This catalogue provides key details of optional modules available in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures in 2019/20 to help inform your choices. In many programmes within the School it is possible for students to 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 2019/20. 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-compensatory) language modules. For further information on these modules, please check the module specification or contact the module convenor directly.
Modern Languages and Cultures
Year Three/Four
Module Title:
Extended Essay in Chinese Archaeology and Heritage

Module Convenor:
Professor Doug Baird (D.Baird@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
The extended essay is an individual, specific research topic in which students take initiative in identifying and researching a specific research question with the aid of, and guidance of, a supervisor. Students will plan their research and essay, identify a bibliography and other sources, collect and analyse relevant evidence and write an essay based thereon.

Module code: ALGY285

Employability skills:
Planning skills; data collection; academic writing

Credit value: 15

Semester: One

Balance of assessment:
100% Coursework
Module Title:
Beginners Basque 1+2 / Elementary Basque 3+4

Module Convenor:
Dr Gorka Mercero Alzugarai (G.Mercero-Alzugarai@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
These modules offer final-year students the opportunity to take an ab initio course in Basque language complemented with the study in depth of significant aspects of Basque society and culture that have not specifically been addressed in any other module throughout their degrees.

The language course is based on the use of BOGA, a multimedia system for learning Basque on the Internet and provided to the University of Liverpool by the Basque Institute Etxepare. Students work on their own on BOGA, and the aim of the lectures and seminars is to reinforce and enhance the last grammar and vocabulary elements learnt from BOGA and to practice them in listening, reading, writing and speaking activities. A brief description of BOGA can be found here:


Module code: BASQ322/324

Employability skills:
Oral and written communications skills; global citizenship

Credit value: 15
Semester: One/Two

Balance of assessment:
60% Exam; 20% MCQ/Grammar Exercises; 20% Oral Test
Module Title:
Beginners Catalan 1+2 / Elementary Catalan 3+4

Module Convenor:
Mr Joan Mas Font (J.Mas-Font@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
The modules CATL322 (Semester 1) and CATL324 (Semester 2) are designed for final year students. These modules are intensive and aim to develop all the skills necessary to communicate confidently in spoken and written Catalan, thus laying solid foundations of the basic grammar. It also aims to encourage students to explore some aspects of Catalan culture through the medium of Catalan.

By the end of the second semester, the students will be able to take an International Certificate of Catalan issued by the Institut Ramon Llull (www.llull.cat). At this level, the students can achieve the B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages which will be officially recognised and it will increase its employability profile.

Module code:
CATL322/324

Employability skills:
Oral and written communications skills; global citizenship

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One/Two

Balance of assessment:
60% Exam; 40% Portfolio (CATL322)
60% Exam; 20% Oral Test; 20% Portfolio (CATL324)

Student quote:
"Excellent module with interesting mixture of language and cultural topics. Thoroughly enjoyed!"; "I really liked having the opportunity to participate in cultural activities such as concerts or a trip to Majorca!"
Module Title:
From Silence to Virtual Reality: innovations in Chinese cinema

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

Broad description of module content:
This module examines different periods of Chinese cinema from the early period of silent cinema in the late Qing and early Republican period to the latest trends among Chinese directors to embark on the path of Virtual Reality. The course looks at different stages of innovation in filmmaking in the Greater China Region (including the People’s Republic of China (PRC), Taiwan and Hong Kong), in terms of shifts in the cinematic ‘language’ and with a particular focus on the role technology has played in transforming the production and consumption of filmic texts. On one hand we will explore how political ideology, consumerism and social transformation in China interact in the formation and reception of Chinese film. On the other hand we will analyse the changing nature of the medium itself and examine the innovations in Chinese filmmaking that have resulted from the creative use of new technologies. Examples include a look at the trajectory of popular early Chinese cartoons to today’s independent 3D animation art. Of particular relevance is thereby the way in which technology alters the essential nature of storytelling, particularly with the onset of Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and Artificial Intelligence which provide ever new avenues for the proliferation of moving images and interactivity.

Module code:
CHIN320

Employability skills:
Research skills; critical analysis; presentation skills

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
70% Coursework; 20% Research Project; 10% Presentation
Module Title: From Sheepskin to E-Reader: books and publishing in France

Module Convenor: Dr Godfried Croenen (G.Croenen@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module explores the complex history of books, readers and publishing in France from the middle ages to the present. In seminars and lectures, students will work through different topics and themes which will introduce them to a range of views on the relation and interaction between the written or printed word and society, and to different approaches to the history of the book. Students will discover how books are shaped not only by their content, but also by the technical and intellectual conditions under which they are produced. Most of the seminars will be focused on the period before the end of the Ancien Régime, but students are encouraged for the extended essay to develop a topic of their own choice in any period.

Module code: FREN331

Employability skills: Problem solving; initiative; communication skills

Credit value: 15

Semester: One

Balance of assessment: 70% Extended Essay; 20% Commentary; 10% Presentation
Module Title: The Sociolinguistics of Modern French

Module convenor: Professor Robert Blackwood (Robert.Blackwood@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
Whilst much time is devoted to perfecting standard French in the language modules from year one onwards, the year abroad will have confirmed the fact that – as with English spoken in the UK – there is considerable variation in the way in which real French people living in France speak the language.

In this module, we will look more closely at how French came to emerge as the primary language of France, how it was standardized, and how this process has been resisted, especially in contemporary France.

We will also explore the ways in which gender, age, ethnicity, and social class all contribute in different ways to the French language that individuals encountered on the year abroad spoke. To this end, we will ascertain whether it is more appropriate to refer to Frenches than the French language when analyzing the ways in which people speak and – increasingly – write.

Module code: FREN333

Employability skills: Communication skills; critical thinking; problem-solving

Credit value: 15

Semester: One

Balance of assessment: 50% Exam; 50% Coursework

Student quote: "This module provided me with an in-depth understanding of the sociolinguistics of modern French, both in France and in the wider francophone world. It is taught in an enthusiastic and thorough manner which makes the module interesting and engaging."
Module Title:
French Identities: France, Europe and the World, c 1720-1830

Module Convenor:
Professor Kate Marsh (Clmarsh@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module will introduce you to a range of literature exploring French cultural contact with the wider world during the ‘long’ eighteenth century, the century when modernity is viewed to have begun with the Revolution of 1789. While addressing issues of great significance to this day (multiculturalism, national identity, feminism, equality), it aims to provide you with an entertaining romp through a century dominated by satire, libertinism, revolution, and luxury in all its forms. The overarching theme is what constituted ‘Frenchness’ in the eighteenth century: what united French people, what divided them, and how they viewed themselves in comparison with the rest of Europe and the world. Themes for the seminars include ‘noble savages’, anticolonialism, travel writing, utopias, ‘free love’, exoticism, the harem, revolution and restoration — ideas which are explored by looking at key texts by Montesquieu, Voltaire and Diderot. The assessment for the module is based upon an independent research essay and a final exam, and over the course of the module you will have the opportunity to lead seminars and to contribute to a blog.

Module code:
FREN334

Employability skills:
Cultural awareness; presentation skills; group work

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
50% Exam; 50% Coursework
Module Title: French Dressing: six centuries of clothing and cultural history in France

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

Broad description of module content: From haute couture to pret-a-porter, from textile production to designer training, France has historically been at the forefront of fashion and of clothing technology. This cultural investment in both dress and the visual arts provides the underpinning to this module. Unique in UK French Studies curricula, it brings together the academic study of dress history with literary and visual studies, and provides an introduction to the growing discipline of material culture studies. Taught in a mixture of lectures and seminars, the module looks at a range of cultural productions - medieval manuscript illustration, theatre designs, fashion-plates, lifestyle journalism, bande dessinée - and allows students to consider how dress functions as a tool for self- and group definition, and as a means of shaping and interpreting social and personal identity. Across the centuries, in France as elsewhere, what we wear sends out important messages about who we are and how we want others to see us. Getting dressed in the morning will never seem quite so innocent again.

Module code: FREN335

Employability skills: Critical thinking; communication skills; global citizenship

Credit value: 15

Semester: Two

Balance of assessment: 70% Coursework; 30% Catalogue Entry
Module Title:
Cinema and Narratives in French Society

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

Broad description of module content:
In this option we will look at the ways in which the French narrative cinema has portrayed its own society, and the extent to which it has contributed to the forming of that elusive concept, a French identity.

This investigation has two aims: one is to reach a greater understanding of how film, and particularly narrative film works, the strategies it uses and the effect which it has on its audience; the other is to study some aspects of the complex image which ‘France’ projects of itself, and the ways in which definitions of Frenchness, in particular contexts, have changed with time.

In order to understand the ways in which these films function, you will be introduced to some concepts of general film theory with the aid of selected key texts.

We will first look at three films relating to a particularly tormenting piece of twentieth-century French history: the years of German occupation. In the second part of the course the discussion broadens into a question of how French society itself is reflected in the country’s cinema - two of the films give a broadly positive view of Frenchness, while the second two aim to be critical, and speak from the margins.

Module code:
FREN337

Employability skills:
Research skills; cultural awareness; story-telling

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
60% Coursework; 40% Coursework

Student quote:
"I really enjoyed the lectures and seminars. The assessments are all very stimulating and interesting"
Module Title:
Resistance and Collaboration: the French legacy

Module convenor:
Dr Kay Chadwick (Kay.Chadwick@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
The Occupation years (the années noires) continue to have repercussions in contemporary French society. Numerous post-war histories, literary works and films serve to underline the continuing obsession of the French with this highly ambiguous period in their history. Equally, events such as the Klaus Barbie trial in the mid-1980s, the trials of Paul Touvier in 1993-1994 and Maurice Papon in 1997-1998, and the murder of René Bousquet in 1993, as well as more recent ‘commemorations’ in the twenty-first century, have kept the period high on the national agenda. Through the study of a range of historical, literary and cinematic materials, all in the original French, this module examines selected French interpretations of both Resistance and Collaboration from 1945 to the present day, and assesses the legacy of the war years for France today.

Module code:
FREN343

Employability skills:
Research skills; critical thinking; cultural awareness

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
60% Exam; 40% Coursework
Module Title:
Language and Society

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

Broad description of module content:
Language is not only a medium of communication but also a social phenomenon. It functions as a social marker to indicate and constitute group membership and social and regional identification. Language variations will be explored in the context of age, gender, social group and regional, national and ethnical identity. Examining the German language critically, you will understand how it reflects recent social developments in the German speaking countries. Topics such as the German unification and recent immigration will be explored through the changes they brought to the German language. You will learn to use basic sociolinguistic terminology and to understand important concepts such as language, variation and change.

All students have a chance to investigate a related topic of their own interest and to present the results for further discussion in class. If you want to develop your awareness of the use of language as a social marker, to indicate group membership, social background and regional identification, this is the right module for you. The understanding and knowledge you acquire will help you interpret and use not only German but all your languages more precisely and purposefully.

Module code:
GRMN313

Employability skills:
Critical thinking; oral and written communication skills

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
40% Exam; 40% Coursework; 20% Presentation

Student quote:
“I found this a genuinely intellectually stimulating course. It covers a wide range of sociolinguistic subjects, as well as aspects of the relationship between language, nationality and identity which I found fascinating. I would say this module was one of the most interesting which I have studied at university and I would definitely recommend it.”
Fairytales and Fear: the fantastic in literature

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

Broad description of module content:
Fiction is a place where unreal things can happen... This module looks at the genre of the fantastic, the cross-over between real and unreal, in some of the best known works of German-language literature: the Grimms’ fairytales; a ‘fairytales’ invented by Ludwig Tieck; ETA Hoffmann’s Der Sandmann (The Sandman), a text dealing with madness and magic; Annette von Drost-Hülshoff, Die Judenbuche (The Jew’s Beech), a gothic crime thriller with a curse; Theodor Storm’s Der Schimmelreiter (Rider on the White Horse/The Dykemaster), a classic ghost story which pits science against the supernatural; and Arthur Schnitzler’s Traumnovelle (Dream Story).

Between them, the texts raise questions about fiction and form, as well as the relationship between literature and psychology. Close reading of the set texts will be paired with key theories of the genre, and interpretations from psychology to allegory with a particular emphasis on Todorov’s theory of the fantastic and Freud’s theory of Das Unheimliche (‘the Uncanny’).

Module code:
GRMN316

Employability skills:
Research skills; critical thinking; literary analysis

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
50% Coursework; 50% Coursework
Module Title:
The German Cinema since 1990

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

Broad description of module content:
From Good Bye, Lenin! (Wolfgang Becker, 2003) and Nowhere in Africa (Caroline Link, 2003 – picture above) to Toni Erdmann (Maren Ade, 2016), recent German film has been greeted with international acclaim. In contrast to the ‘art house’ film-making of the New German Cinema of the 1970s, today's 'post-Wall' cinema is resolutely commercial, employing genres familiar to international audiences. The module offers an examination of key developments in German film since 1990. It traces the rise of a German variant of the ‘heritage’ film in which the trauma of German history in the twentieth century - through the Third Reich, German division and the urban terrorism of the 1970s - is reimagined and mined as the source cinematic narratives. The module also explores the recent examination of questions of realism and representation in works by Andreas Dresen and the so-called Berlin School of film makers. All films are subtitled and the module is suitable for students who are interested in film and its relation to society as well and German culture and history.

Module code:
GRMN330

Employability skills:
Presentation skills; intercultural skills; reflective skills

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
60% Coursework; 40% Coursework

Video clip:
‘Trailer’ for Nowhere in Africa (Caroline Link, 2003): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hep5_o--OEE
Module Title:
Resistance and Renewal: Spanish poetry from the folk songs of the frontier to the slam sessions of Madrid

Module Convenor:
Dr Diana Cullell (dcullell@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
Have you ever thought of poetry as a form of rebellion? Or known what it’s like for your national poets to be seen as resistance fighters, fighting with their voices and guitars as powerful weapons? The module will change the way you think about the role of poetry as a means of social and cultural change and resistance! It will be divided into two main parts: one on Castilian Medieval, Early Modern and Golden Age poetry and another one on contemporary poetry and performance poetry of Spain. The module will begin with an examination of medieval and early modern Spanish folk ballads on topics ranging from Christian-Muslim encounter to forbidden sexuality. It will then trace the evolution of Spanish poetry in the Golden Age, exploring the ways in which the love lyric as well as religious verse were developed in the early modern period as means of expressing the poet’s intellectual prowess, spirituality and subversive view. The module will then explore the poetry written in Spain during the last 40 years. The Novísimos’ poetry, and that of the ‘poetas drogados’ of the 70s, will shed light on the Transition to democracy in Spain, to then move on to the boom of poetry written by women in the 80s and feminism in poetry. The module will move on the ‘poetry of experience’ in the 90s, which dominated and monopolized the poetic field in Spain for more than a decade, to finally examine the turn of the new millennium and the emergence of new forms of performance poetry, such as multimedia poetry recitals, poetry slams and poetry jam sessions in Madrid. The module will consider how the popularity of these events is shifting cultural paradigms and forcing a re-location of prestige, centred on the democratization of poetry.

Module code:
HISP327

Employability skills:
Writing skills; critical thinking; cultural awareness

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
50% Exam; 50% Coursework
Module Convenor:
Dr Nicola Bermingham (N.Bermingham@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
Spain makes for a very interesting case study for the exploration of language and society. Throughout the period of the Franco dictatorship (1939-1975), linguistic homogeneity was promoted within the Spanish state, and use of minority languages was greatly restricted. However, since democratisation, Spain has experienced a renewed interest in its minority languages. This is especially so in the bilingual autonomous communities of Galicia, Catalonia and the Basque Country, where language policies aimed at protecting and promoting their respective regional languages have been implemented. In addition to Spain’s autochthonous languages, the Spanish sociolinguistic context has been shaped by recent waves of migration, which have led to an increasingly multilingual and multicultural Spain.

Through the lens of sociolinguistics, this module will look at how the linguistic climate in Spain has changed, and what this has meant for the people who live there.

Module code:
HISP329

Employability skills:
Presentation skills; teamwork; managing up

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
85% Coursework; 15% Coursework
Module Title
Screening Spain: contemporary Spanish film and television

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

Broad description of module content:
This module explores themes in contemporary Spanish Film and Television, within its broader sociohistorical, political and industrial contexts. It provides a detailed overview of Spanish film and television made since the year 2000, and examines the ways in which television and film respond to and intervene in key moments, social crises and issues in contemporary Spain. As well as providing an in-depth knowledge and understanding of Spanish film and television, the module will develop an ability to apply close analysis of film and television texts, and relate this to broader theories in cultural and media studies to understand the context and significance of media texts in the shaping of public debate. We will look at digital and media texts to examine the ways in which television and film articulate social concerns and issues of gendered identity.

Module code:
HISP344

Employability skills:
Intercultural skills; oral and written presentation skills

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
60% Coursework; 40% Annotated Bibliography/Literature Review
Module Title:
Digital Cultures in the Americas

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

Broad description of module content:
This module gives you the opportunity to understand audio-visual material created and distributed online. Much of the content draws on familiar practices of online browsing and viewing. You will explore the methodologies required to analyze digital material and to understand the archiving, appropriation, and exhibition of non-mainstream moving and still images. The examples will be from the Americas, with a particular focus on Latin America. You will examine a range of interactive processes from social, institutional and personal perspectives, consider issues of archival policy, the ethics of re-appropriation, and explore the connection between amateur and professional content and the public and private spheres. You will also consider how online selves are created through looking at a selection of user-generated material such as, fanvids, mash-ups, memes, film, amateur vlogs, and social media persona.

Module code:
HISP348

Employability skills:
Critical thinking; oral and written communication skills

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
50% Coursework; 50% Blog Posts
Module Title:
The Sociolinguistics of Contemporary Italy

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

Broad description of module content:
Sociolinguistics is about the who, where, when, why and how of communication. Italy represents a unique example of linguistic variety in Europe and a fascinating case study in relation to language and society.

A number of factors have contributed to the maintenance and the development of diverse community and individual repertoires and this module explores the peculiarities of the Italian context in order to understand local linguistic practices.

Teaching is structured around the main themes and debates relating to language use in Italian society (e.g. the relationship between the national language and dialects, language and gender, language policy, migrant languages etc.) and you will be able to reflect upon and understand the interconnections between language and society from both a general and an Italian perspective.

Module code:
ITAL320

Employability skills:
Critical thinking; communication skills; group work

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
50% Exam; 30% Coursework; 20% Presentation
Module Title: Italian Crime Stories: from Noir fiction to Mafia films

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

Broad description of module content: This module explores the development of Italian crime and Mafia fiction, films and other media artefacts from the early 1900s to the present. The social and political engagement of a selection of crime and Mafia novels, films and other visual/media manifestations will be explored through a wide range of critical and theoretical approaches including historical perspective, narratology, spatial and temporal representation, gender theory, trauma theory, cognitive and reception theory, and visual adaptation of literary texts.

The module will be taught in a mixture of lectures and seminars (and film screenings) and all films chosen will be subtitled in English. No previous study experience of Italian, literature, film or media studies is required.

Module code: ITAL321

Employability skills: Critical thinking and media analysis; cultural awareness

Credit value: 15

Semester: Two

Balance of assessment: 50% Exam; 50% Coursework

Video clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egtdYTuRKto
Module Title: Contemporary Latin American Politics

Module Convenor: Dr Marieke Riethof (M.Riethof@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content: This module offers an exciting opportunity to study key political debates in the highly dynamic Latin American region. To understand these dynamics, we focus on the debates on democracy and democratisation from a Latin American perspective. After an overview of theories of democracy and democratisation we cover various aspects of the democratisation process in their region. Subsequent sessions examine the changing relationship between the state, civil society and citizens since 1980, as well as more recently the shifting trends in political participation and experiments in democracy. The module also evaluates the causes and consequences of the rise of left-wing politics and the international dimensions of democracy, including Latin America’s role in the world. Teaching methods include student-led discussions, case studies and debates.

Module code: LATI307

Employability skills: Academic writing; communication and presentation skills

Credit value: 15

Semester: Two

Balance of assessment: 60% Coursework; 30% Coursework; 10% Group Presentation
Module Title: Terror Remembered: representing traumatic histories in Latin America, Europe and China

Module Convenor: Professor Claire Taylor (c.l.taylor@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
In this module you will find out about diverse examples of cultural memory and remembrance associated with regimes of dictatorship and terror across the globe. Crucially, we’ll be asking you to think about how state terror and trauma can – or cannot – be represented, and the limits of different representational practices. You’ll learn about the most important scholarly approaches to trauma and memory, and explore in depth three specific cases of memory practice that exemplify different approaches to the traumatic pasts in different media and in different linguistic and national contexts, as well as developing your own case studies.

Also worth highlighting on this module is the authentic assessment that we offer. Your first assignment will consist of a pitch to a BBC4 documentary series as expert advisor, whilst the second assignment takes the form of a project report essay directed to UNESCO, comparing heritage and memory practices related to controversial sites and events involving historical violence and oppression.

Module code: MODL304

Employability skills: Critical thinking; report writing; presentation skills

Credit value: 15

Semester: Two

Balance of assessment: 65% Project Report; 35% Poster
Module Title:
Dissertation

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

Broad description of module content:
This module gives students the opportunity to carry out independent research in an area of interest to them. Expert supervision is provided by a member of staff in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, so the topic of the dissertation should be related to the research specialisms of MLC staff. Current areas of expertise include Linguistics, Literary Studies, Film, and Postcolonialism. Students take the initiative in planning, researching and writing the dissertation. If you are interested in focusing on a specific topic that you have encountered in your studies and are particularly suited to independent research, then this is the module for you.

Module code: MODL307

Employability skills:
Initiative; independent working; project management

Credit value: 30

Semester: Whole Session

Balance of assessment:
100% Dissertation
Module Title: Translation Theory and Practice

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

Broad description of module content:
This module introduces students to the theory and practice of translation at an advanced level. Students will develop an understanding of theoretical issues surrounding translation, applying this knowledge both to their own translations and to existing texts; gain insight into the professional practice of translation; and enhance their advanced language skills in both their target language(s) and English across a range of different text styles.

This module is offered to students of Chinese, French, German and Spanish. Students studying two languages may, subject to the agreement of the relevant tutors, choose to follow seminars in both languages. Please contact the module convenor in advance to make arrangements if you would like to take up this option.

Students wishing to take this module should normally have achieved an average of 60% or above in their second year language modules. MODL311 is a pre-requisite for MODL312: students will normally be required to achieve 60% or above in MODL311 in order to progress into MODL312. Students are not required to take both modules in the same language.

Module code: MODL311

Employability skills:
Reflective practice; critical thinking; communication skills

Credit value: 15

Semester: One

Balance of assessment:
70% Translation and Commentary; 30% Coursework
Module Title:
Translation Project

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

Broad description of module content:
This module gives students the opportunity to produce an extended translation of a previously untranslated text. Students will also formulate a translation brief/pitch, which their translation will seek to fulfil. This is an independent project in which student take the initiative in planning, researching and writing. Expert supervision and guidance is provided by members of staff in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures. As well as translating their text, students also produce a self-reflective commentary explaining and justifying the overall translation strategy. If you enjoy the challenge of translation and the creative possibilities offered by language, and if you are particularly suited to independent research, then this is the module for you.

MODL311 is a pre-requisite for MODL312: students will normally be required to achieve 60% or above in MODL311 in order to progress into MODL312. Students are not required to take both modules in the same language.

Module code:
MODL312

Employability skills:
Commercial translation awareness; project skills

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
60% Translation; 40% Commentary
Module Title: Representing China in Twentieth Century French and Francophone Cultures

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

Broad description of module content:
Drawing on comics, travel writing, film and translingual fiction, the module will introduce students to the ways in which China has been represented in French and Francophone cultures from the early twentieth century to the present day. You will be introduced to key concepts such as Orientalism, exoticism and alterity, but also understand how literature and other cultural forms can be seen as important means of understanding transnational connections. The module includes travelogues by early twentieth-century naval doctor and archaeologist Victor Segalen as well as the Swiss reporter Ella Maillart (who crossed Xinjiang on a ‘forbidden journey’ with Peter Fleming in 1935). You will also explore the evolution of Belgian comic artist Hergé’s approach to China between Le Lotus bleu (1936) and Tintin au Tibet (1960). Finally, you will compare the novel and film of Balzac et la petite tailleuse chinoise, a popular coming-of-age narrative set in the Cultural Revolution by translingual francophone author Dai Sijie. All material is available in English translation for those not studying French. No previous knowledge required although intellectual curiosity, an ability to read across a wide range of cultural forms and an openness to transnational connections will be an advantage.

Module code: MODL313

Employability skills: Research skills; analytical skills; intercultural awareness

Credit value: 15

Semester: Two

Balance of assessment: 50% Exam; 50% Coursework
Module Title: Comics and Graphic Novels: memory and transcultural mobility

Module Convenor: Dr Barbara Spadaro (b.spadaro@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content: This module aims to broaden students’ perception of comics and graphic narratives by exploring different contexts of development of comics industries and their transnational connections since the 20th century. Students will be introduced to: 1) scholarship that reads contemporary changes in the cultural practices and mnemonic processes through the comic medium; 2) the multiple emerging genres of graphic narratives, such as autobiography, testimony and reportage; 3) the different forms (printed and digital) and transmedial tensions in which comics emerge and circulate in the 21st century. By following the trajectories of artists, genres and narratives though multiple circuits of cultural mobility, students will develop an understanding of the potential of comics to visualize memory and transcultural experience in a globalizing world. Reading materials in different languages (available also in English translation) the module also aims to develop student’s ability and confidence in multilingual learning processes (i.e. collaborative learning processes where the multiple languages involved in their study are not entirely familiar to them). Authors covered may include (and not be limited to): Cyril Pedrosa, Hugo Pratt, Zerocalcare, Kate Evans, Alessandro Tota & Caterina Sansone, Shaun Tan, Marguerite Abouet & Clément Oubrie, Art Spiegelman, Nina Bunjevac, Marjane Satrapi, Julie Maroh, Takoua Ben Mohamed, Matt Huynh, Sam Wallman. No drawing skills required, just the intention to understand & enjoy comics in their full potential.

Module code: MODL326

Employability skills: Research skills; inter-cultural skills; teamwork

Credit value: 15

Semester: One

Balance of assessment: 70% Coursework; 30% Presentation
Module Title:
Screening Texts

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

Broad description of module content:
This module introduces students to a range of issues in the film adaptation of literary texts. It presents students with readings from adaptation theory and examples of film adaptation of literary texts which are taken from across modern languages.

Module code:
MODL328

Employability skills:
Critical thinking; oral and written communication skills

Credit value:
15

Semester:
One

Balance of assessment:
50% Coursework; 30% Article; 20% Film Extract Analysis
Module Title:
Remembering Slavery

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

Broad description of module content:
The module will typically provide an introduction to the history of slavery in the Francophone and Hispanic Worlds, situating the phenomenon of modern slavery within an understanding of historical slavery. Students will then study a range of representations of slavery that have arisen in response to historical slavery. These will typically range from first-person slave accounts from the early modern period which provide an individual perspective on the history of slavery; literary and filmic representations of slavery and cultural responses to slavery, particularly in the heritage industries through the practice of Dark Tourism. The module will typically include a visit to the International Slavery Museum in the Albert Dock, Liverpool.

Module code:
MODL332

Employability skills:
Digital fluency; critical thinking; global citizenship

Credit value:
15

Semester:
Two

Balance of assessment:
60% Coursework; 20% Opinion Piece; 20% Webpage
Module Title:
Classical Chinese Philosophy

Module Convenor:
Dr Christopher Bartley (C.J.Bartley@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
This module will introduce students to ideas formulated during the classical period of Chinese philosophy. The focus will be on the dialectic between the Daoist and Confucian schools. The module will help students to understand the ways in which Chinese philosophers approached topics that are also discussed in the Western traditions. It will also enable students to understand what is distinctive about the Chinese approaches. There will be one lecture and one seminar per week.

Module code: PHIL367
Employability skills: Academic writing; critical reflection; presentation skills

Credit value: 15
Semester: One

Balance of assessment: 60% Exam; 30% Coursework; 10% Presentation
Module Title: Beginners Portuguese 1+2 / Elementary Portuguese 3+4

Module Convenor: Ms Ana Reimao (A..Reimao@liverpool.ac.uk)

Broad description of module content:
In these introductory Portuguese language modules, absolute beginners will gain basic competence in reading, writing, listening and speaking and an understanding of elementary grammar through a variety of methods.

At the end of the modules, students will have reached the A2 level in the Common European Framework of Reference and will be able to carry out simple tasks in the language. Students will be able to understand and use everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of most needs in a day to day context. They will be able to interact and participate effectively in basic conversations. They will have an understanding of some aspects of life and culture in Lusophone countries and will use their existing intercultural skills to further develop their cultural awareness about the Portuguese speaking world.

Module code: PORT322/324
Employability skills: Oral and written communications skills; global citizenship

Credit value: 15
Semester: One/Two

Balance of assessment:
60% Exam; 15% Coursework; 15% Coursework; 10% Coursework (PORT322)
60% Exam; 20% Oral Test; 10% Coursework; 10% Coursework (PORT324)

Student quote: “Thanks to this module I feel like I have made great steps towards achieving my goal of fluency in Portuguese. When I look at the assessments I’ve completed, I feel so pleased with the progress I’ve made over the semester, taking into account that 8 months ago I couldn’t speak a word of Portuguese!”