Guidance Notes

This catalogue provides key details of optional modules available in the Department of Languages, Cultures and Film (excluding Film Studies - see separate catalogue) in 2021/22 to help inform your choices. In many programmes within the School it is possible for students take modules from other subject areas. Students are strongly encouraged to consider the full range of optional modules available to them, and not just those that are ‘hosted’ by their own department. Taking modules from other subject areas will help to broaden your knowledge and develop your academic skills in different ways. You will interact with a wider range of students studying other, often complementary, disciplines.

In all cases, please check your programme structure carefully to ensure you are only choosing modules which are available to the programme you are registered on, or will be registered on, in 2021/22. All students must register for 120 credits of modules in each year of study - 60 credits in each semester.

For further information on individual modules, please contact the module convenor directly.

*Note this catalogue does not include information on mandatory, required or optional (non-compensary) language modules. For further information on these modules, please check the module specification or contact the module convenor directly.
Modern Languages and Cultures
Year One
Module Title: Introduction to Chinese Studies I

Module Convenor: Dr Angela Becher (Angela.Becher@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content: This multi-disciplinary course will provide students with a general introduction to the field of Chinese Studies, including basic knowledge in key areas including Chinese history, Chinese society, politics, economics, culture and philosophy. Part I of this year-long course will focus on imperial times up until the mid-20th century, and will include topics such as Confucianism, the New Culture Movement and the Communist revolution. Students will gain knowledge about subject-specific study skills, key relevant terminologies in Chinese language and improve their critical analysis and independent thinking skills. This introductory course serves as key foundational module to build upon in Years 2 and 4 in Chinese Studies and it will also serve as essential preparation for the Year Abroad in China.

Module code: CHIN120

Employability skills: Research skills; written and oral communication skills

Credit value: 15

Semester: One

Balance of assessment: 60% Critical Commentary; 40% Essay
Module Title:
Introduction to Chinese Studies II

Module Convenor:
Dr Penny Ding (Penny.Ding@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This multi-disciplinary course will provide students with a general introduction to the field of Chinese Studies, including basic knowledge in key areas including Chinese history, Chinese society, politics, economics, culture and philosophy. Part II of this year-long course will focus on the period between the mid-20th century and the present day. Topics will include the Cultural Revolution, the Reform and Opening Up period and China’s new role on the global stage. Students will gain knowledge about subject-specific study skills, key relevant terminologies in Chinese language and improve their critical analysis and independent thinking skills. This introductory course serves as key foundational module to build upon in Years 2 and 4 and serve as essential preparation for the Year Abroad in China.

Module code: CHIN121

Employability skills:
Confidence; digital fluency; global citizenship

Credit value: 15

Semester: Two

Balance of assessment:
50% Exam; 40% Essay; 10% Group Presentation
Module Title:
Media Industries and Institutions B

Module Convenor:
Dr Lyndon Way (Lyndon.Way@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module introduces students to issues surrounding media industries and institutions. Indicative content: media industries as a concept/topic; public, private and state broadcasting in relation to the public sphere; ownership of mainstream, independent, and alternative media, including concentration of ownership; working in the media and creative industries; ethics in journalism; press regulation and freedom of speech; media convergence; drivers of industry; innovation and upgrade culture; media manufacturing and infrastructures; globalisation, digitalisation, conglomeration, marketization and effects on media professionals.

Module code:
COMM110

Employability skills:
Research skills; critical thinking; communication skills

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
100% Case Study
Module Title:
Communication, Culture and Media Analysis B

Module Convenor:
Dr A Wozniak (A.Wozniak@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
The module is broadly taught in three blocks. The first introduces students to key concepts such as identity, ideology, power and hegemony, and how they feature in various approaches to the analysis of communication, media, and culture. The second block focuses on perspectives from cultural studies and anthropology, including (for example) visual anthropology, screen studies and semiotics, as well as studies of media reception. The third block deals with social scientific approaches to the analysis of media and communication, including survey methodology, media framing, and content analysis.

Module code:
COMM112

Employability skills:
Academic writing; textual analysis; report writing

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
100% Report
Module Convenor:
Dr Abigail Loxham (Abigail.Loxham@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module will explore the ways in which film creates meaning, and to provide students with the ability to identify and explain the techniques used by a film-maker and the results obtained. Students will develop a capacity for precise and sophisticated observation, and for intelligent structured discussion of what is observed. It will also foster students' knowledge of the formal and technical language of film analysis.

Module code:
FILM101

Employability skills:
Critical thinking; listening skills; problem solving

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
60% Extract Analysis; 35% Viewing Journal; 5% Quizzes
Module Title:
Approaches to Film

Module Convenor:
Dr R Miles (R.Miles@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module will introduce students to key theoretical and conceptual debates within Film Studies and apply these to close readings of film texts.

Module code:
FILM102

Employability skills:
Critical thinking; global citizenship; independence

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
70% Essay; 30% Article Review
Module Title:
Screen Cultures

Module Convenor:
Dr Abigail Loxham (Abigail.Loxham@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module explores the ways in which screen media circulate and make meaning (in sites beyond Hollywood and outside the mainstream distribution channels associated with European and US films). It responds to the ways in which we understand film and other screen media today and explores theories and histories that reflect the ways in which they inform, represent and participate in cultures.

Module code:
FILM105

Employability skills:
Project management; media analysis; film writing

Credit value:
30

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
65% Extended Article; 35% Film Log
**Module Title:**
Introduction to Film Research

**Module convenor:**
Dr Niamh Thornton (N.Thornton@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Broad description of module content:**
This module aims to broaden and deepen students’ understanding of film texts in context and develop students’ critical skills when confronted with academic writing.

It will increase students' confidence in handling theoretical concepts in relation to specific texts and introduce students to techniques of independent research, including question formulation, data-gathering, project organisation and time management.

**Module code:**
FILM106

**Employability skills:**
Critical reading; research skills; communication skills

**Credit value:**
15

**Semester:**
Two

**Balance of assessment:**
70% Essay; 30% Comparative Critical Evaluation
Module Title:
Introduction to French Studies I

Module Convenor:
Dr Pollie Bromilow (Pollie.Bromilow@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module provides students with an outline of the major stages in the evolution of the French state and, through the use of a range of historical and literary, to engage students in a critical examination of these. It will encourage students to engage with a longer text, through which students will be able to examine different aspects of French and Francophone societies. In addition, the module will provide students with skills appropriate to a range of areas in French Studies and to assist them in developing generic study skills, including information skills training and anti-plagiarism training.

Module code:
FREN114

Employability skills:
Critical thinking; communication skills; problem solving

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
35% Mini Essay; 35% Commentary; 15% Reflective Wiki; 15% Social Media Commentary
Module Title:  
Introduction to French Studies II

Module Convenor:  
Dr Rebecca Dixon (Rebecca.Dixon@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:  
This module provides students with essential content and skills for succeeding in their degree programmes. The module focuses specifically on language, literature and film. The first half of the module covers language awareness, linguistics, the languages spoken in France and the French language as spoken outside France. The second half of the module covers issues of literary and film theory and draws on relevant movements and theoretical paradigms that students of French will encounter throughout their degree programmes at the University of Liverpool. Lectures provide essential background information on the various topics, and student-led seminars allow for detailed discussion of these topics, aided furthermore by the reading of two set texts: Antigone by Jean Anouilh and Kiffe kiffe demain (Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow) by Faïza Guène.

Module code:  
FREN116

Employability skills:  
Critical thinking; presentation skills; cultural awareness

Credit value:  
15

Semester:  
Two

Balance of assessment:  
60% Essay; 20% Secondary Source Summary; 10% Presentation; 10% Data Analysis
Module Title: Introduction to Francosphere: language, culture, empire, francophonie

Module Convenor: Professor Charles Forsdick (C.Forsdick@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content: The module will provide students with an introduction to the French-speaking world, ensuring that they have an overview of the key issues that they will require throughout their studies including during their Year Abroad. It provides an overview of historical, social and linguistic dimensions of French culture understood as a global phenomenon. Whilst offering an introduction to key contextual details (including French colonial history and aspects of contemporary French soft power such as the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie), the core syllabus will focus on the regions of the world in which the influence of France is in evidence. Students will accordingly understand the wider frames in which French operates as a world language and France as a global power.

Module code: FREN125

Employability skills: Critical thinking; time management; global citizenship

Credit value: 15

Semester: Two

Balance of assessment: 60% Essay; 20% Blog Post; 20% Presentation
Module Title: Introduction to German Studies I

Module Convenor: Dr Andrew Plowman (Afp0001@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content: This module introduces students to a range of key political events/developments in contemporary German history and to the historical development of the German language. It will assist students in learning how to engage in the study and critical discussion of a range of primary and secondary historical, political, journalistic and linguistic texts in German and in English. Students will learn to complete a comprehension task and writing commentaries and employ the correct forms of bibliographical citation.

Module code: GRMN127

Employability skills: Critical thinking; source analysis; academic writing

Credit value: 15

Semester: One

Balance of assessment: 40% Commentary Exercise; 30% Commentary Exercise; 30% Comprehension Exercise
Module Title:
Introduction to German Studies II

Module Convenor:
Dr Andrew Plowman (Afp0001@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module provides students with an understanding of the language and conventions of German short stories, Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis as well as German film; It will teach students how to engage in the study and critical discussion of German literature and German film as well as related academic secondary sources. In addition, students will learn to write commentaries, literary reviews, essays and employ the correct forms of bibliographical citation.

Module code: GRMN128

Employability skills: Critical thinking; communication skills; academic writing

Credit value: 15

Semester: Two

Balance of assessment: 40% Essay; 30% Commentary; 30% Commentary
Module Title: 
Texts and Context in German

Module Convenor: 
Dr Lyn Marven (L.Marven@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content: 
This module will allow students to develop their reading knowledge of German literature and further students' linguistic skills in German; It will enable students to understand literary texts in their historical, political, social and literary contexts and develop students' research skills through targeted tasks as well as develop academic writing skills.

Module code: 
GRMN125

Employability skills: 
Critical thinking; information skills; problem solving

Credit value: 
15

Semester: 
Two

Balance of assessment: 
60% Essay; 25% Commentary; 10% Comprehension; 5% Bibliography
Module Title:
Women in Iberian and Latin American Literature and Culture

Module Convenor:
Dr Sizen Yiacoup (Sizen.Yiacoup@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module aims to introduce students to key texts and cultural forms from Spain, Portugal and Latin America in which the social and cultural role, status and impact of women are of particular importance. By studying and engaging with the topics taught on this module, students will develop critical insight into representations of women in the texts they have studied and will be able to apply what they have learnt constructively in the study of women in Iberian and Latin American literature more generally.

Module code:
HISP112

Employability skills:
Critical analysis; writing skills; group work

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
70% Portfolio; 30% Commentary
Module Title:
Introduction to Iberian and Latin American Studies I

Module Convenor:
Dr Niamh Thornton (N.Thornton@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module will help students to identify and evaluate key issues in Luso-Hispanic Studies and apply these issues to the study of the Luso-Hispanic world.

Module code: HISP120

Employability skills:
Critical thinking; research skills; organisation skills

Credit value: 15

Semester: One

Balance of assessment:
50% Exam; 40% Essays; 10% Academic Article Review
Module Title:
Introduction to Iberian and Latin American Studies II

Module Convenor:
Professor Claire Taylor (C.L.Taylor@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module will help students to identify and evaluate key issues in Luso-Hispanic Studies and apply these issues to the study of the Luso-Hispanic world.

Module code:
HISP121

Employability skills:
Critical thinking; research skills; organisation skills

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
50% Exam; 50% Essay
Module Title: Introduction to Italian Studies I

Module Convenor: Dr Stefania Tufi (Stefania.Tufi@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module aims to introduce students to issues relating to post-unification and fascist Italy and to past and current debates surrounding multilingual, multicultural and multiethnic Italy. It will help students develop subject-specific skills appropriate to a range of areas in Italian studies and generic study skills, so that students are prepared for higher level modules within the Italian curriculum. Additionally, the module will enhance critical analysis and independent thinking.

Module code: ITAL120

Employability skills: Information skills; oral and written communication skills

Credit value: 15

Semester: One

Balance of assessment: 70% Essay; 30% Essay
**Module Title:**
Introduction to Italian Studies II

**Module Convenor:**
Dr Barbara Spadaro (B.Spadaro@liverpool.ac.uk)

**Broad description of module content:**
This module aims to provide students with skills appropriate to a range of areas in Italian Studies and to assist them in developing generic study skills so that they are prepared for future level modules within the Italian curriculum. Students will be involved in the discussion of issues surrounding past and current debates on changing values, conflicts and dissension within Italian society.

**Module code:**
ITAL121

**Employability skills:**
Critical analysis; academic writing; teamwork

**Credit value:**
15

**Semester:**
Two

**Balance of assessment:**
60% Essay; 20% Annotated Bibliography; 20% Essay Plan
Module Title: Texts and Contexts in Italian

Module Convenor: Dr Marco Paoli (M.Paoli@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content: This module allows students to develop their reading knowledge of Italian literature and/or cinema and further develop their linguistic skills in Italian. Students will learn out to understand literary and/or audio visual texts in their historical, political, social and literary contexts and develop skills in research and academic writing.

Module code: ITAL125

Employability skills: Research skills; academic writing; organisation skills

Credit value: 15

Semester: Two

Balance of assessment: 70% Final Project; 30% Abstract
Module Title: Language Awareness

Module Convenor: Dr Ulrike Bavendiek (U.Bavendiek@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content: This module aims to develop students' awareness of, and explicit knowledge about language. It will introduce students to key concepts of linguistics, enhance skills of critical analysis of language, including hypothesis testing and rule formation, and develop students' understanding of similarities and differences between human languages.

Module code: MODL105

Employability skills: Critical reflection; communication skills; group work

Credit value: 15

Semester: One

Balance of assessment: 60% Translation; 40% Group Project
Module Title:
Introduction to Sound and Music in Audio Visual Media

Module convenor:
Dr Jennifer Smith (Jennifer.Smith@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module will familiarise students with how sound is used in multimedia forms, with a particular emphasis on classical Hollywood film practices. Students will explore the importance of sound on our interpretation of audiovisual media, and how a change of soundtrack can encourage a different reading of the image.

It will investigate the practicalities of composing for film, cues, editing cuts, sync'ing, etc and engage students theoretically with audiovisual modes of discourse as well as assessing critical problems of musical narrative and meaning.

Module code:
MUSI170

Employability skills:
Oral and written communication skills; critical thinking

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
50% Exam; 50% Essay