COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Victorian Gothic: History, Literature and Culture

Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration

July 2021

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	MA Victorian Gothic: History, Literature and Culture
Final Award	MA
Exit Awards	PGCert. Victorian Gothic:History, Literature and Culture PGDip. Victorian Gothic:History, Literature and Culture
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C2927F/P, P2927FTD/PTD
Mode of study	Full time and Part time
Mode of delivery	Distance Learning
Normal length of course	1 year full time; 2 years part time
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	From September 2019 and January 2020 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Area Studies, History, Politics and Literature
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	http://www2.port.ac.uk/school-of-social-historical-and-literary-studies/
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ma-victorian-gothic-history-literature-and-culture
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	None
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 7

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible, coherent programme for the study of the Victorian Gothic, its historical context and expressions, a range of relevant literature and its other cultural forms in nineteenth-century Britain, Europe and the USA.

- To provide a framework within which students in relevant fields may acquire the theoretical understanding and research skills essential for the pursuit of their subject(s)

- To equip students with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets

- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required for further postgraduate study opportunities

- To provide an awareness of the need to conduct research ethically and safely and a framework within which to do so

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
A1	Understanding of an substantial body of historical knowledge relating to the Gothic, and to the social and cultural history of the nineteenth century.	DL online learning materials via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), supported by real time 'webinars' (student engagement enabled by Webex) and online group discussion boards. In the research project and dissertation knowledge and understanding is	Essays, presentations, research project, dissertation.
A2	Ability to critically analyse comparative perspectives and the variety of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past through historical evidence and secondary literature.		
A3	Understanding of critical, theoretical, linguistic and stylistic concepts and terminology.		
A4	Analysis of the relationship between a range of Gothic literature and other media		

| | | developed through individual study supported by structured tutor guidance via email, Skype, and, where possible, face-to-face tutorials. | |

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
B1	Critically evaluate historical and literary research, advanced scholarship and methodologies, and where appropriate, advance alternative approaches.	Online seminars and preparatory reading/reflections, especially in the Theory, Skills and Approaches module	Essays, research project, dissertation, and presentation
B2	Collate, synthesise and analyse materials from diverse historical and literary sources, using knowledge and/or methodologies at the forefront of the disciplines.	Online seminars and preparatory reading/reflections; individual research supervision	Essays, research project, dissertation, and presentation
B3	Against a framework of relevant and current historiography and/or literary theory, plan and conduct research through self-formulated questions	Individual research supervision	Research project and dissertation
B4	Analyse texts and discourses, and articulate a critical understanding of complex texts and ideas (and of their historical relations where appropriate)	Online seminars and preparatory reading/reflections; individual research supervision	Essays, research project, dissertation, and presentation

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Manage the process of undertaking bibliographic and literature surveys	Online exercises, library searches, correspondence with module tutors; Individual research projects and dissertation tutorials	Essays, research project and dissertation
C2	Apply critical skills in close reading of a range of primary and secondary texts	Preparatory reading and online seminar discussions; essay preparation, individual research projects and dissertation tutorials	Presentation, essays, research project and dissertation.
C3	Gather, retrieve and select appropriate information from a range of information sources including digital databases and archives	Online searches aided by online seminar tutors and individual project supervisors	Research project, dissertation, presentation
C4	Use bibliographical skills appropriate to the discipline, demonstrating an awareness of ethical and legal issues and applying appropriate scholarly conventions and practices.	Online seminar discussion exercises, correspondence with module tutors; repeated practice across the range of assessments.	All written assessments require and enhance this skill

D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Demonstrate advanced literacy and written and oral communication skills, including the ability to present rhetorically effective, coherent, well-supported, and sustained arguments.	Online seminar discussion, research project and dissertation design and drafts under the guidance of a supervisor.	Essays, presentation, research project and dissertation
D2	Demonstrate effective self-management, initiative and personal responsibility in designing and conducting extended research projects.	Project and dissertation development, under the guidance of a research supervisor	Research project and dissertation
D3	Demonstrate an ability to work to deadlines, developing skills in time management, research project management, and prioritising of tasks.	Online seminars, and through the various written assessments.	All assessments require students to work to deadlines
D4	Demonstrate an ability to variously collaborate with and lead fellow students.	Contribution to online seminar discussion	Presentation

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides assigned personal tutors from the very beginning of the course. In the first year these will be one of the MA Victorian Gothic teaching team or course leader. In the second year (part timers) this will typically (although not necessarily) be the student's dissertation supervisor.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification
- University of Portsmouth Strategy
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for **History** **and** **English**
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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Document details

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