

School of Arts, Languages and Cultures Interdisciplinary Courses 2013-14

The following courses are open to all undergraduate students and are taught by specialists from a wide and diverse range of subject areas within the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures. This year for the first time we are also running a course specifically designed to help second year students plan their future careers. Full details of the courses can be found on the Faculty Course Unit Database under subject headings.

- ✓ All courses are worth 20 credits unless otherwise stated

SALC10002 Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Foundations for Study in the Arts

This Level 1 course introduces you to the key ideas, concepts and thinkers in the Western tradition which underpin the ways we approach the world in the different disciplines in the arts, from archaeology to literature, history to film, art to drama, religion to music. You will have heard of Jesus, Marx and Freud, but may be less familiar with Wollstonecraft's arguments about gender, or Fanon's writing on ethnicity. Each week, you will explore a central idea in a lecture, a seminar, and your written submissions, and engage directly with the texts or images at the heart of the debate – from Plato's *Republic*, through Raphael's Renaissance frescos, to Emmanuel Kant's discussion of 'reason'. By doing so, you will gain a broad foundation in the ideas and concepts you will use throughout your degree programme in the School.

Dr Leif Jerram

For more details about this course please go to the History section of the Faculty Course Unit Database:

<http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/modulelist.html?department=36>

SALC10112 The Medieval World – An Introduction

This Level 1 course looks at people in the medieval world, the environment they lived in and the culture they experienced. Lecture topics are:

- ✓ Defining the Middle Ages
- ✓ Lords and Peasants: keeping order in medieval society
- ✓ Medieval dress: identity and fashion
- ✓ Literacy and books
- ✓ Poetry: The Troubadours and their Legacy
- ✓ Nation:
- ✓ The Body and Society: Christianity in the West, 300-1500
- ✓ The Cult of Saints: the wonderful and weird
- ✓ Mystics: a manifestation of popular piety
- ✓ The Crusades: the Islamic viewpoint
- ✓ Patronage: Commissioning art in Italy in the Late Middle Ages

In addition to leading discussion on the lecture topics, tutors will support students in researching a selection of subjects from lists of important persons, major events and medieval artefacts which will lead to the first 3 items of coursework.

Dr Gale Owen-Crocker

For more information about this course please go to the EAS section of the Faculty Course Unit Database:

<http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/modulelist.html?department=38>

SALC10122 Living & Dying in the Ancient World

This Level 1 course will allow you to explore how ancient people lived and died from a variety of angles and thus gain insights into theoretical approaches and philosophical underpinnings of core disciplines in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures.

Topics explored revolve around central issues experienced by mankind, and include:

- ✓ the appearance of cities and resulting consequences of urbanisation
- ✓ the emergence of writing and the social impact of literacy
- ✓ the nature and importance of public entertainment
- ✓ how societies cope with death and prepare for the afterlife
- ✓ how the past and the present shape each other

Over the duration of the course, you will explore several central themes in lectures, seminars, and your written submissions, and engage directly with the ancient evidence at the heart of each issue. By doing so, you will gain a broad foundation in the ideas and concepts you will use throughout your degree programme in the School.

Dr Ina Berg

For more information about this course please go to the Archaeology section of the Faculty Course Unit Database: <http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/modulelist.html?department=31>

SALC20401/02 Careers and Project Management Skills for Arts, Languages and Cultures

This new Level 2 course is open to all second year students in the School and will help you get ahead in the competitive graduate job market. It has been designed by the School and Careers Service - with involvement from graduate recruiters – to enable you to develop key practical skills and knowledge required in the workplace. You will work on a group project - for an external organisation, such as a charity or business, or for the School - which will greatly enhance your CV. Projects are likely to include opportunities for carrying out market research, developing a marketing campaign and putting on a fundraising event. The course is assessed 100% by coursework. No previous experience of project work is required.

The course involves

- ✓ Weekly workshops presented by graduate recruiters and the careers service in project management, teamworking, negotiation, presentation, networking, application, interview and assessment centre skills
- ✓ Working as a member of a project team and producing a group project report and presentation
- ✓ Reflecting on the experience of your project work in an individual report
- ✓ Receiving feedback on a CV and covering letter

Louise Sethi

For more information about this course please go to the SALC section of the Faculty Course Unit Database: <http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/modulelist.html?newcode=SAHC>

SALC21012 Enquiring Minds, Amazing Finds: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Material Culture

This Level 2 course brings together academics and students from different disciplines to discuss – in a public forum – the key approaches and tools by which we can understand society, war/conflict and torture, citizenship and the body.

In addition, weekly workshops go beyond texts to illuminate interdisciplinary ideas and practice different methods of approach that both distinguish the disciplines and connect across them. Drawing from academics in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, the course involves Discussants from 2 disciplines each week and will involve Enquiry Based Learning workshops. To provide an arena where different disciplines connect through:

- ✓ an innovative engagement with inter-disciplinarily
- ✓ a 'beyond text' skills base, such as actions, listening and discussing skills
- ✓ the opportunity to develop interviewing, responding and debating skills
- ✓ an experience that delivers genuine team teaching and team learning
- ✓ problem or enquiry based learning [PBL and EBL approaches]
- ✓ an inspiring set of teaching and learning skills for students, lecturers and GTAs

Dr Kevin Malone

For more details about this course please go to the Music subject section of the Faculty Course Unit Database:
<http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/modulelist.html?department=37>

SALC21111 A History Apart: European Jews in the 19th & 20th Century

This Level 2 course will consider the most important trend in Jewish history: it will question the *raison d'être* of a history of the Jews as an internal narrative of “communities” or, to the contrary, as a legitimate part of national – or European – narratives.

- ✓ It will describe and analyse a history of the Jews in Europe both internal to communities but also in the national and international narratives of Europe (and marginally the United States and the Arab world too).
- ✓ It will describe a history of nationalisation of minority/ies, of mass migration, of racism and persecution, but also of integration and creativity. A gendered version of those episodes will be considered also: were Jewish women a factor of modernisation of the contrary, the guardians of traditions. The origin and the rise of American Jewry as an offspring of European migration will be analysed.
- ✓ The fate of Jewish communities in the south of the Mediterranean sea and more generally in the Arab world was radically changed by French and British colonisation. Protected and partly emancipated, they faced radical choices at the time of decolonisation. The religious changes European Jewries had to face will be described, together with the invention of Jewish historiography.
- ✓ This course will give a solid introduction to the social history of Jews but also to their political, economic and intellectual history.
- ✓ The course wants to provide a general and more specialised background of many of the central issues and ideas found in the programs within the School. It will be considered how different social sciences question Jewish history and how those questionings nourish the rest of the fields. The course conveyor will interrogate the current trends in identity politics, minorities' studies and subaltern studies.

Dr Jean-Marc Dreyfus

For more details about this course please go to the R&T subject section of the Faculty Course Unit Database:
<http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/modulelist.html?department=38>

SALC21121 A World of Objects: Reinventing Daily Life in Early Modern Europe

This course examines the transformation of daily life through material culture and global exchange in Europe c. 1450 - c.1750. Students will investigate what daily life was like for different sorts of people in early modern Europe by examining the physical objects that they made, used, bought and sold. The course explores how technological developments, new markets and new leisure activities prompted people to engage in transformative ways with all sorts of objects: from clocks to peppercorns; from street lights to beds; from tobacco pipes to sewing boxes; and from books to beer glasses.

Unique features of the course are intended to include:

- in-depth use of a wide range of online primary sources
- an on-site seminar focusing on early modern objects in one of Manchester's rich heritage collections
- a guest presentation by a museum curator who will talk about working with historical objects in a 'hands-on' way
- assessment that offers the opportunity to write a catalogue essay for a 'virtual' exhibition of early modern objects

Students will develop confidence in using objects as sources for understanding the past. They will encounter a rich range of primary and secondary textual sources that support the exploration of key themes of the early modern period and their influence at a personal level: trade, globalisation, religious change, domestic environments, and working life.

Dr Jenny Spinks

For more details about this course please go to the History section of the Faculty Course Unit Database:

<http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/modulelist.html?department=36>

SALC30002 Making Culture: Institutions, Contexts & Practices

This Level 3 course will introduce students to key themes in 'cultural production', exploring how 'culture' is made through the activities of institutions, organizations, communities and individuals.

It will make extensive use of case studies examining the practices and contexts of a range of cultural producers, focusing on contemporary sites and practices in Manchester and the Northwest and including examples from museums and galleries, performance venues, theatre and dance companies, and creative industries. These activities will also be set within broader national contexts. The course will combine a critical and theoretical study of the politics and policies of cultural institutions with an examination of professional practice in core areas, such as visitor research and community engagement.

Topics to be covered include:

- ✓ The 'nationalisation' of culture since 1945
- ✓ Culture and New Labour
- ✓ Cultural participation and audiences
- ✓ Culture and socio-economic regeneration
- ✓ Collecting, exhibition-making & arts programming
- ✓ Careers in the cultural sector

This course will be particularly usefully for students who are considering careers in the creative/cultural sectors and/or who wish to undertake a professional preparation or practice-based MA programme.

Ms Zelda Baveystock

For more details about this course please go to the Drama subject section of the Faculty Course Unit Database:

<http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/modulelist.html?department=34>

This Level 3 course will introduce students to various forms of citizen media that continue to emerge and that play a major role in shaping interpersonal and institutional relationships today. 'Citizen media', or 'participatory media', covers a wide range of activities undertaken by ordinary, non-professional citizens who lay a claim to an area of public life and politics and seek to transform it in some way. From videos circulated on Youtube to graffiti, street performance and other forms of street art, and from community radio to blogging, tweeting and hacktivism, new forms of civic engagement continue to develop, expand and shape the relationship between the private and the public, the local and the global, mainstream and alternative media, corporations and clients, the state and civil society. This course unit will introduce and interrogate these practices and relate them to wider issues such as conflicting conceptions of citizenship, therapeutic and strategic uses of self mediation, empowering and regulative aspects of new technologies, and the ethics of witnessing and solidarity. Through stimulating lectures, interactive seminars and project work, students will gain a deep understanding of the material and virtual environment in which their own relationship with others is constantly being negotiated today.

Topics to be covered include:

- ✓ Citizen media: definitions, scope, histories and examples
- ✓ Cultures of citizen media: the local, the global and the transnational
- ✓ Participatory Media of the Citizen: Individuals, Collective Cultures, and Online Movements
- ✓ Citizen journalism and mainstream media
- ✓ Blogging, tweeting, YouTube-ing, Instagramming: citizen media and the ethics of witnessing
- ✓ Participatory Media and the Expert Citizen: Coders, Hackers, Gamers, and Pirates
- ✓ Citizen media and social protest: from hacktivism to 'social media revolutions'
- ✓ Graffiti, street art and 'vandalism' as citizen media: claiming urban spaces
- ✓ Building communities through citizen media
- ✓ Street performance and community theatre: citizen art and political participation
- ✓ Democratic deficit, citizen violence and racism: the ambivalence of citizen media
- ✓ Beyond citizenship: participatory media and state boundaries

The course will engage with a broad range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary conceptual frameworks and draw on a variety of case studies from different linguistic and cultural settings, including the Arab World, Israel-Palestine, Iran, the UK, US, Spanish-speaking world, Francophone and Anglophone Africa, China, Russia, and various diasporic communities. It will be particularly useful for students who are considering careers in journalism and the media, local politics, media monitoring, or working with NGOs, pressure groups or community organisations.

Dr. Luis Pérez-González, Division of Languages & Intercultural Studies

Dr. Adi Kuntsman, School of Social Sciences

For more details about this course please go to the Languages and Intercultural Studies subject section of the Faculty Course Unit Database:

<http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/module.html?code=SALC30162>