University of Hertfordshire UH

Programme specification

Award title: Literature and Culture (Online) (Part Time, Semester B intake)

Title of programme:	Literature and Culture (Online) (Part Time, Semester B intake)
Programme code:	CTWMLAC
Awarding institution/body:	University of Hertfordshire
Teaching institution:	University of Hertfordshire
School:	School of Creative Arts
University/partner campuses:	University of Hertfordshire, Online
Programme accredited by:	Not Applicable
Final qualification:	Master of Arts (MA) [Level 7 Postgraduate Taught, 180 credits]
Final award title (qualification and subject):	MA Literature and Culture
UCAS code:	Not Applicable
FHEQ level of award:	7 PGT
Language of delivery:	English
This programme specification is relevant to:	2025-26
Students entering at:	Semester B
Related programmes:	
Mode of study:	Part Time
Typical duration:	2 Years
Version:	1.6
Version date:	31 Oct 2025
Version description	1.6
Validation status:	Validated

What is a programme specification?

A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

Changes to your course or modules

Although it is never something we do lightly, we may in certain circumstances, make changes to the advertised content or structure or methods of delivery of your course or individual modules after you have accepted your offer, which may in certain cases include discontinuing a module. We cannot cover here every possible example of when we might decide to do so, but in normal circumstances it would only be for one or more of the following reasons:

- to reflect changes to the theory in an area of research or practices around the subject or its delivery

- to improve a course or a module (for example, to take account of feedback from students)

- to safeguard academic standards

- to comply with the requirements of an external professional, commissioning or accrediting body (for example, a requirement that certain course content be added, changed or removed or that a particular module is discontinued or included)

- to comply with legal, regulatory or governmental requirements

- to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff

- where insufficient students have chosen an optional module making it unviable *(and where we have indicated in this Programme Specification that this might be a possibility)*

- where the University has found it difficult, for reasons beyond its control, to appoint a member of staff with appropriate expertise to ensure that an optional module can proceed where the change results from other circumstances outside our reasonable control

If we decide to make a change (other than one which is minor or insignificant) before you have registered on the course for the first time, we will inform you as soon as reasonably practicable so that you can decide whether or not you still wish to study with us. If as a consequence you decide not to study with us, we will refund any tuition fees and/or deposit that you have paid in advance in respect of the course in question. For further details regarding our refund policy please see our **Fees and Finance Policy**.

If we decide to make a change (other than one which is minor or insignificant) after you have registered, we will similarly inform you as soon as reasonably practicable, and we will also use every reasonable effort to minimise any adverse effect it may have on you. If in spite of our efforts

the change is likely to have a serious adverse effect on you (for example, by prejudicing your future choice of career), we will try to find you a suitable alternative course or module with us or (if you prefer) we will try to suggest a suitable alternative course with another education provider. If you change course or module in these circumstances (or simply withdraw from your course), any entitlement you may have to a refund in tuition fees you have already paid will be determined in accordance with our *Fees and Finance Policy*.

In the case of a material change to a course or module, we will also in appropriate circumstances consult with student representatives with a view to identifying options for, and minimising any adverse effect on, affected students.

Some optional modules may have capacity issues and therefore we may not be able to guarantee you a place on your first choice.

More information about how we will try protect you against changes to your modules or programmes can be found in our *Student Protection Plan* at https://www.herts.ac.uk/study/your-offer-package

Additional important points

Our online MA in Literature and Culture gives you the opportunity to explore innovative and diverse texts and their many different contexts – historical, social, and political.
Online learning offers you the benefits of flexible opportunities to hone your critical and analytical skills with plenty of support from our research-active academic staff.
Your engagement will focus on themes at the forefront of contemporary culture, including identity politics, Otherness, and the environment.
In 2025-26, modules offered on this basis include "Earth Words: Literature, Place and Environment", "Historical Fiction: Memory, Nostalgia, and the Past in Contemporary Culture", and "European Crime Fiction and Film".

Admissions information

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

Qualification type	Subjects	Grades
Recognition Prior to Learning		The School will consider non-standard applicants who can demonstrate that they have relevant work experience for a period of 3 years via a Curriculum Vitae and/or LinkedIn profile. A substantial personal statement (approx. 3-500 words) and/or video presentation about why you want to study this programme, what you hope to gain from the course of study and where you see your development taking your career. A reference letter from a current or previous manager or HR department or person in a position of authority is required as supporting evidence. An exemption from the Proof of English Language Proficiency (POE) may be offered to students who meet one of the following criteria. Completed at least 3 years of an accredited high school, including English as an exam subject from one of these countries (include relevant list of English-speaking countries) Completed an official English Language taught International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. Completed an IB diploma in a different language if

	they obtained a grade of 5 or higher for one of the English courses. Completed a higher educational or professional qualification in English Working in an English-speaking environment and demonstrably working in English A passing Duolingo test https://englishtest.duolingo.com/applicants
English Language Proficiency	For International applicants whose first language is not English, IELTS score of 6.0 (with no less than 5.5 in any band), or equivalent.
Bachelors Degree	A Bachelor's degree in a literature or related subject area at a level equivalent to a UK second class Honours degree.

Equivalent qualifications will be considered on an individual basis, such as the Access to HE Certificate or approved equivalent.

For current entry tariff point requirements, please refer to the relevant page for the Course on the University website or on the online prospectus.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in UPR SA03), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please contact us via https://ask.herts.ac.uk/contact-us

If you wish to receive a copy of the External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to aqo@herts.ac.uk

Additional admissions information

Interview/audition required:	No
Portfolio required:	No
DBS check required:	No
Occupational health check required:	No
GTC check required:	No

The academic year

The University's academic year is made up of 3 Semesters. For most undergraduate students the academic year is split into two Semesters (A & B). Each of these is made up of teaching weeks followed by exams (the re-sit period falls within Semester C). For further information please follow the link below

Term and semester dates | Study | Uni of Herts

Expected workload

In the UK, a full-time student is expected to spend 1200 hours on their studies each year. Please find below an estimate of how your time will be spent on this course during each year of study.

Year	Lectures, seminars, tutorials	Independent study	Placement
Year 1	8%	92%	0%
Year 2	6%	94%	0%

Method of assessment

Year	Test	Written exam	Coursework	Practical
Year 1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Year 2	0%	0%	100%	0%

Additional expenses

Please see below a list of expected materials you will need for your studies. You will be given detailed lists when the course starts.

Title	Description	Value type	Cost (£)
Equipment - Mandatory	Audio: Headset with microphone recommended Built-in speakers and microphone if using a laptop	Approximate	£15
Textbook - Mandatory	Additional reading materials, books and eBooks	Approximate	£100
Equipment - Mandatory	Desktop or laptop computer: Guidance on buying a computer for University can be found on Ask Herts	Approximate	£400
Equipment - Mandatory	Display: 1280 x 720 minimum. Further guidance can be found on Ask Herts	Approximate	£90
Equipment - Mandatory	Video: A web cam with a minimum 640x480 video pixel resolution (web cams built into laptops or monitors are acceptable)	Approximate	£10
Equipment - Mandatory	Broadband Internet Connection: 5mbps is the minimum required to experience a variety of internet services at a reasonable level of quality (Cost monthly)	Approximate	£10

*Costs vary subject to supplier.

** This is an indicative cost – how much you use and need to replace these supplies will depend on your own style of working and process.

Programme specification detail

A: Programme rationale

The rationale for this programme is to offer a carefully structured programme of study in Literature and culture which introduces students to a stimulating and specialised range of topics and materials and to a variety of critical and theoretical approaches. The programme is suitable for graduates who have an undergraduate degree in Literature or another Humanities-based programme of study. The minimum classification for the degree should normally be a second class second division. The structure of the programme is designed to provide students with a thorough grounding, through online learning, in current and new critical and theoretical approaches to Literature and culture with an emphasis on context and the concept of literary traditions. The modules will provide examples of the synchronic and diachronic study of literary cultures. Students will be required to apply these approaches through a series of shorter assignments building towards a programme of research-led independent study. Students are also introduced to some of the practical skills important for successful post-graduate study which will enable them to produce an extended piece of research, and which may be transferred to a range of graduate careers.

B: Educational aims of the programme

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in UPR TL03.

https://www.herts.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/235143/TL03-Learning-Teaching-Policy-GradAttributes-v07.0.pdf

Additionally this programme aims to:
Explore the various ways in which texts engage with topical cultural issues and how textual representations both reflect and shape social values;
Allow students to interrogate the relationships between texts and history, both at a specific moment and across time;
Interrogate and debate issues of canonicity and literary tradition through a wide range of texts beyond the boundaries of conventional literary study;
Encourage students to practice and develop advanced techniques of scholarly research and inquiry;
Encourage students to develop and supplement a range of general transferable skills which are of relevance to academic research and to a wide range of careers;
Give students the opportunity to conceive, progress and deliver a substantial independent literary project which creates and interprets knowledge in the discipline;
Provide students with a flexibly-delivered, supportive, academic environment in which to carry out their studies.

C: Intended learning outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2021) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Programme outcomes

Learning outcomes are split into four different types.

Intellectual skills

On successful completion of this programme, a student will be able to:

IS1   Analyse complex literary, critical and theoretical ideas and problems

IS2   Demonstrate conceptual understanding of the relationships between literature and context and apply this theoretical understanding to the analysis of literary and cultural texts at an advanced level

IS3   Demonstrate engagement with significant established and current literary debates, together with the ability to evaluate critical methodologies and critique them

IS4   Articulate a well-informed and nuanced analysis of literary texts

IS5   Marshal and critically analyse a large body of material

Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion of this programme a student will have knowledge and understanding of:

KU1   Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a selection of texts, issues and advanced debates which relate to literature in its social and historical context

KU2   Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of theoretical approaches to literary texts and their intellectual contexts

Practical skills

On successful completion a student will be able to:

PS1   Deploy a range of advanced research skills systematically and creatively

PS2   Formulate, plan and write a self-directed project proposal according to agreed criteria

PS3   Present an extended and innovative piece of written work that demonstrates independent research and critical engagement with existing scholarly work

Transferable skills

On successful completion of this programme, a student will be able to:

TS1   Take responsibility for their own learning, using initiative, time-management and self-discipline

TS2   Communicate complex ideas and arguments effectively in writing and reach appropriate conclusions

TS3   Use ICT software applications for word processing and electronic communications to access electronic information retrieval systems and the Internet

TS4   Have a regard for the points of view of others

TS5   Demonstrate skills in extended project work; organising a longer piece of work, presenting discrete components in a coherent structure

TS6   deliver research findings in a variety of media

Graduate Attributes

Graduate Attributes are delivered in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the development of the Graduate Attributes (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

GA1   Professionally Focused
GA2   Globally Minded
GA3   Sustainability Driven
GA4   Digitally capable and confident
GA5   Inclusive and collaborative
GA6   Evidence based and ethical

D: Teaching methods

Knowledge and Understanding (KU):

Acquisition of KU1 and KU2 is through a combination of independent learning, supplemented by seminars, workshops and on-line discussion.

Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Intellectual Skills (IS):

Intellectual skills are developed through the methods and strategies outlined in Section KU, above.

Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study

Practical Skills (PS):

Practical skills are developed through introducing students to the facilities offered in the Library and a Dissertation Workshop

Transferable Skills (TS):

Transferable skills are developed throughout the programme:

Skill TS1 is developed with students learning to manage their time to meet assignment submission deadlines.
Skill TS2 is developed in the written work which all modules require. Students receive feedback not only on their knowledge and understanding but also on their ability to communicate their ideas effectively.
Skill TS3 is developed when students are inducted into the facilities of the Learning Resources Centre (use of e-mail, Internet) at the beginning of their program and in the use of Canvas. All written assignments must be word processed.
Skill TS4 is developed through seminar discussion and in selected coursework assignments.
Skill TS5 is developed primarily through the dissertation.
Skill TS6 is developed throughout the programme via class exercises.

Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan.

E: Assessment strategy

The programme complies with the University's academic regulations (in particular, UPR AS11, UPR AS12/UPR AS13 and UPR AS14) with the exception of those listed below, which have been

approved by the University:

https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/our-leadership-strategy-and-plans/our-governance-and-leadership/university-policies-and-regulations-uprs

Assessment Strategy for:

Knowledge and Understanding (KU):

Knowledge and understanding are assessed through written assessment in the form of essays, editorial tasks, presentations, videoed workshop discussion, a research proposal and a dissertation

Intellectual Skills (IS):

Intellectual skills are assessed through written work in the form of essays, editorial tasks, presentations, videoed workshop discussion, a research proposal and a dissertation.

Practical Skills (PS):

Practical skills are assessed through assessment assignments, including the compilation of a research proposal and annotated bibliography and 14,000- word dissertation.

Transferable Skills (TS):

Transferable skills
TS2 and TS4 are assessed formally by a range of assignments built into the curriculum, e.g. coursework, presentations and
seminar leadership.

Skill TS5 is assessed via the dissertation.

Skill TS1 s not formally assessed but is demonstrated particularly in the production of assignments, culminating in the dissertation.

Skill TS6 is assessed via students' selection of one assessment from a range which includes, but is not restricted to, a brief formal presentation in Research Methods 1 (WHU00019)

F: Programme specific assessment regulations

The programme is compliant with the University's academic regulations (in particular, UPR AS11, UPR AS12/UPR AS13 and UPR AS14) with the exception of those listed below, which have been specifically approved by the University: None.

G: Professional accreditation requirements

Not Applicable

H: Management of programme and support for student learning

Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- The programme is managed and administered through: A Dean of School who has overall responsibility for all programmes in the School; An Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) who has overall responsibility for academic quality, assurance and enhancement with and on behalf of the Dean of School; An Associate Dean of School Education (Learning and Teaching) who has overall responsibility for learning and teaching with and on behalf of the Dean of School; A Programme Leader, who is responsible for day-to-day management of the programme; Module Leaders, who are responsible for the delivery of a module and module-level academic support; Student representatives who liaise with the Programme Leader and Module Leaders; A designated administrative team to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the programme and its modules; A Programme Committee which meets twice a year and is chaired by the Programme Leader; A Student Success team to administer student satisfaction surveys and collect qualitative feedback.

Support

Students are supported by:

- Students are supported by: An onboarding experience that will include online events, meet and greets, Q&A sessions, study skills orientation and ongoing Canvas guidance and support; Signposted support services to direct students to the support available, be it pastoral, academic or technical support; Pastoral support will be provided through a ticketing system to enable students to book one-on-one appointments with their dedicated student success advisor. The student success team is available across multiple time zones and provides weekend coverage. During one on one appointments students can reschedule module start dates and discuss non-academic issues. Teaching teams will run regular live drop-in sessions, in case there are academic queries; A dedicated student success advisor who will be an important point of contact, able to provide a good understanding of the School and programme you are studying; Proactive advisors who will assess progress and reach out to any student who is not meeting the prescribed engagement levels; Student Wellbeing (incorporating Counselling, Mental Health and Disability Support); A versatile online, interactive intranet and learning environment; Guided student-centred learning on Canvas module sites; Access to extensive digital collections of information resources; University Disability Advisors; Careers and Employment; Hertfordshire Student's Union; A dedicated online programme site.

I: Programme structures, features, levels, modules, and credits

Programme structure

Year 1					
No information available Maximum credits: 75					
Semester	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Core/optional
B	7WSH2001	Research Methods 1: Theoretical and Critical Debates	15	7	Core
C	7WSH2004	Historical Fiction: Memory, Nostalgia and the Past in Contemporary Culture	30	7	Core

A	7WCT2023	European Crime Fiction and Film	30	7	Core

Year 2
No information available Maximum credits: 105

Semester	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Core/optional
B	7WSH2003	Earth Words: Literature Place and Environment	30	7	Core
C	7WSH2005	Research Methods 2: Advanced Research Skills	15	7	Core
A	7WSH2006	Dissertation	60	7	Core

Final and interim awards available

Final award	Award title	Minimum requirements	Available at the end of level
MA	Literature and Culture	See UPR AS11, section 13: http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm 180 credits, to include at least 150 credits @ Level 7 (with no more than 15 credits below Level 6) The title 'Master of Arts' is generally used in art and design, the arts and humanities, social sciences and in other areas of study where a more specialised title is not appropriate.	7 PGT

Interim award	Award title	Minimum requirements	Available at the end of level
PGCert	Literature and Culture	See UPR AS11, section 13: http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm 60 credits, to include at least 45 credits @ Level 7	7 PGT
PGDip	Literature and Culture	See UPR AS11, section 13: http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm 120 credits, to include at least 90 credits @ Level 7 (with no more than 15 credits below Level 6)	7 PGT

Other sources of information

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A dedicated programme site on the University's Virtual Learning Environment (Canvas);
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;

The Ask Herts website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/. In particular, UPR SA07 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/.

Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently very high-quality teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. Consequently, the University received a Silver award in the 2023 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) exercise. This award was made in October 2023 and is valid for up to 4 years. The TEF panel's report and conclusions can be accessed via this link.

J: Development of intended programme learning outcomes in the constituent modules

These maps identify where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

X = Delivered and Assessed

Module Code	IS 1	IS 2	IS 3	IS 4	IS 5	KU 1	KU 2	PS 1	PS 2	PS 3	TS 1	TS 2	TS 3	TS 4	TS 5	TS 6
7WSH2001	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7WSH2003	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7WSH2004	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7WSH2005	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7WSH2006	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Key to module codes

Module code	Level	Title
7WCT2023	7	European Crime Fiction and Film
7WSH2001	7	Research Methods 1: Theoretical and Critical Debates
7WSH2003	7	Earth Words: Literature Place and Environment
7WSH2004	7	Historical Fiction: Memory, Nostalgia and the Past in Contemporary Culture
7WSH2005	7	Research Methods 2: Advanced Research Skills
7WSH2006	7	Dissertation

Key to programme learning outcomes for Intellectual Skills

IS1   Analyse complex literary, critical and theoretical ideas and problems

IS2   Demonstrate conceptual understanding of the relationships between literature and context and apply this theoretical understanding to the analysis of literary and cultural texts at an advanced level

IS3   Demonstrate engagement with significant established and current literary debates, together with the ability to evaluate critical methodologies and critique them

IS4   Articulate a well-informed and nuanced analysis of literary texts

IS5   Marshal and critically analyse a large body of material

Key to programme learning outcomes for Knowledge and Understanding

KU1   Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a selection of texts, issues and advanced debates which relate to literature in its social and historical context

KU2   Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of theoretical approaches to literary texts and their intellectual contexts

Key to programme learning outcomes for Practical Skills

PS1   Deploy a range of advanced research skills systematically and creatively

PS2   Formulate, plan and write a self-directed project proposal according to agreed criteria

PS3   Present an extended and innovative piece of written work that demonstrates independent research and critical engagement with existing scholarly work

Key to programme learning outcomes for Transferrable Skills

TS1   Take responsibility for their own learning, using initiative, time-management and self-discipline

TS2   Communicate complex ideas and arguments effectively in writing and reach appropriate conclusions

TS3   Use ICT software applications for word processing and electronic communications to access electronic information retrieval systems and the Internet

TS4   Have a regard for the points of view of others

TS5   Demonstrate skills in extended project work; organising a longer piece of work, presenting discrete components in a coherent structure

TS6   deliver research findings in a variety of media

Development of Graduate Attributes in the constituent modules

This map identifies where the Graduate Attributes are delivered in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the development of the Graduate Attributes (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own personal and professional development as the programme progresses. [Note that there is no requirement for the Graduate Attributes to be assessed through these modules]

D = Delivered

Module Title	Module Code	Level	Professionally Focused	Globally Minded	Sustainability Driven	Digitally Capable & Confident	Inclusive and Collaborative	Evidenced-based and Ethical
Research Methods 1: Theoretical and Critical Debates	7WSH2001	7 PGT	D	D		D	D	D
Earth Words: Literature Place and Environment	7WSH2003	7 PGT	D	D	D	D	D	D
Historical Fiction: Memory, Nostalgia and the Past in Contemporary Culture	7WSH2004	7 PGT	D	D	D	D	D	D
Research Methods 2: Advanced Research Skills	7WSH2005	7 PGT	D			D	D	D
Dissertation	7WSH2006	7 PGT	D		D	D	D	D

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