

Cultural Studies

This programme is only offered at: No longer recruiting

Final award	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	BA, Cert HE, Dip HE
Mode of delivery	UEL on campus
UCAS code	L610
Details of professional body accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Media, Cultural & Communication Studies, Film Studies
UEL Academic School	Arts & Digital Industries
Date specification last up-dated	June 2014

Alternative locations for studying this program

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
N/A				
N/A				
N/A				

The summary - UCAS programme profile

BANNER BOX:

Cultural Studies asks penetrating questions about the meaning of culture in all its forms. More importantly, the methods that we use prepare you to understand how power works to produce inequalities and how we can use that understanding to analyse the relationship between politics, culture and society.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The minimum requirements for entry for Level 4 entry is 240 UCAS tariff points from: A/AS level (Including 2 A2 passes), GNVQ, AVCE, Scottish Highers, International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate, BTEC / SCOTEC Diploma or Relevant Access Course. Other qualifications, including overseas, may be considered.

We also welcome applicants from mature students who do not have formal qualifications but may have relevant experience. Students applying to this programme will be expected to demonstrate a specific interest in this area of study and should have a commitment to engaging with the subject. Applicants may be invited for interview.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, the University's English Language requirements as detailed on the website at time of application must be met – see <http://www.uel.ac.uk/international/application/english-language-requirements/>

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS *** (or equivalent) is required.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is Cultural Studies?

Culture is both our everyday rituals and beliefs, and the artefacts that define who we are. Culture is why we work longer hours, and are becoming less skilled. Culture is why we don't make eye contact with people on the tube, and why we think "freedom" and "democracy" should be imposed by force on the rest of the world. And culture is Miley Cyrus and Mozart. Culture is the Gherkin, Tate Modern, the Occupy movement and digital piracy. In Cultural Studies we think about the meaning of culture and how it is changing, and why.

Cultural Studies is about power: who has it, who doesn't, and the various forms it takes in a complex society. From the power of the media to shape our sense of self to the power of voters to alter government policy; from the power of individuals to re-invent themselves through art and fashion to the power of corporations to transform our world, we are concerned with the question of who runs things and how they do it. We are concerned with the many ways in which the world is changing - from the sexual revolution to the impact of the internet - and with the question of why it is changing, and in whose interests.

Cultural Studies has arguably been the most important thing to happen to the humanities and social sciences in decades. Every branch of these disciplines has borrowed from it and is still borrowing from it. But Cultural Studies is also an important discipline in its own right, concerned primarily with the central question of how people make sense of the world around them and what forces shape their perceptions in the process. In Cultural Studies we use philosophy, economics, politics, literary theory and sociology to understand the meaning of anti-capitalist demos, reality TV, hip-hop, modern art, genetic engineering, Viagra, democracy and tourism.

Cultural Studies at UEL

- The research activity of our teaching team is recognised as being of the highest standard, so you'll be taught by people at the cutting edge of their discipline.
- Cultural Studies at UEL is a dynamic programme that focuses on key contemporary issues.
- Cultural Studies at UEL is taught in a workshop-based context for maximum interactivity between students and the programme team.
- At UEL you'll get the chance to make culture as well as study it, in our state of the art Multimedia Production Centre.
- At UEL the programme team is small, committed and passionately committed to Cultural Studies.

Programme structure

3 Years full-time or may be studied for up to 6 years part-time towards the completion of BA (Hons).

Learning environment

Workshop-based lectures for whole modules; seminars for smaller groups and focussed discussion; individual tutorials for discussing assessments; production space; external visits

Assessment

There is continuous assessment of modules through a variety of forms of coursework.

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Programme Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the programme.

Work experience/placement opportunities

Project work

Students will have the opportunity to develop their own ideas and interests in project work on production modules and on non-production modules. Production projects will normally be based on collaborative small group work.

Added value

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in...

If you're stimulated by any of the following questions then this is the programme for you:

- What is the meaning of celebrity culture?
- Do identity categories matter any more? Is your credit rating more important than your ethnicity, nationality or sexuality?
- Has corporate branding become more important than the products companies manufacture?
- Do national governments or global corporations rule the world?
- Does the internet offer information democracy, and a 'digital commons' or the possibility of a total information awareness of all its citizens on the part of state agencies?
- How has pop music brought about social change?

If you enjoy...

- New ideas.
- Thinking about things in new ways.
- Challenging yourself.
- Following debates and topics in the media.

If you want...

- a programme that will still be interesting at 3am in the morning when you've fallen asleep over your books
- a chance to think about your life and experiences in new ways
- to read some books that will make your brain feel bigger

- to find a way of expressing YOUR perspective; in discussions, in writing and in digital publication, video, or sound design

Your future career

A degree in Cultural Studies will show a prospective employer that you have well developed critical skills, that you are flexible and thoughtful, and that you have practical skills in researching, writing, presenting and organising ideas. In this way, it will give you the same opportunities that any other arts or social sciences qualification would give you. Previous students have gone into a range of careers in the arts, culture industries and media, including PR, journalism, research, production and so on. Graduates of Cultural Studies have also gone on to work in the caring professions, including teaching, as well as local and national government, and the professions.

How we support you

As a small, enthusiastic team, we develop a strong relationship with our students. We have an excellent personal tutor system, and offer specialised support with assessments and any issues you may have through both the personal tutor system and in the context of each specific module.

Bonus factors

- Opportunities for overseas exchange programmes of study
- Close proximity to London 's media and creative industries
- To be among socially rich and culturally dynamic student population

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Gain new knowledge of cultural change in a contemporary context and increased awareness of critical issues
- Develop new skills in critical thinking and the ability to express yourself in writing, presenting and media production.
- Gain practical experience of research, critical reflection and self assessment.
- Practice synthesising ideas and applying them to real world scenarios

What will you learn?

Knowledge

- Of key debates in history, philosophy, art history, film studies, sociology, literature and politics that have shaped our contemporary cultural context.
- Of 'real world' culture and how the theory above does, and does not, help us to understand it.
- Of relevant technologies and techniques of audio-visual production.

Thinking skills

- How to think conceptually; how to synthesize theory with practice.
- How to undertake critical and constructive analysis of texts, artefacts, spaces, events, debates, policies and ways of being.
- How to organise investigation and research

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Competence in a range of technical skills: IT databases and word-processing, research organisation, execution of analytical writing and presenting.
- Competence in a range of media technologies, including skills in analogue and digital media formats.

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- How to express yourself in an informed and authoritative way - in your writing, in your speech, in your professional confidence.
- How to independently organise and manage a workload effectively.
- How to locate, select and synthesise sources of information for written work/research.
- How to work collaboratively as well as independently.

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

3 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme

4 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

5 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

6 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

7 equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is three years full-time or five years part-time.

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period. A student cannot normally continue study on a programme after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a programme in part time mode is 8 years from first enrolment.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits in an academic year. A student in a part-time mode of study may register for up to 90 credits in any academic year.

What you will study when

A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will take 120 credits per year. Typically this will be comprised of four 30 credit modules. The exact number may differ if the programme is comprised of 15, 45 or 60 credits modules. An honours degree student will complete modules totalling 120 credits at level four, modules totalling 120 credits at level five and modules totalling 120 credits at level six.

This programme is no longer recruiting and is only being offered at level six for 2014/15

6	CC6200	Dissertation	N	30	Core
6	CC6201	Culture, Power & Modernity	N	30	Core
6	CC6302	Literature & The Self	N	30	Option
6	CC6307	The Mediterranean World	N	30	Option
6	CC6404	Memory & History	N	30	Option
6	CC6701	Digital Communication	N	15	Option
6	PA6311	Music, Sound & The Body	N	15	Option

**Please Note – A core module for a programme is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a programme is a module selected from a range of modules available on the programme.*

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher and 120 credits at level five or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level four or higher

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree by passing a valid combination of module to comprise an award and has gained the minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 5 or level 6 on the current enrolment for the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 6, the award classification is determined by calculating;

The arithmetic mean of the best 90 credits at level 6 $\times 0.8$ + The arithmetic mean of the next best 90 credits at levels 5 and/or 6 $\times 0.2$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100% First Class Honours
60% - 69% Second Class Honours, First Division
50% - 59% Second Class Honours, Second Division
40% - 49% Third Class Honours
0% - 39% Not passed

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- presentation of frameworks of information in lectures student centred seminar discussions
- reading of specified texts on a weekly basis
- Viewing of films and videos on a weekly basis

Thinking skills are developed through

- close analysis of specified texts
- individual and small group exercises in seminar sessions and workshops.

Practical skills are developed through

- tutored introduction to media technologies
- practical demonstration workshops
- tutorial support
- independent practical studies
- project work

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- understanding of university and degree programme and structure
- tutorials to discuss individual progress
- group project work
- Individual coursework assignments

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- coursework essays, case studies, reports, evaluations, presentations, production folders.

Thinking skills are assessed by

- coursework essays, case studies, reports, evaluations, journals, presentations, production folders.

Practical skills are assessed by

- tutor-observation
- evidence of demonstrable understanding in completed project work
- evidence of understanding of formal specificity of medium

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- involvement in and contribution to seminar/ workshop sessions
- ability to understand and meet requirements of module specifications
- attendance at regular tutorials
- involvement in and contribution to group project work

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

The external examiner reports for this programme are located on the UEL virtual learning environment (Moodle) on the school notice board under the section entitled 'External Examiner Reports & Responses'. You can also view a list of the external examiners for the UEL School by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminersystem/currentexaminers/>

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Programme evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting 2 times year)

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- Individual responses to students as required

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Annual student satisfaction questionnaire
- External examiner reports

Further Information

Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)
- The programme handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/policies/manual/>)
- UEL Quality Manual (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/policies/qualitymanual/>)
- School web pages