C18th will wind up with a named degree in those areas – or students with a mix of credits will exit with a general ‘MA in English’.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Programme Intended Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Aim</th>
<th>Related Core Modules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge/ Understanding</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate a systematic knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of literary studies</td>
<td>1, 2, 5, 9, 13</td>
<td>MAEL700, ENMA502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to research in literary studies.</td>
<td>1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 13, 14</td>
<td>MAEL500-509, ENMA502-509, MALT710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive / Intellectual Skills (generic)</td>
<td>1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 12</td>
<td>MAEL700, ENMA502, ENMA720, MALT760, MAEL740</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyse and synthesize complex, contradictory, or incomplete texts and aspects of texts in relation to relevant cultural, historical, theoretical, and intellectual contexts</td>
<td>6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14</td>
<td>MAEL500-509, ENMA502-509, MALT710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critically evaluate primary sources, advanced scholarship, and research methodologies</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14</td>
<td>MAEL500-509, ENMA502-509, MALT710</td>
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<td>Demonstrate originality and autonomy in bringing to bear methodologies and theoretical concepts on appropriate literary, visual, and other cultural phenomena</td>
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## Key / Transferable Skills (generic)

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Course Codes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Undertake sophisticated research with a minimum of guidance and work autonomously</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicate ideas and knowledge clearly in more than one medium</td>
<td>3, 11, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use a range of learning resources.</td>
<td>2, 6, 10, 13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflect critically on their own learning and practice.</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Practical Skills</strong> (subject specific)</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Apply technical expertise to facilitate independent research using a range of databases and other academic tools. | 2, 10, 13, 14 | MAEL500-509
|  |  | ENMA502-509
|  |  | MALT710 |

<table>
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<th><strong>Employment-related skills</strong></th>
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<td>Qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise initiative and personal responsibility</td>
<td>3, 4, 7</td>
<td>MAEL700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present complex ideas and information in a clear and accessible fashion to a mixed audience</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MAEL700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Other** |  |  |