

1	Awarding Institution	University of Newcastle upon Tyne
2	Teaching Institution	as above
3	Final Award	MA or Diploma
4	Programme title	Modern and Contemporary Studies
5	Programme Accredited by:	N/A
6	UCAS Code	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmarking Group(s)	English
8	Date of production/revision	13/02/2004

9	Programme Aims:	
(a)	To produce postgraduates holding the Master's degree with:	
(i)	research skills and ability to undertake independent study at a level appropriate to those holding a higher degree	
(ii)	the ability to undertake a research programme leading to the PhD	
(iii)	an advanced knowledge of a range of modern and contemporary texts and films	
(iv)	a critical ability to address and reflect on the cultural and political contexts in which modern and contemporary texts and films are produced, read and viewed	
(v)	an ability to undertake independent scholarly research	
(b)	To provide a programme:	
(i)	in which teaching is informed by research	
(ii)	which consistently attracts highly qualified applicants, including mature and overseas applicants	
(iii)	which enables students to conduct arguments effectively indiscrete high level essays (the submitted essays)	
(iv)	which enables a student to work independently and undertake the writing of a long piece of work (the dissertation) based on independent research	
(v)	which fully meets the requirements of the QAA's Framework for Higher Degree Qualifications at Masters Level	

<p>10(a) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>A Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>1 Advanced understanding and specialised knowledge of selected areas of study within the field of modern and contemporary studies.</p> <p>2 Detailed and comprehensive knowledge of the cultural and political contexts in which texts and films have been produced and read in the English speaking during this period.</p> <p>3 Critical understanding of scholarship and research in these areas.</p> <p>B Subject-specific/professional skills</p> <p>1 Conceptual awareness of theoretical debates at the forefront of academic work in modern and contemporary studies.</p> <p>2 Practical understanding of the techniques and methodologies applicable to advanced scholarship and research in this period.</p> <p>C Cognitive skills – Able to:</p> <p>1 Exercise advanced critical skills in the analysis of modern and contemporary texts and film</p> <p>2 Understand in depth and at an advanced level the ways in which the works studied produce and reflect cultural change</p> <p>3 Participate at a high level in the critical and theoretical debates surrounding these works.</p> <p>D Key (transferable) skills – Able to:</p> <p>1 Analyse and evaluate complex evidence critically and imaginatively</p> <p>2 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in planning and completing tasks</p> <p>3 Deploy information technology (word processing; the internet) appropriately</p> <p>4 Present research findings in a clear and accessible way</p>

<p>10(b) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>A Knowledge and understanding</p>	<p>Teaching and Learning Methods and Strategies</p>
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In the taught modules (as indicated in section 11) knowledge and understanding are acquired through participation in and preparation for seminars and through the writing of essays (2,500 or 4,000 words). More advanced knowledge and understanding are developed in writing the 15,000 word dissertation. Students are required to select an appropriate subject for this dissertation and to undertake independent scholarship and research in completing it. Guidance is provided by each module director and by the dissertation supervisor.

B Subject-specific/professional skills

Subject –specific skills are also acquired through participation in and reading for the seminars and in the production of the essays and dissertation. The Degree Programme Director assists students in the selection of an appropriate topic for the dissertation, isolating key issues within specific areas of study.

C Cognitive skills

Cognitive skills are acquired in seminars for which students are required to present papers. They then submit essays (2,500 or 4,000 words) which present the findings of their reading and research. More advanced cognitive skills are developed in the course of research for and writing the 15,000 word dissertation.

D Key (transferable) skills

Key skills are promoted through seminars and in individual sessions with the dissertation supervisor. The research training modules (Faculty and School) address time-management, note-taking, IT, the layout of a dissertation and the management of references, footnotes and bibliography.

10(c) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:

Assessment Strategy and Methods

A Knowledge and understanding

Assessment of knowledge and understanding is made through submitted essays (2,500 or 4,000 words in length), a short project demonstrating knowledge of research skills, and a dissertation (15,000 words).

<p>B Subject-specific/professional skills</p> <p>Assessment of subject-specific skills is also made through the marking of these essays, projects and dissertation. Submitted work enables students to develop to demonstrate their knowledge of the theoretical bases of the discipline; the dissertation enables students to give evidence of original research and to demonstrate a practical understanding of research skills and scholarly good practice.</p> <p>C Cognitive skills</p> <p>Assessment of cognitive skills is also made through the submitted essays, the research project and dissertation referred to above.</p> <p>D Key (transferable) skills</p> <p>Assessment of key skills is implicit in both the submitted essays and the dissertation.</p>

<p>11 Programme Curriculum, Structure, and Features:</p> <p>The programme is studied over one year full-time or over two years part-time. It is divided into modules which have a value of either 10 or 20 credits, or, in the case of the Dissertation, 60 credits. Both full-time and part-time students are required to take and be assessed in modules to the value of 180 credits.</p> <p>All the modules listed below (apart from those listed as compulsory) may be taken as 10 or 20-credit modules depending on the length of the submitted essay. All students, full-time and part-time, take five 10 credit modules (2500 words) and two 20 credit modules (4000 words) from the optional modules listed below</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Units of Study</th> <th>Credits</th> <th>Learning outcomes</th> <th>Progression Requirements</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Com Core Opt</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4">Compulsory modules (for all students):</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Faculty Research Training</td> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School Research Training</td> <td>ELL805 10</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dissertation preparation</td> <td>ELL898 10</td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>.Dissertation</td> <td>ELL899 60</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Optional modules</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20th-C American Women Poets</td> <td>ELL826</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fiction of the 1920s</td> <td>ELL835</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Short Story</td> <td>SEL806</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Units of Study	Credits	Learning outcomes	Progression Requirements	Com Core Opt				Compulsory modules (for all students):				Faculty Research Training	10		Pass	School Research Training	ELL805 10		Pass	Dissertation preparation	ELL898 10		Pass	.Dissertation	ELL899 60			Optional modules				20 th -C American Women Poets	ELL826			Fiction of the 1920s	ELL835			The Short Story	SEL806		
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Caribbean Creolisation	ELL713
James Joyce	ELL827
Science Fiction, Ghost Stories & Nationalism 1890-1930	ELL918
Literatures of Incarceration	SEL807
Conrad	ELL822
Modern Literary Theory	ELL829
Introduction to Modern Poetry	ELL828
Representations of the Holocaust	ELL883
Gender Theory & Film	FMS844
Postwar American Poetry	ELL888
The Western	ELL831
The Hollywood Musical	ELL912
Recent American Fiction	ELL825
D.H.Lawrence: Modernism and Modernity	ELL943
Class and Sex in the British Cinema	FMS804

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12 Criteria for Admission:

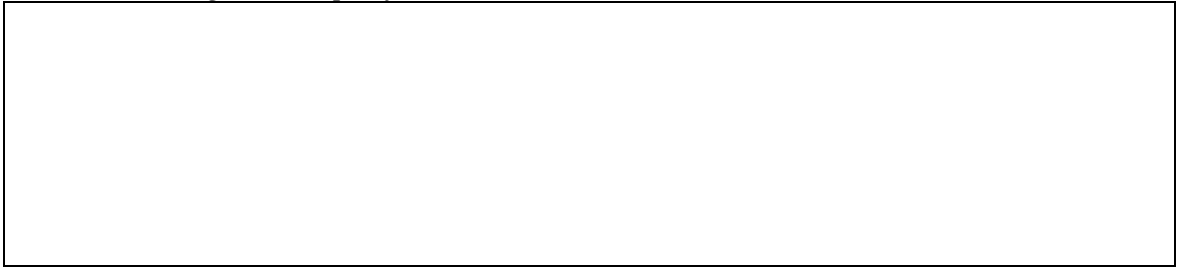
UK students: We normally require a II:I in English, Combined Studies (Arts), Film or Media Studies or other related disciplines, but exceptionally we have admitted students with undergraduate degrees from more remote disciplines (e.g. Law).

Overseas students: We normally require the equivalent of a British II:I in English, Combined Studies (Arts), Film or Media Studies (e.g. A or B grades from a North American institution, high numerical scores from Far Eastern universities). Overseas students whose first language is not English are also asked to take an English language test conducted by the University Language Centre. We ask for a minimum IELTS score of 6.5.

Arrangements for non-standard entrants

Applicants without the standard qualifications would be asked to submit work and to come for interview.

Any Additional Requirements: no



13 Support for Students and their Learning:

Induction

Faculty induction into Research Training
Faculty introduction to use of IT
Faculty introduction to the Library
Degree briefing meeting
Degree handbook for this MA
School postgraduate handbook

Study skills support

Student Resource Centre (including a video library)
Student email, and open access to all staff including the DPD
Access to IT Network, postgraduate workrooms in the School of English
Postgraduate common room

Academic support

Module outline forms
School of English postgraduate Staff-Student Committee

Pastoral support

Open access to DPD
Personal Tutors who advise on pastoral issues
University Counselling Service

Support for Special Needs

Access to Learning Support Services/Disability Unit

Learning resources

University Library (Robinson Library), School library
Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society Library
Durham and Northumbria University Libraries
Morpeth poetry library
School video library

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning:

Module reviews

Student appraisal forms seen by module and degree programme directors
General issues raised at Board of Studies
Bi-annual Personal Research Development meetings

Programme reviews

Semesterly meeting of all staff contributing to the degree programme
General issues raised at Board of Studies
Regular School meetings to review teaching and plan ahead
Annual Monitoring and Review

External examiner reports

Board of Studies, reserved business
Faculty Teaching Committee

Accreditation reports

Not relevant

Student evaluations

Seen by midule and degree programme directors

Feedback Mechanisms

Postgraduate Staff-Student Committee

Board of Studies

School Teaching Committee

Faculty and University Review Mechanisms

Faculty Teaching Committee

University Teaching Committee

15 Regulation of Assessment

Pass Marks

Pass mark for Diploma = 40

Pass mark for MA = 50

Course Requirements

To qualify for the Masters Degree students must complete all course requirements and must pass all modules. To qualify for the Diploma students must complete all taught modules.

Weighting of Stages

N/A

Common Marking Scheme

Above 70	Distinction
Between 60 and 69	Merit
Between 50 and 59	Pass
Between 40 and 49	Diploma

Role of the External Examiner

- To moderate all essays and to read all dissertations
- To attend the Board of Examiners in June (establishes marks for all taught modules)
- To agree all dissertation marks with DPD following the June meeting.
- To report on the examination procedure

16 Indicators of Quality and Standards:

Professional Accreditation Reports

N/A

Internal Review Reports

N/A

Previous QAA Reports

In the 1995 TQA the teaching in the School as a whole was deemed excellent. This MA course was reviewed under its former title, MA in Twentieth Century Studies.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

In addition, information relating to the course is provided in:

The University Prospectus

The School Prospectus

The University and Degree Programme Regulations

The Degree Programme Handbook

QAA Subject Review Report