

1 Awarding Institution/Body	University of Worcester
2 Teaching Institution	University of Worcester
3 Programme Accredited by	Not applicable
4 Final Award	MA, PGCert, Diploma
5 Programme Title	MA Literature: Politics and Identity
6 Pathways available	Not applicable
7 Mode and/or Site of Delivery	Taught programme at the University of Worcester
8 Mode of Attendance	Full time and part time
9 UCAS Code	Not applicable
10 Subject Benchmark Statement	English
11 Date of Programme Specification preparation/revision	April 2009. Updated November 2010. Updated September 2011.

12 Educational aims of the programme

This programme is aimed at students wishing to pursue postgraduate studies in Literatures written in English. It can serve as either a terminal award or a preparatory qualification for research at doctoral level. The MA in Literature: Politics and Identity explores the close and varied relationship between literary production, the distribution of power in society, and discourses of identity. Focus is provided by an emphasis on the cultural contexts of literary production. These contexts are taken from a wide spectrum, extending from the eighteenth century to the contemporary moment, including both canonical and non-canonical writing, and texts from a range of different cultures. The student is also part of the context of literary study, a fact which is reflected and catered for in the range of innovative assessments available throughout the course of study. Specifically, the aims of the course are:

- To provide a varied approach to the study of literature, based on close engagement with literary texts and research into a range of generic forms, historic and modern periods and cultural/ethnic contexts.
- To provide Master's level students with an appropriate intellectual environment within which to pursue specialised interests in English at a rigorous academic standard.
- To foster an awareness of methodological issues, theoretical approaches, contextual issues and research skills appropriate to a dissertation in English and literary studies.
- to provide Master's level students with access to recent developments in the scholarship of English at a level of sophistication appropriate to their postgraduate status

- To enable students to develop, practise and utilize the critical and analytical skills and methodological frameworks necessary for evaluating their response to their experience, ultimately enabling them to undertake the dissertation.

13 Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

On completion of the Postgraduate Certificate, the student will be able to:

- attain the learning skills and academic competences taught as part of the option modules;
- apply those skills and competences to the content offered by optional modules;
- study intensively and reflectively a coherent topic in English and literary studies;
- achieve competence in the use of relevant virtual learning environments, such as Blackboard.

On completion of the Postgraduate Diploma, the student will be able to:

- achieve research and methodological competences commensurate with postgraduate study ;
- sustain and develop learning skills and academic competences across a range of optional modules;
- synthesize material from discrete topics offered in the course.

In addition to the achievements listed in the two sections above, a Master's degree shall be evidence of:

- an extensive knowledge of a range of issues and texts addressed in the study of English;
- an awareness of contemporary debates and emerging critical perspectives within the subject area of English;
- the ability to pursue an independent research project conducted and presented in full accordance with agreed scholarly standards;
- a capacity to develop an informed and individual critique of theoretical arguments underpinning the course.

The central form of assessment is the essay. In addition to the essay several modules offer assessment opportunities of a different kind, such as compiling and analysing a folder of literary resources, a critique of an article and research report, documentary analysis or book review, seminar presentation paper, annotated bibliography, independent project, research report and oral presentation.

<p><i>Knowledge and understanding:</i></p> <p>An awareness of a range of traditional and innovative approaches to literatures in English, focusing on the analysis of literary texts and the cultural contexts of literary production. An ability to pursue specialised interests and original thinking in the study of literature, to a rigorous</p>	<p><i>Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:</i></p> <p>Close reading, contextual research; seminars; essays, research reports, presentations.</p>
<p><i>Cognitive and intellectual skills:</i></p> <p>The competence to deal with complex issues, both with academic rigour and with imagination. The proficiency to analyse, structure and sustain arguments.</p>	<p><i>Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:</i></p> <p>Close reading, theoretical perspectives; seminars; essays, research reports, presentations.</p>
<p><i>Practical skills relevant to employment:</i></p> <p>Advanced information literacy, time management, ability to work systematically, critical awareness,</p>	<p><i>Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:</i></p> <p>Library searches and research reports, timed presentations, essays, small and large group</p>

empathy, precision, accuracy and rigour in pursuing goals.	discussions.
Transferable/key skills: Critical awareness; advanced communication skills in oral and written formats; ability to make complex decisions	Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used: All the above

14 Assessment Strategy

The importance of the essay as a form of assessment reflects the fact that the study of English at Masters level is primarily a discursive practice. Within the Study Programme students will have a variety of assessment experiences reflecting a wide range of learning and teaching methods. Much of the assessment will be of a written nature, requiring students to read and research widely, reflect upon the material gathered, and structure the synthesized ideas into critical, coherent essays of varying type and length, as recommended by the several Subject Benchmark Statements that underpin discipline practices. Anonymous marking will not always be appropriate, particularly in modules that include presentations and elements of personal reflection. The requirements will be made clear via the module outlines for each module.

15 Programme structures and requirements

Refer to Appendix 1: Award Map

Attendance Policy

The course operates an attendance policy determined by each module leader, who will make clear which sessions are mandatory, in the module outline.

16 QAA Academic Infrastructure

The educational aims of the programme were generated in accord with the subject benchmark statement for English and takes account of the FHEQ. The programme enables students to develop skills and competencies fundamental to the study of English, to a level higher than expected from undergraduate work. Knowledge of the subject will be broader and up-to-date, critique more sophisticated, research more thorough and extensive. Crucial at this level is the development of an individual, independent purchase on the subject area. The whole programme tends in this direction, culminating in the independent research project.

17 Support for students

- MA Literature students experience a variety of teaching and learning: e.g. lectures, seminars, group work, presentations, Internet resources
- Induction package, library and IT services tours available
- Student Course Handbook
- MA Programmes Handbook
- A module guide for each individual module
- A mandatory module provides study and research skills
- Students supported by Information Services
- A central Student Support Service offers a range of advisory services including finance, equal opportunities/disability, counselling, careers
- Once your place at University was confirmed you automatically became a member of the Students' Union, enabling you to take full advantage of the support and services on offer including 44 clubs and societies. The Students' Union is an independent charity, devoted to the educational

interests and welfare of all students studying at the University it represents student views within the University. You can get involved by joining one of the many committees, or by becoming a Student Academic Representative (StAR).

- A writer-in-residence is annually sponsored by the Royal Literary Fund to support students with writing skills.
- A Language Unit provides English language courses for International students.
- The Course Leader acts as Personal Tutor.

18 Admissions policy

We seek to recruit students committed to and qualified for studying Literature: Politics and Identity at MA level. Our student body is a broad one, including teachers seeking to update their subject expertise; recent graduates and potential researchers; those studying for their own personal interest.

Entry requirements

- Normally, an upper second class honours degree in a cognate discipline (e.g. English, Cultural Studies)
- The course will also consider candidates with an acceptable academic background and work experience (including APL and APEL)
- International students whose first language is not English must achieve an IELTS score of 6.5, in which the writing component is at this level or above.

Accreditation of Prior Learning

Students with relevant previous study at postgraduate level or with extensive experience may be considered eligible for accreditation of prior learning. Please contact the Registry Admissions Office for further information or guidance on 01905 855111.

Admissions/selection criteria

Potential students should apply directly via the Registry at the University of Worcester.

- All candidates are required to attend an interview with the Course Leader or nominee to ascertain their suitability for the course.

19 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

- Annual review of the quality of the course
- External Examiner reports
- Course staff/student committee each semester to consider student feedback
- University Learning and Teaching Committee and the Learning and Teaching Centre promote learning and teaching across the institution
- Peer observation of teaching by staff
- The university runs a Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in HE, accredited by HEA and SEDA

20 Regulation of assessment

Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is 50% for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Some modules have attendance requirements.

- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 5 days of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at 50% unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 5 days but within 14 days of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- Students who fail to submit an item of assessment lose their right to reassessment in that module, and will be required to retake the module, which will incur payment of the module fee.
- For full details of submission regulations see [Postgraduate Regulatory Framework](#).

Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade, unless the failure was due to non-attendance or non-submission.
- Reassessment takes place during the following semester or during the summer reassessment period at the end of the academic year.
- If following reassessment the module has been passed, the module grade will be capped at 50%.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they will have one further and final reassessment opportunity.
- A student who fails 40 credits or more after exhausting all reassessment opportunities may be required to withdraw from the University.

Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
PG Cert	Passed a minimum of 60 credits at level 7
PG Dip	Passed a minimum of 120 credits at level 7
Masters (MA/MSc/MBA/MTL)	Passed a minimum of 180 credits at level 7 including a minimum of 40 credits from the Dissertation

The awards of PG Cert, PG Dip or Masters may be made with Merit or Distinction.

21 Indicators of quality and standards

- The External Examiner writes an annual report on the course. Thus far, the reports have confirmed that modules are pitched at an appropriate level and that feedback and tutor support is appropriate and full.
- The course conforms to the QAA Masters M level descriptor and Codes of Practice.
- University of Worcester has the Investor in People kite

The University underwent a QAA Institutional Audit in March 2011. The audit confirmed that confidence can be placed in the soundness of the institution's current and likely future management of the academic standards of its awards and the quality of the learning opportunities available to students. The audit team highlighted several aspects of good practice, including the student academic representative (StARs) initiative, the proactive approach which supports the student experience for disabled students, the comprehensiveness of the student online environment (SOLE), the wide range of opportunities afforded to students to enhance their employability, the institution's commitment to enhancement, and the inclusive approach to working with its collaborative partners.

22 Employability and graduate destinations

Master's students in Literature will often be employed whilst undertaking the course, many in the teaching or other professions. The degree helps to enhance their professional development and employability. Humanities students regularly take employment or careers in administration, management services, heritage, education, the media, legal work, libraries, and the entertainment industry. Students also proceed to PhDs.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme 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. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module outlines and Section 3 of the course handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#).

Appendix 1: Award Map

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional(O))			Pre-requisites or Co-requisites
			PG Cert	PG Dip	Masters	
ENGL4001	Dissertation (4 module equivalent)	80			M	ENGL4015 (Pre) ENGL4018 (Pre)
ENGL4002	Dissertation (3 module equivalent)	60			M	ENGL4015 (Pre) ENGL4018 (Pre)
ENGL4004	The Theory and Practice of Poetry	20	O	O	O	ENGL4015 (Pre or Co)
ENGL4007	Literature and Nation	20	O	O	O	ENGL4015 (Pre or Co)
ENGL4009	The Political Voices of Eighteenth-Century Literature	20	O	O	O	ENGL4015 (Pre or Co)
ENGL4010	Contextualising Shakespeare	20	O	O	O	ENGL4015 (Pre or Co)
ENGL4015	Contemporary Issues in Literary Studies	20	M	M	M	
ENGL4016	Word and Image: Visual Culture and the Text in the Victorian Age	20	O	O	O	ENGL4015 (Pre or Co)
ENGL4017	Power and Politics in Children's Literature	20	O	O	O	ENGL4015 (Pre or Co)
ENGL4018	Approaching Postgraduate Research	20			M	ENGL4015 (Pre)
ENGL4019	Green Voices: Literature's Environmentalist Tradition	20	O	O	O	ENGL4015 (Pre or Co)

PGCert Requirements at Level 7

Students studying for the PG Cert must take the mandatory module ENGL4015 **plus** two (2) Optional modules from those listed above.

PGDip Requirements at Level 7

Students studying for the PG Dip must take the mandatory module ENGL4015 **plus** five (5) Optional modules from those listed above.

Masters Requirements at Level 7

Students studying for the Masters must take three (3) mandatory modules i.e. ENGL4015 and ENGL4018, and either ENGL4001 (80 credits) or ENGL4002 (60 credits) **plus either three (3) or four (4) Optional modules** from those listed above. The number of optional modules taken depends on whether the student elects to write a three (60 credits) or four (80 credits) module dissertation, to make 180 credits in total.