Course Specification
Part A

MA English Literature
AHT060

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
School of Humanities

Academic Year: 2021/22

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

1. Introduction

MA English Literature at Coventry University is a course for students who want to further explore the major literary periods that they will have encountered at undergraduate level, but who also want to better understand the relationship between literature and the environment—an area of both scholarly growth and pressing concern. This focus picks up on existing themes of Coventry's BA English Literature course, such as regional studies and spatiality (including the literature of the English Midlands), fantasy and speculative fictions, African-American literature, anglophone world literatures, literatures of the American West, Gothic literature, literature of the Early Modern and Romantic periods, and contemporary literature. MA English Literature explores the interrelations between literature and the environments in which it is produced and received. It employs a broad understanding of the word 'environment' to include wilderness, wasteland, urban, suburban and domestic spaces. It seeks to understand the role of literature in collective human and non-human resistance and adaptation to environmental change. It equips students for advanced interdisciplinary study and with key transferable skills.

The course content is geared towards domestic and international audiences. 'Introduction to Literature in Environment' considers the relationship between literary communities and climate change, from ancient Mesopotamia right up to present day climate fictions from around the world. It also equips students with a range of theories and methodologies for interdisciplinary study, including ecocriticism, ecofeminism, ecomarxism, waste studies, critical race studies and climate justice. 'Shakespearean Spaces' considers Shakespeare in a global context, from postcolonial critiques of Renaissance travel narratives and plays such as *The Tempest*, to the inheritance of Early Modern conceptions of nature, the 'green world' and Androcentrism. Meanwhile, 'Romantic Environments and Emotions' considers urban, suburban and domestic spaces as contested environments that, registering the 'chemical turn' in the humanities, are populated with a variety of objects and substances that interact with our bodies on molecular as well as emotional levels. Drawing on ecocriticism, and critical race theory, 'Environment and the American West' considers the American West as a terrain contested both colonially and imaginatively through the literature of its indigenous and settler peoples. 'Gothic Nature' is concerned with the response to the climate catastrophe and mass extinctions manifested in genres including the Gothic, horror, the weird and the eerie, science fiction, nature writing, autobiography and more. In 'Postcoloniality and Environment' students will explore global colonial and postcolonial literatures and discourses in conversation with the intersecting disciplines of climate justice, waste studies and uneven development. Students will examine literary texts in light of imperialism, neo-imperialism, ecofeminism, environmental racism and extractive capitalism, and through ongoing environmental catastrophes and conflicts such as those in Bhopal, the Niger Delta or Ecuador. Modules will feature frequent excursions to Coventry and Warwickshire, as well as study trips to literary environments such as Lake Geneva and the Lake District. Students might, for instance, explore the vast landfill site on the outskirts of Birmingham, one of the largest in the UK and the site of innovative and controversial waste disposal techniques.

In keeping with our course's conception of the word 'environment,' Ma English Literature combines ecocriticism's more traditional focus on non-human or wild landscapes with a keen interest in the built environment and its materials and waste products, urban and suburban spaces, domestic spaces and domesticated animals, and the borderlands and edgelands that join the city with suburbia and suburbia with rural landscapes. Representations of the non-human and the 'natural' shape our experience of environment, just as they frame our conceptions of the human world. MA English Literature recognises that even purportedly wild spaces such as national parks or marine environments are marked by human presence and activity, just as our ostensibly human environments are unsettled by the presence of non-human entities, or haunted by their absence. As a space that was violently and rapidly unmade and remade during and in the wake of World War II, Coventry itself provides a fascinating case study of the evolving relationship between people, non-human animals and the built environment, of the environmentally destructive capacities of war, and of its imbrication with nationalisms and the legacies of colonialism.

MA English Literature will equip students for further academic study as well as employment in public and private sector research organisations. It will foster transferable critical, analytical, organisational, research and campaign skills that are in demand in a wide variety of workplaces, industries and careers. It will prepare students to be informed citizens in a time of global environmental crisis. In the decarbonising economies of the coming decades, in Britain and the wider world, our graduates will be well placed to participate in the careers and industries that will emerge to tackle the climate crisis.

As part of this course students will undertake a transnational development module which is designed to offer skills as encouraged by the Institute of Leadership and Management. This module also offers students the choice to tailor their professional skills from a menu focussing on leadership, transcultural communications and professional skills.

Professional Experience

During semester one, students can apply for the extended route, which offers an opportunity to reflect upon and gain professional experience through three semesters of internship or placement* with a host of different organisations. Students can also undertake or participate in supervised, campus-based University projects. The professional experience supports the development of students' personal and professional skills, such as communication, team-working, self-management, project working and critical reflection to enhance their future employability. This experience will build up on students' previous learning and experiences and encourage them to reflect on their work and skill sets prior to undertaking the final sixty credits of M level study.

Professional experience placements may be paid or unpaid, and this will depend on what is being offered and agreed with the host organisation. Internships can be international, within the UK or may be internal, within the University. Students who secure appropriate campus-based professional experience, may undertake supervised projects, related research and activities designed to offer students the opportunity to develop and integrate curriculum related skills with an understanding of professional practice.

*Internships and placements are subject to competitive application, availability and additional fees.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
MA English Literature	FT: 1 Year/2 years with professional experience placement PT: 2 years	N/A	7
Postgraduate Diploma in English Literature (PGDip)			
Postgraduate Certificate in English Literature (PGCert)			

3 Awarding Institution/Body	Coventry University.
4 Collaboration	N/A
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Coventry University Main Campus
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates	Date of approval: February 2021 Date for next review: 2026/27
7 Course Accredited by	N/A
8 Accreditation Date and Duration	N/A
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors	This MA draws upon the QAA 2019 subject benchmark statement for English: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/search-results?indexCatalogue=global&searchQuery=Subject%20Benchmark%20Statement%3A%20English&wordsMode=AllWords .It also refers to the University's Reviewed Corporate Strategy , the CU Assessment Strategy 2015-2021, the CU Education Strategy 2015-2021 and the 2015 QAA *Characteristics Statement Masters Degrees*

10 Date of Course Specification	January 2020
11 Course Director	TBC

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The broad aims of the MA in English Literature are to:

- provide a rigorous, intellectually stimulating, interdisciplinary learning environment;
- enable students to adopt a wide range of research, analytical and creative strategies;
- develop students' ability to contextualise their own research within the critical traditions that precede and surround them;
- develop students' speculative and reflective approaches to reading and research and recognise the importance of literary and political communities of resistance in relation to climate change;
- foster students' critical and research ambitions and support them in achieving their aspirations;
- inspire enthusiasm for the subject and an awareness of its social, intercultural, political and economic importance;
- encourage students to recognise the skills and insights they develop through the course, and help them identify postgraduate career opportunities to use at home and abroad;
- enable students to interact effectively with others whilst being sensitive to cultural difference;
- enable students to work independently and manage their own goals and deadlines;
- enable students to conduct and disseminate the findings of high-level research.

These aims are in conformity with the University's Mission Statement, with the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and the QAA Subject Benchmark Statements.

13 Course Learning Outcomes

The course outcomes have been mapped against the 6 pillars of the Education Strategy:
a) Creativity & enterprise
b) Intercultural & international engagement
c) Community contribution and responsibility
d) Innovation & digital fluency
e) Employability
f) Research-inspired teaching

On successful completion of the course a student will be able to

1. Critically assess the importance of the environment to writing of different periods, geographical regions, genres and forms (b, c, f)
2. Articulate and critique the role of literature in reflecting environmental concerns and galvanising communities of resistance (b, c, f)
3. Employ high level information retrieval and analytical skills, including the ability to interpret, evaluate, synthesise and organise archival material, to formulate independent critical judgements, articulate reasoned arguments and find creative solutions; (b, c, d, e, f)
4. Synthesize and critically employ a wide range of historical, philosophical, scientific and theoretical knowledge bases in the analysis of literature (a, c, e)
5. Demonstrate engagement with wider contexts and communities, including the political and societal effects of literary research and criticism; (a, b, c, d, e)
6. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the employment opportunities and career pathways open to them as literary and environmental researchers. (a, e)
7. Apply knowledge and understanding of the principles of community engagement in response to climate change. (e)

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

Pattern and mode of attendance

The course has been devised as both a one-year full-time course and a part-time course taken over two years. The mode of attendance is face-to-face contact with some use of online tasks/formative work.

The course leads to the award of one of three named exit qualifications, namely PgC., PgD. or MA in Literature and Environment. The length of registration is in-line with the Academic Regulations. It is taught in daytime-scheduled modules. It is constructed on the basis of the University's taught postgraduate modular framework (180 credits) on Mode R, aligned to QAA benchmark statement.

September start

Indicative running order:

Full time

Module	Credits	Semester
7087HUM Introduction to Environment in English Literature	30	1
7066HUM Shakespearean Spaces	15	1
7064HUM Romantic Environments and Emotions	15	1
7067HUM Environment and the American West	15	2
7063HUM Gothic Nature	15	2
7079HUM Postcoloniality and Environment	15	2
7070HUM Research Methods	15	2
7068HUM Dissertation	50	3
7001CGE Transnational Professional Development	10	3

Part time

Module	Credits	Year	Semester
7087HUM Introduction to Environment in English Literature	30	1	1
7066HUM Shakespearean Spaces	15	2	1
7063HUM Gothic Nature	15	1	2
7067HUM Environment and the American West	15	1	2
7001CGE Transnational Professional Development	10	1	3
7064HUM Romantic Environments and Emotion	15	2	1
7079HUM Postcoloniality and Environment	15	2	2
7070HUM Research Methods	15	2	2
7068HUM Dissertation	50	2	3

Professional Experience

During semester 1, students who have expressed an interest in undertaking a work placement or internship should begin the application process for these opportunities. Students have the responsibility for securing a placement/internship. They will be supported throughout the application process by a specialist employer engagement team. The university will work with employers to identify opportunities. Subject to securing a placement/internship, the International Student Support team will work with international students to obtain UK study visa extensions. Visas required to work in other countries will be the responsibility of the student.

The course is structured so that students complete two semesters of taught modules and then could spend three semesters on professional experience placement. During this time students would be enrolled onto modules 7088HUM, 7089HUM, and 7090HUM. The modules are zero credit and do not contribute to the classification of the award but must be passed to complete the placement. Upon completion of the work placement, students would return to Coventry to complete the final semester during which time they undertake their project module which may be informed by the learning acquired during the professional experience.

Cascade of Awards:

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MA English Literature

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Postgraduate Diploma in English Literature

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Postgraduate Certificate in English Literature

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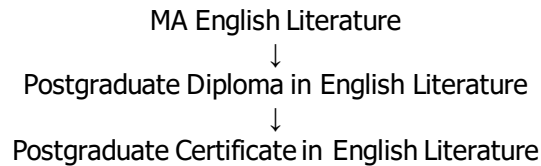
Course modules

Credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Mandatory/ Optional	Course Learning Outcomes
7	7087HUM	Introduction to Environment in English Literature	30	M	1-5
7	7066HUM	Shakespearean Spaces	15	M	1-5
7	7064HUM	Romantic Environments and Emotions	15	M	1-5
7	7067HUM	Environment and the American West	15	M	2, 4, 5, 6
7	7063HUM	Gothic Nature	15	M	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7	7079HUM	Postcoloniality and Environments	15	M	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
7	7001CGE	7001CGE Transnational Professional Development	10	M	7
7	7070HUM	Research Methods	15	M	3, 4
7	7068HUM	Dissertation	50	M	1-6

Credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Mandatory/ Optional	Course Learning Outcomes
Subject to securing an appropriate placement opportunity and fulfilling the selection requirements, students will be transferred to the two-year course and the zero credit modules listed below are to be taken.					
7	7088HUM	Extended Masters HUM Professional Experience Module A	0	Optional	
7	7089HUM	Extended Masters HUM Professional Experience Module B	0	Optional	
7	7090HUM	Extended Masters HUM Professional Experience Module C	0	Optional	

The work placement is to be taken over three semesters and prior to the final dissertation/project that must be taken in the final semester of the course.

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15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

The admissions team seek to recruit individuals who have the ability to complete and benefit from the course. Applicants should normally hold a good undergraduate degree or equivalent international grade/qualification, from a recognised University. Candidates with degrees in subjects other than English/Language/Literature may apply.

EU and overseas applicants should possess equivalent qualifications from other national educational systems and a proficient knowledge of English (normally the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English, IELTS or equivalent at point 6.5 or above). The Recruitment and Admissions Office has a detailed table of these "equivalences" for these qualifications and these will be consulted by the Admissions Tutor to determine the suitability of EU and overseas applicants.

Non-standard applications will be considered. Admission will be considered if the applicant can demonstrate knowledge of the subject, proficiency in English, and the potential to complete the course successfully. This is usually

demonstrated by the submission of written work and an interview with the course team. For students entering with advanced standing, the course conforms to the standard Coventry University Recognition of Prior (Experiential) Learning procedure.

Students with any disability, illness or other circumstance which may affect their learning experience are actively encouraged to discuss any concerns with academic staff.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard [University Academic Regulations Postgraduate](#) Mode R.

Reasonable adjustments can be made to the learning, teaching, assessment and support of the course to maximise accessibility to students with disabilities and cater for their needs. FAH has staff who are trained on disability requirements. Student support mechanisms are consistent with the University policies on Equal Opportunities (including that on students with disabilities).

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The Course is managed by the Humanities Board of Study within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.
The Progression Awards Board (PAB) for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations. The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners have the opportunity to moderate all assessment tasks and a sample of assessed work for each module. They will report annually on the course and/or constituent modules and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM).

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty/School Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year. Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires. Staff development within the School of Humanities is planned in line with the School strategy. A number of members of staff teaching on the course are accredited as 'Fellows' of the Higher Education Academy.

All courses are subject to a major review involving subject experts external to the University, normally on a six year cycle. At these reviews the views of current and former students and employers are sought where appropriate.

The following are key indicators of quality and standards:

- The course has been designed in accordance with the 2019 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for English Literature
- Staff contributing to the writing of this course are active researchers in the subject area
- Staff contributing to the writing of this course have internationally-recognised publications in the subject area
- Staff contributing to the writing of this course have made successful funding bids to major research funding councils
- Student focus groups will be integrated into the course quality and enhancement procedure to ensure quality is being pursued from the student point-of-view.

Coventry University Awards:

- Top 15 for five years running in the Guardian University Guide (2016-2020)
- Awarded University of the Year for Student Experience (The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019)
- 1st for Overseas Experiences (based on student trips abroad - HESA 2016/17)
- 2nd for Teaching Excellence (Times Higher UK metrics ranking 2017)
- Gold for outstanding teaching and learning (Teaching Excellence Framework 2017)
- Top 5 UK Student City (QS Best Student Cities 2019)
- Overall five star QS Stars rating (QS Stars 2019)

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including,

Enrolled students have access to additional key sources of information about the course and student support including:

- The MA English Literature Course Handbook
- The Faculty Student Handbook
- The Module Guides
- The Module Information Directory
- The Digital Learning Platform

Study support information and a full list of student services is accessible from student services portal - https://share.coventry.ac.uk/students/Pages/Index.aspx