

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Comparative Literature (Asia/Africa)			
Final award (<i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations</i>)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSc	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other ...	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	On-campus		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Professional body accreditation (<i>if applicable</i>)	n/a			
Academic year this specification was created	2016/17			
Dates of any subsequent amendments				

II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To obtain a thorough grounding in the theories and techniques of comparative literature 2. To learn about the literary traditions of the regions of Asia, Africa and the Middle East 3. To develop a critical approach to Asian and African literatures in which students question the tenets of Western-derived literary theories and their applicability to non-Western traditions 4. To train students to develop good research, analytical and interpretative skills
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III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to analyse and interpret literary texts critically, how to apply critical theories to Asian and African literatures, how to explore a research topic and locate materials, use research sources (particularly research library catalogues and electronic databases) and other relevant traditional sources. A key aim is to develop a critical approach to Asian and African literatures in which students question the tenets of Western-derived literary theories and their applicability to non-Western traditions. 2. Subject specific skills. Students will learn about the literary traditions of two different regions of Asia/Africa. (Students also have the option of taking one course from the UCL Comparative Literature which is focused on Western literatures.) 3. To obtain a thorough grounding in the theories and techniques of comparative literature. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject knowledge is developed through lectures, seminars, classes and oral presentations. Students are required to attend all classes, study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work regularly. • The core course 'Theory and Techniques of Comparative Literature' introduces the main developments of mainly Western 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, long essays, course work and a dissertation.

<p>literary theory over the last fifty years to students in the first term and trains them in how these may be applied critically to Asian and African literatures. The second term focuses on a common theme, such as the 'Literature and History', to introduce case studies in comparative literature among Asian and African traditions. Students will be asked to question how contemporary literary theories can be applied/adapted in the study of non-Western literatures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject specific skills are acquired through taking two courses from different regions of Asia or Africa, or by taking one course from UCL. In essays students will be expected to either compare works from different traditions or to analyse literary works in the context of one or more of the theories introduced and to question its effectiveness. • Acquisition of a thorough grounding in the theories and techniques of comparative literature through the attendance of the compulsory course in Theories and Techniques of Comparative Literature. 	
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Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students are introduced to a number of theoretical approaches to literature. Students are taught the importance of how theories raise questions about literary texts. 2. Having successfully completed the programme, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deal with complex literary issues in a systematic and creative way • research the data necessary for making literary and cultural judgements • evaluate and apply independent research methods • demonstrate originality in dealing with literary and cultural issues • successfully conduct an advanced independent research project • formulate and test interpretations • understand literary practice and critically examine the cultural contexts of literary production. 3. Students will become aware of and think through problems involved when applying a mainly 'Western' body of literary theory to Asian and African literatures. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of critical and analytical skills is fostered in all courses offered in the Programme. • All courses will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate how conflicting interpretations arise from different approaches to the same texts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, course work, long essays and a dissertation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn successfully how to conduct an advanced research project through supervision. • Analysis and application of theory are acquired through seminars and the writing of essays on topics relating to theory and Asian/African literatures. 	
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Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate effectively in writing 2. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources. 3. Listen and discuss ideas introduced during seminars. 4. Practice research techniques in a variety of specialized research libraries and institutes. 5. Gain knowledge of two literary traditions 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
Acquisition of subject-based skills through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing of long essays and dissertations. • Research work in the library in preparation for the two essays. • Seminar discussion. • Through the area literature courses. • The setting of clear deadlines for the submission of written work, and through guidance when writing essays and thesis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By unseen examination, dissertation, and long essays

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write good essays and dissertations. 2. Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing. 3. Question the assumptions or theories and methodologies. 4. Study a variety of written and digital materials, in libraries and research institutes of a kind they will not have used as undergraduates. 5. Present (non-assessed) material orally 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
Acquisition of transferable skills through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing of long essays, course work and dissertation. • Seminar presentations, discussions and essays. • The provision of detailed reading lists and by compulsory reading assignments. • Participation in seminar discussions and presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, dissertation, long essays and course work.

General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes
Masters programmes consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional.

As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see <https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/>) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.

At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.

More information can be found on individual module pages.

MA Comparative Literature (Africa/Asia)

Dissertation	
credits	60
module code	15PCSC999
module title	Dissertation in Cultural, Literary, and Postcolonial
status	compulsory module

Taught Component	
credits	30
module code	15PCSC002
module title	Theory & Techniques of Comparative Literature
status	core module

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Taught Component	
credits	60
module code	
module title	see list below
status	guided option*

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Taught Component	
credits	30
module code	
module title	see list of open options
status	open option

***List of modules (subject to availability)**

Students can take 60 credits from the list below or 30 credits from the list below and a 30 credit language acquisition module.

Code	Title	Credits
English Based Options		
15PJKH009	Years of Radical change: South Korean cinema from the 'New Wave' to the new millenium	15
15PEAH013	Japanese Traditional Drama (Masters)	15
15PEAH012	Modern Japanese Literature (Masters)	15
15PCHH001	Modern Chinese Film and Theatre (MA)	15
15PCHH002	Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora	15
15PCHC004	Traditional Chinese Literature in Translation	30
15PAFC124	Literatures in African languages	30
15PAFC139	Travelling Africa: Writing the Cape to Cairo	30
15PAFH006	The Story of African Film: Narrative Screen Media in Africa	15
15PAFH008	African Philosophy (PG)	15
15PAFH009	Philosophy and Decolonization (PG)	15
15PAFH012	Realism and Magical Realism in the African Novel (PG)	15
15PAFH013	Sci-fi and Afrofuturism in the African Novel (PG)	15
15PJKH005	Literary Traditions and Culture of Korea (Masters)	15
15PJKH006	Trajectories of Modernity in Korean Literature (Masters)	15
15PNMC230	Film and Society in the Middle East	30
15PSAC284	Literatures of South Asia	30
15PSEH013	English Literatures of South East Asia	15
15PCSC003	Postcolonial Theory and Practice	30
15PSEH008	Post-crisis Thai Cinema (1997-2007)	15
15PSEH017	Under Western Eyes: European Writings on South East Asia (PG)	15
15PSEH009	War, Revolution and Independence in South East Asia Literatures in Translation (Masters)	15
15PSEH011	Genders and Sexualities in South East Asian Film	15
15PJKH007	Japanese Transnational Cinema: From Kurosawa to Asia Extreme and Studio Ghibli	15
15PJKH008	Japanese Post-War Film Genres and the Avant-Garde	15
15PSAH001	Indian Cinema: Its History and Social Context	15
15PSAH002	Indian Cinema: Key Issues	15
15PANH010	African and Asian Diasporas in the modern world	15
15PNMC377	Turkey:Continuity and Change	30
Language Based Options:		
15PJKH021	Readings in Korean Literature (Masters)	15
15PNMC373	Social and Political Trends in 19th Century Turkish Literature	30
15PNMC374	Selected Topics in 20th Century Turkish Literature	30
15PNMC347	Social and Political Dimensions of Modern Arabic Literature	30
15PNMC379	Modern Palestinian Literature (PG)	30
15PSAC003	Sanskrit Literature	30
15PSAC016	Directed Readings in the Literature of a Modern South Asian Language	30
15PSEH016	Directed Readings in a South East Asian Language	15
15PSAH005	Literature & Colonialism in North India	15
15PSAH006	Narratives of Mobility in Contemporary Hindi Literature (Masters)	15
15PSEH006	Jawi and the Malay Manuscript Tradition	15
15PNMC412	Identity and Language in Hebrew Literature	30
Africa		
15PAFH021	Amharic 1 A (PG)	15
15PAFH022	Amharic 1 B (PG)	15
15PAFC131	Amharic 2 (PG)	30
15PAFH027	Hausa 1 A (PG)	15
15PAFH028	Hausa 1 B (PG)	15
15PAFC138	Hausa 2 (PG)	30
15PAFH023	Somali 1 A (PG)	15
15PAFH024	Somali 1 B (PG)	15
15PAFC133	Somali 2 (PG)	30
15PAFH017	Advanced Somali: Language (PG)	15
15PAFH018	Advanced Somali: Literature (PG)	15
15PAFH029	Swahili 1 A (PG)	15
15PAFH030	Swahili 1 B (PG)	15
15PAFC141	Intermediate Swahili 2A (PG)	30
15PAFC142	Swahili 3 (PG)	30
15PAFH014	Practical Translation Swahili into English	15
15PAFH025	Yoruba 1 A (PG)	15
15PAFH026	Yoruba 1 B (PG)	15
15PAFC135	Yoruba 2 (PG)	30
15PAFH019	Zulu 1 A (PG)	15
15PAFH020	Zulu 1 B (PG)	15
15PAFC129	Zulu 2 (PG)	30

China and Inner Asia

15PCHC006	Elementary Spoken Cantonese (PG)	30
15PCHC007	Elementary spoken Hokkien (Minnanyu, Taiwanese) (PG)	30
15PCHH033	Tibetan (Modern) 1 A	15
15PCHH034	Tibetan (Modern) 1 B	15
15PCHH031	Chinese 1 A (PG)	15
15PCHH032	Chinese 1 B (PG)	15
15PCHC011	Chinese 2 (PG)	30
15PCHC009	Chinese 3 (PG)	30
15PCHC012	Chinese 4 (PG)	30
15PCHC010	Special Course in Chinese: Reading Classical and Literary Chinese (PG)	30

Japan and Korea

15PJKH035	Japanese 1 A (PG)	15
15PJKH036	Japanese 1 B (PG)	15
15PJKC009	Japanese 2 (PG)	30
15PJKH037	Korean 1 A (PG)	15
15PJKH038	Korean 1 B (PG)	15
15PJKC024	Korean 2 (PG)	30
15PJKC018	Korean Readings (PG)	30
15PJKC010	Japanese 3 (PG)	30
15PJKC011	Japanese 4 (PG)	30

Near and Middle East

15PNMC384	Elementary Persian Texts (PG)	30
15PNMH016	Elementary Written Persian A (PG)	15
15PNMH017	Elementary Written Persian B (PG)	15
15PNMH014	Elementary Written Turkish A (PG)	15
15PNMH015	Elementary Written Turkish B (PG)	15
15PNMC383	Intermediate Modern Turkish Language (PG)	30
15PNMH018	Hebrew 1 A (PG)	15
15PNMH019	Hebrew 1 B (PG)	15

South Asia

15PSAH028	Bengali Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSAH029	Bengali Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSAC304	Bengali Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSAH022	Hindi Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSAH023	Hindi Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSAC296	Hindi Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSAC297	Hindi Language 3 (PG)	30
15PSAC308	Hindi Language 4 (PG)	30
15PSAH024	Nepali Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSAH025	Nepali Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSAC299	Nepali Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSAH030	Punjabi Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSAH031	Punjabi Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSAH020	Sanskrit Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSAH021	Sanskrit Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSAC306	Sanskrit Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSAC309	Prakrit Language 1 (PG)	30
15PSAH026	Urdu Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSAH027	Urdu Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSAC301	Urdu Language 2 (PG)	30

South East Asia

15PSEH022	Burmese Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSEH023	Burmese Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSEC045	Burmese Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSEH018	Indonesian Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSEH019	Indonesian Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSEC033	Indonesian Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSEC034	Indonesian Language 3 (PG)	30
15PSEC035	Indonesian Language 4 (PG)	30
15PSEH024	Thai Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSEH025	Thai Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSEC041	Thai Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSEC042	Thai Language 3 (PG)	30
15PSEH020	Vietnamese Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSEH021	Vietnamese Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSEC037	Vietnamese Language 2 (PG)	30