

## MA Subversion, Revolt and Censorship in Francophone Literature and Culture

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading  
Teaching Institution: Department of French Studies  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities Programme length: 12 months  
For students entering in 2004 Date of specification: June 2003  
Programme Director: Dr Felix  
Board of Studies: Board of Studies for Postgraduate programmes in French Studies  
Accreditation: N/A

### Summary of programme aims

Students will come to an historically and culturally informed awareness and understanding of the ways in which texts or films, of France or of other francophone cultures, serve as a medium for revolt, subversion and censorship of political, existential or artistic kind within at least two cultural contexts. Students will learn to analyse and evaluate the ways in which such texts or films reflect and participate in these processes. They will also learn to apply appropriate research methodology and drafting skills to their course work and their dissertation work, all of which will serve potentially as preparation for research at doctoral level. The MA also aims to augment students' existing skills and knowledge in order to enhance their personal development and, where relevant, to enable them to further an existing career in a cognate profession.

### Transferable skills

- Develop postgraduate level study, research and writing skills
- Ability to analyse visual or textual material rapidly and in depth
- Ability to summarise new material rapidly and coherently
- Ability to communicate concisely and clearly results of research
- Be aware of methods and resources to develop their knowledge and understanding further, as part of an ability to learn independently

### Programme content

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<b>Optional Modules (Students are required to choose two Optional Modules)</b>			
FRM1	<i>Epic and Revolt</i>	30	M
FRM2	<i>Witchcraft, Subversion and Culture</i>	30	M
FRM3	<i>Offensive and Defensive Strategies in Renaissance Writing</i>	30	M
FRM4	<i>Censorship, Subversion and Revolt in 18th-Century France</i>	30	M
FRM5	<i>Speech and Silence: Gay Sexuality in 20th-Century Film and Text</i>	30	M
FRM6	<i>Francophone Literatures of Resistance in Quebec and Algeria</i>	30	M
FRM7	<i>Versions of Subversion and Revolt in the French-Canadian Novel and Film</i>	30	M
FRM8	<i>Subversion and Censorship in the Institutions of the French State, from the Presidency of François Mitterrand to the present day</i>	30	M
<b>Compulsory Modules</b>			
FRM9	<i>Introduction to Advanced Study and Research Methodology</i>	30	M
FRM10	<i>Dissertation</i>	90	M

### Part-time/Modular arrangements

The programme can be taken over two years. In the first year students take the Compulsory module in Advanced Study and Research Methodology and one optional module: in the second year students take a further optional module and a dissertation.

## **Progression requirements**

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70 – 100%	Distinction
60 – 69%	Merit
50 – 59%	Good standard (Pass)

### Failing categories:

40 – 49%	Work below threshold standard
0 – 39%	Unsatisfactory Work

### *For Masters Degrees*

An M.A. may be awarded on completion of 180 credits to be made up of 30 credits for the Core module, *Introduction to Advanced Study and Research Methodology*, 60 credits for coursework from two optional modules, and 90 credits for the dissertation.

To pass the degree of Master students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.\*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 70 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be awarded eligible for a Merit.

### *For Postgraduate Diplomas*

A Diploma may be awarded on completion of at least 120 credits to be made up of 30 credits for the Core *Introduction to Advanced Study and Research Methodology* and 90 credits for coursework from three Optional Modules.

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.\*

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be awarded eligible for a Merit.

### *For Postgraduate Certificate*

A Certificate may be awarded on the completion of at least 60 credits. 30 of the credits must be for the Core *Introduction to Advanced Study and Research Methodology*.

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.\*

\*The provision to permit a candidate to be passed overall with a profile containing marks below 40 is made subject to the condition that there is evidence that the candidate applied himself or herself to the work of those modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Students failing modules in the Summer Term will be re-assessed in those modules in the September if the failures:

- (a) are such that no qualification can be awarded

- or (b) allow for the award of a Diploma or Certificate but the student needs to be re-assessed for Master's
- or (c) entail a likelihood or possibility of failure once the dissertation (or equivalent) mark is known later in the year, and the student wishes to undertake re-assessment in September rather than possibly having to return for re-assessment the following year.

In the event of any such failure at the first attempt leading to re-assessment in September, the student will be granted a one-month extension of the submission date for the dissertation (or equivalent).

A failed dissertation must be resubmitted within one year from the original submission date.

### **Summary of teaching and assessment**

Teaching will be by seminar. Students will be required to make individual presentations to the group as a springboard for group discussion. Assessment will be

- **either** by an assessed essay for each module (approx 5,000 words)
- **or** by two assessed essays (approx 2,500 words each) for each module
- and a dissertation of 10,000-15,000 words.

The Core Module will be assessed by essay work.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

- a good first degree in or jointly in French language and culture
- or another good first degree or its equivalent in a relevant Arts subject combined with a good understanding of written French.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Felix

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Programme Directors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. Within the Department the Director of the MA Programme is available to provide support and guidance.

### **Career prospects**

Doctoral research leading to an academic career

Librarianship

Archivist

Secondary and further education

Students who do not wish to pursue a career in which this qualification is a requirement enter many different careers (civil service, local government, armed forces, marketing).

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

N/A

### **Educational aims of the programme**

The aims of the programme are:

- to provide the students with the skills and confidence to undertake a piece of research in their chosen area
- to develop the critical and analytical faculties of the student
- to develop the communicative skills both oral and written
- to familiarise the student with a range of material from different periods and cultures

- to develop an historical awareness of the different forms of revolt in France and Francophonie

**Programme Outcomes**

*Knowledge and Understanding*

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b>          Censorship, Subversion and Revolt in France and Francophonie</p> <p>The original sources relevant to their chosen Option and Dissertation topic</p> <p>The secondary literature covering the chosen period or theme</p> <p>The critical and theoretical vocabulary associated with their areas of study</p> <p>Practical research methods related to their area of study</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Teaching will be by seminar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning will be through the presentation of seminar papers</li> <li>• Critical discussion of seminar papers</li> <li>• Preparation of assessed work</li> <li>• The Core <i>Introduction to Advanced Study and Research Methodology</i> gives students practical training in use of library and other research resources as well as in drafting skills to a high standard</li> <li>• The Optional Modules will enable students to further their particular specialist interests over a range of periods from the medieval to the modern and over a variety of aspects relating to Censorship, Subversion and Revolt in French and Francophone literary and historical cultures</li> <li>• The Dissertation will enable students to develop their research methods and critical understanding of an area relating to one of the Optional Modules</li> </ul> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>The Core Module will be assessed by class participation and the submission of a piece of written work in agreement with the course leader</p> <p>Each Optional Module will be assessed by a 5,000word essay or by two 2,500 word essays</p> <p>The Dissertation will be of 10,000 – 15,000 words and must be submitted by 20 September</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills</b> – able to:</p> <p>Analyse critically texts and films belonging to the different subversive and revolutionary movement in French history and culture</p> <p>Show a good understanding of different historical and theoretical approaches to French culture</p> <p>To develop an individual approach to the subject matter of their chosen module</p> <p>To use critically secondary literature to support their own views.</p> <p>To present a coherently argued and structured defence of their interpretation of the material in their course</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teaching will be by seminar</li><li>• Learning will be through the presentation and critical discussion of seminar papers</li><li>• The Core <i>Introduction to Advanced Study and Research Methodology</i> will enable students to conduct independent enquiry and research</li><li>• The Optional Modules will enable students to conduct intellectual enquiry relating to their chosen literary or historical specialisations</li><li>• The Dissertation will enable students to pursue in further depth enquiry relating either to an Optional Module already chosen or to a new Optional Module</li><li>• The Dissertation will be of 10,000 – 15,000 words and must be submitted by 20 September</li></ul> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>The Core Module will be assessed by class participation and the submission of a piece of written work in agreement with the course leader</p> <p>Each Optional Module will be assessed by a 5,000word essay or by two 2,500 word essays</p> <p>The Dissertation will be of 10,000 – 15,000 words and must be submitted by 20 September</p>
<p><b>C. Practical skills</b> – able to:</p> <p>Read and assimilate texts in a variety of registers, dialects and critical languages of French.</p> <p>Use research facilities such as the library, archives and the internet appropriately and efficiently</p> <p>Organise and focus their own learning and development</p> <p>Plan and write a dissertation</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Core <i>Introduction to Advanced Study and Research Methodology</i> will enable students to acquire practical skills in empirical research methods and strategies using the library and IT resources</li><li>• The Optional Modules will enable students to put into practice research and drafting skills</li><li>• The Dissertation will enable students to prepare, plan and write a sustained and substantial piece of original research</li></ul> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>The Core Module will be assessed by class participation and the submission of a piece of written work in agreement with the course leader</p> <p>Each Optional Module will be assessed by a 5,000word essay or by two 2,500 word essays</p> <p>The Dissertation will be of 10,000 – 15,000 words and must be submitted by 20 September</p>

**D. Transferable skills** – able to:  
Present in oral or written form of complex arguments and material

Analyse source and critical material to provide support for personal interpretation

Use IT skills in oral and written presentations

Develop postgraduate level study, research and writing skills

Be able to analyse and think critically about complex texts and issues

Be able to communicate clearly to others their own thinking and the reasons for it

Be aware of methods and resources to develop their knowledge and understanding further, as part of an ability to learn independently

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

- Students read, analyse and discuss a wide variety of texts and issues for seminars and essays
- Undertake directed and independent research
- Seminar discussions and written essays will develop student abilities to present information and analysis in oral and written form
- Students are introduced to a broad range of resources including library and digital research tools
- Possibilities for further postgraduate study at PhD level are discussed where relevant

*Assessment*

The Core Module will be assessed by class participation and the submission of a piece of written work in agreement with the course leader

Each Optional Module will be assessed by a 5,000word essay or by two 2,500 word essays

The Dissertation will be of 10,000 – 15,000 words and must be submitted by 20 September

*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 expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she 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 module and programme handbooks.