



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

COURSEWORK MASTERS IN ENGLISH LITERARY STUDIES

The Department of English Literary Studies at the University of Cape Town recently launched a revised coursework Masters degree that foregrounds research into English Literary Studies in the global South. The new MA aims to equip a new generation of postgraduate students with the research skills needed to explore new archives in literary studies, and to address the coloniality of received archives.

Shape your research specialisation from the start of your degree

Benefit from the supportive pedagogy of the coursework structure

Hone your research skills in preparation for a PhD

Work closely with award-winning subject experts

CORE COURSES

Literary Theory in the Global South
Research Methods

ELECTIVES IN FOUR STREAMS OF INQUIRY

Black Literary and Intellectual Traditions
World Literatures in English
Literature and the Archive
Between the Critical and Creative

MINOR DISSERTATION

APPLY BY

30 September International applicants | **31 October** South African applicants
31 July UCT/NRF postgraduate funding

FIND OUT MORE

<http://www.english.uct.ac.za/ma-literary-studies-coursework>



Coursework Masters in English Literary Studies

The Department of English Literary Studies at UCT recently launched a revised coursework Masters degree that foregrounds research into English Literary Studies in the global South. The new MA aims to equip a new generation of postgraduate students to conduct research into the compelling issues that arise in our discipline at a time when questions of canonicity are under revision and new approaches to literary studies are generating new archives and addressing the coloniality of received archives. The course helps to equip students to develop their own research paths and would make excellent preparation before moving into the PhD.

We invite applications from candidates who will have an Honours degree in place by the start of the new academic year.

Structure

The MA in English Literary Studies allows students to begin to shape their research specialisation from the start, while benefitting from the supportive pedagogy of the coursework structure. The two core courses introduce students to 'Literary Theory in the Global South' and equip students in 'Research Methods', with an aim to supporting their own research commitments. Students are also invited to select two electives that support an area of specialisation.

The programme is structured around compelling streams of inquiry, each of which is populated by clusters of semester-long elective courses that are in sync with lecturers' research specialisations:

1. **Black Literary and Intellectual Traditions**
2. **World Literatures in English**
3. **Literature and the Archive**
4. **Between the Critical and Creative**

Core courses

In keeping with the department's intellectual commitment of training scholars able to undertake rigorous, independent literary research, the core courses will be structured as a weekly space for exploring the compelling theory and the research methods necessary for effective research in literary studies.

ELL5047F Literary Theory in the Global South

The first semester core course aims to introduce students to key debates and fields of knowledge around postcoloniality and decoloniality, with an emphasis on reading and producing literary theory

from the global South. It draws on the work of key postcolonial and decolonial theorists, and invites students to think through and write about the meanings of being situated in the global South as producers of knowledge.

ELL5045S Research Methods in English Literary Studies

The second semester 'Research Methods' course takes students through the process of conceptualising and conducting literary research. The course aims to equip students with the tools to do archival research and build their own archives, to identify and engage the field(s) within which their research is located, to work across disciplines, and to formulate a compelling research topic and the robust argument that will underpin the dissertation. Having produced a substantive research proposal by the end of their first year, students will begin the second year of study with the dissertation already underway.

Electives

The core course will be supplemented with two electives, drawn from four proposed streams, which help to focus a set of inquiries into rich intellectual and creative traditions, each of them coalescing around the clusters of research expertise in the department.

Stream 1: Black Literary and Intellectual Traditions

ELL5074F Christopher Ouma: 'Modern African Literature'

ELL5066F Barbara Boswell: 'Gender and Literature: African Feminist Thought'

ELL5019S Mandisa Haarhoff: 'Contemporary Black South African Literature'

Stream 2: World Literatures in English

ELL5044F Polo Moji: 'Comparative Approaches to Diasporic Literature'

ELL5043S Kate Highman: 'Debates in World Literature: Perspectives from the Global South'

Stream 3: Literature and the Archive

ELL5068F Peter Anderson: 'History and Historicity'

ELL5040S Sandra Young & Hedley Twidle: 'Memory, Trauma and the Limits of Language'

Stream 4: Between the Critical and Creative

ELL5077F Sindiswa Busuku: 'Wayward Experiments and Hybrid Genres'

ELL5046S Hedley Twidle & Nadia Davids: 'Writing workshop: Cultural Criticism, Non-Fiction and the Essay'

MA students are also invited to consider an elective within the Environmental Humanities MA:

ELL5042F Hedley Twidle: 'Earth Ecology Humanities'

Writing outputs

Assessment practices for MA-level courses are distinguished by the learning objective that students formulate their own topics and design their own research project, with the support of lecturers. Opportunities to present proposals are built into the seminars. The total output expected in an MA course is 8,000 words, which could be made up of 2 equally weighted essays or a more varied set of research-related tasks.

The coursework MA therefore has the following writing outputs: 2 electives, each of which requires written assignments of around 8,000 words; a core course on 'Literary Theory from the Global South' and a core course on 'Research Methods' that comprises 1 research proposal of 4,000 words and a series of other smaller assignments (constructing a literature review, reports on archival research, smaller exercises in textual analysis). The second year of the MA is devoted to a 'minor' dissertation of 25,000 words, supervised by departmental academic staff.

How to apply

Applicants are required to complete the UCT application form and submit additional materials (their academic transcript and letter of motivation) through the online Admissions process. You can find out more about the admissions process here: <http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/hum/apply/postgraduate/requirements/overview>

Funding opportunities

Acceptance in our department does not come with any funding. For that applicants would need to deal with the UCT postgraduate funding office. You can find out more information about accessing funding here: <http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/current-students/funding/postgraduate-degree>

Important dates

31 July Applications for **postgraduate funding from the UCT/NRF awards** close.

31 October Applications for **South African applicants** close.

30 September Applications for **international students** close.

Where to find more information

The MA programme: <http://www.english.uct.ac.za/ma-literary-studies-coursework>

How to apply: <http://www.english.uct.ac.za/applying-masters>

Funding: <http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/current-students/funding/postgraduate-degree>

Faculty of Humanities guide to postgraduate applications: <http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/hum/apply/postgraduate/requirements/overview>

Convenor of the MA programme, Prof. Sandra Young: Sandra.Young@uct.ac.za