

Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

About the department

The Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures offers degree programmes involving French, Spanish, Italian, German, Comparative Literature and Culture, Liberal Arts, Translation Studies, International Film and the History of Art and Visual Cultures, and our wide range of modules reflects our cultural and linguistic diversity.

Entry requirements

The modules listed below are open to all Study Abroad, International and Erasmus students, subject to any required previous knowledge or qualifications.

Each module is either 7.5, 15 or 30 UK credits and starts in either the Autumn Term (September) or the Spring Term (January).

Visit <https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/mlc/informationforcurrentstudents/home.aspx> to find short module descriptions. Reading lists for all our modules can be found here: <https://rhul.rl.talis.com/index.html>

The information contained in the module outlines on the following pages is correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change as part of our policy of continuous improvement and development.



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Module options for visiting students

Module code	Module name	Credit value	Start date	Module description/pre-requisites
French:				
FR1701	French Advanced Written I	15 credits	September 2021	Must be taken with FR1702; requires advanced French (A-level equivalent) The module aims to expand students' ability to express themselves in accurate written French. Major grammatical issues will be taught and/or revised, and students will work on a wide range of authentic material in French to expand their vocabulary and range of expressions. Key linguistic features of the texts will be identified and discussed to improve the student's language acquisition and analysis skills. The module will be taught and assessed in French. Syllabus .
FR1702	French Advanced Oral I	15 credits	September 2021	Must be taken with FR1701; requires advanced French (A-level equivalent) The module aims to expand students' ability to express themselves in accurate spoken French. Students will work on a wide range of authentic material in French to expand their vocabulary and range of expressions and to introduce them to contemporary issues and culture. The module will be taught and assessed in French. Syllabus
FR1105	The Visual Image in French Culture and Society	15 credits	September 2021	The visual image has always played an important role in society, as a source of enjoyment and pleasure, and also as a means of communicating values, celebrating beauty, shaping thought and challenging assumptions. This module aims to develop understanding of the ways the visual image functions and the concepts and techniques needed to analyse it. Syllabus
FR1105V	The Visual Image in French Culture and Society	7.5 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
FR1112	The Individual and Society: Key Works in French Literature	15 credits	January 2022	This module examines images of French society through a selection of key literary texts and concentrates on how questions of social change, social mobility, success and failure, ambition and honour, oppression and alienation have been portrayed. Delivered by the appropriate specialist in the Department, the classes will offer a taste of the literature of the relevant periods, along with a discussion of its distinguishing stylistic features, and an overview of its intellectual, social, and historical background. Syllabus



Module options for visiting students

FR1400	French Language : Culture and Translation	15 credits	September 2021	<p>Requires advanced French (A-level equivalent)</p> <p>The module develops students' command of both French-English translation and critical analysis of French-language material by exposing them to a range of source material which might include prose fiction, poetry, drama, film, graphic novels, multimedia and web content, and newspaper and magazine articles. In weekly seminars, students will focus closely on the syntactical, stylistic, lexical and culturally specific features of a range of French-language text types. Syllabus</p>
FR2009	Pratique du Français II	30 credits	September 2021	<p>Requires advanced French (A-level equivalent)</p> <p>There are three hours of seminars per week (written work, oral, practice) plus fortnightly grammar lectures. The three hours of seminars are divided in three sections: written work, oral, practice. In written French, the module builds on techniques acquired in first-year language modules through a particular focus on techniques of analysis, writing and rewriting, in particular on learning to construct arguments and exposés in authentic, accurate and appropriate French. In spoken French, students study, discuss and do presentations on four films which vary from year to year. In the practice seminars, students develop listening comprehension skills, oral skills and work on grammar. Syllabus</p>
FR2009V	Pratique du Français II	15 credits	September 2021	<p>Requires advanced French (A-level equivalent). For students leaving after Term 1.</p> <p>Syllabus</p>
FR2102	Writing Romance and Desire	15 credits	September 2021	<p>This module will focus on four texts dealing with love and desire taken from four periods; these will be studied in the light of their common themes and the following core questions: the persistent importance of the theme of passion and illicit desire to the Western literary canon (the constitution of a literary tradition); variation in the literary responses to this theme in the light of prevailing moral climates, socio-economic structures and aesthetic considerations; the variables of the language of love and its literary realisation; formal innovation, subversion and parody; the roles of the narrative voice; the significance of spatial settings in the treatment of a 'private' matter in a 'public' literary form. Syllabus</p>
FR2102V	Writing Romance and Desire	7.5 credits	September 2021	<p>For students leaving after Term 1.</p> <p>Syllabus</p>



Module options for visiting students

FR2106	Cinema in France: From Modernism to the Postmodern	15 credits	January 2022	This module examines key examples of French cinema from 1920 to the present day. In contrast to mainstream cinema, which broadly supports and confirms the dominant artistic norms, the films studied have, at different historical moments and in various ways, attempted to break with tradition and to challenge the prevailing forms, structures and conventions of the genre. From this perspective the course will focus, in turn, on the distinct contributions of the avant-garde and surrealist films of the 1920s, war films of the 1930s and 1940s, the nouvelle vague which began in the late 1950s, and its postmodern legacy which still prevails today. Syllabus
FR2107	The Illustrated Text in France	15 credits	September 2021	This half-unit option will explore some of the different ways in which books across the centuries have provided a creative space for the text to interact with visual images. From hand-painted medieval illuminated manuscripts to the first printed volumes of the fifteenth century, and from engravings, woodcuts and lithographs to photographs and contemporary bandes dessinées, the illustrated text is a mirror of the evolution of artistic and printing techniques. While considering some key instances of this development, the module will also address such questions as what makes illustrations of literary works different from the illustrations of other kinds of text, such as instruction manuals or scientific books. Is the function of illustrations in literary works essentially to entertain, or do they provide information to complement or even change the text's message? Syllabus
FR2410	Advanced French Translation	15 credits	September 2021	Requires advanced French (A-level equivalent) The module enhances understanding of and skills in translation from French to English through sustained translation practice as well as through commentary on and discussion of translations. In weekly seminars, students will discuss the syntactical, stylistic, lexical and culturally specific problems generated in the course of translating from French source text to English target text in a range of translation scenarios and a range of text types. Common translation challenges such as conversion, transfer, compensation, gloss, exoticism, deceptive cognates, lexical gaps and cultural specificities as well as house style constraints of character count and house style will be identified and discussed and students will learn how to develop techniques for dealing with these when translating into English. Syllabus



Module options for visiting students

FR3112	Image, Identity and Consumer Culture in Post-war French Fiction and Film	15 credits	January 2022	Exploring some of the key issues affecting life and conceptions of identity in France from the end of the Second World War to the present day, this module investigates how the impact of the mass media and global market forces are reflected in and sometimes challenged by post-war French fiction and film. Literary and cinematic innovations are situated in their historical, cultural and critical context (including the swift modernization of post-War France as well as the effects of the Second World War and conflicts of decolonization). Syllabus
FR3120	Wanton Women: Artists and Writers of the French Avant-Garde	15 credits	January 2022	This module highlights the interventions of women writers and artists in Dada and Surrealism during the early decades of the 20th Century in France. The first half of the module introduces ideas around feminism, women in art, and women's writing, with an aim to equip you with a foundation in theory. Selected key readings, available on Moodle, provide a basis for class discussions. In the second half of the course, you look in detail at work by individual artists and writers, including literary texts (poems, narratives and manifestos) and artworks (collages, paintings and photographs). Because it draws on recent and ongoing scholarship and curation, and because many of these women are little-known, the topic leaves considerable scope for original comment and research. Syllabus
FR3125	Villains and villainy in early modern French Theatre	15 credits	September 2021	In theory at least, early modern French theatre had little time for villains. Genuine wickedness, vice and evil were regarded as too serious a subject matter for comedy, while theorists of tragedy insisted that a wicked character – whether ultimately defeated or triumphant – could not produce pity, one of the key tragic emotions. And yet, as this course demonstrates, wicked and villainous characters recur throughout 'classical' French theatre. Indeed, by refusing to present villainous characters who are simply outright monsters – a straightforward 'other' to the social and moral norm – playwrights sometimes suggest that the most troubling characters are those in whom we might recognise elements of ourselves. Syllabus CONTENT WARNING. Originally intended as a criticism of all established religion, and Christianity in particular, Voltaire's <i>Mahomet</i> - one of the texts on this course - presents a fictionalised version of a stage in the Prophet Mohammed's life and the founding of Islam. It portrays both the Prophet and Islam in general in a very negative, critical, and cynical light.



Module options for visiting students

FR3126	Redefining the Erotic in Contemporary French Literature and Film	15 credits	September 2021	Since the rise of the feminist and gay movements in France in the early 1970s, many new writers and filmmakers have sought to address the changing erotic relations between the sexes. This has led them to explore the links between gender, sexuality and textuality, particularly from the double perspective of the narrator and reader/spectator. This module will examine key works by some of the most exciting contemporary French writers and filmmakers. It will include formal analysis of literary and cinematographic style, an engagement with important theoretical work on gender, psychoanalysis, autobiography/'autofiction', and film spectatorship, as well as a general discussion of social and political themes such as AIDS, queer politics, pornography and censorship. Syllabus
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German:

GM1701	German Advanced Written I	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Must be taken with GM1702. Requires advanced German (A-level equivalent).
GM1701V	German Advanced Written I	7.5 credits	September 2021	Must be taken with GM1702. Requires advanced German (A-level equivalent). For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
GM1702	German Advanced Oral I	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Must be taken with GM1701. Requires advanced German (A-level equivalent).
GM1702V	German Advanced Oral I	7.5 credits	September 2021	Must be taken with GM1701. Requires advanced German (A-level equivalent). For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
GM1122	German History and Culture	15 credits	September 2021	The module presents key developments in German history through the lens of literature and the visual arts, in a lively and accessible way. Students will gain an insight into German culture and history from the Middle Ages to the present, and acquire skills and knowledge that will serve them throughout their degree. Works by numerous writers and artists will feature. Syllabus
GM1122V	German History and Culture	7.5 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus



Module options for visiting students

GM1400	German Language: Culture and Translation	15 credits	September 2021	Requires advanced German (A-level equivalent) The module develops students' command of both German-English translation and critical analysis of German-language material by exposing them to a range of source material which might include prose fiction, poetry, drama, film, graphic novels, multimedia and web content, and newspaper and magazine articles. In weekly seminars, students will focus closely on the syntactical, stylistic, lexical and culturally specific features of a range of German-language text types. Syllabus
GM2009	German Language II	30 credits	September 2021	Requires advanced German (A-level equivalent) This module will teach students advanced use of tenses, verbs, adjectives, prepositions and conjunctions with particular emphasis on grammatical case and complex syntax. These grammar topics will be coupled with weekly homework exercises. Exercises will include grammatical manipulation and substitution exercises. Syllabus
GM2009V	German Language II	15 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Requires advanced German (A-level equivalent) Syllabus
GM2400	Advanced German Translation	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Requires advanced German (A-level equivalent)
GM2400V	Advanced German Translation	7.5 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Requires advanced German (A-level equivalent) Syllabus
GM2124	Representations of Childhood and Youth in Modern German Culture	15 credits	January 2022	Childhood and youth - the formative periods in our lives - are obviously crucial for individuals, society and culture. They are also contested and controversial concepts. Children and adolescents have long been the subject of social, familial and educational pressures against which they have often rebelled in an attempt to assert their individuality and develop their own identities. This module introduces students to a range of literary and cinematic responses to the lives of children and young people in the context of the German-speaking countries from the late nineteenth century to the present day. Syllabus
GM2124V	Representations of Childhood and Youth in Modern German Culture	7.5 credits	January 2022	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
GM3133	Dark Tales: E.T.A. Hoffmann and German Romanticism	15 credits	January 2022	In this module we want to focus on German Romanticism's fascination with what was perceived as the "night side" of (human) nature. In response to the Enlightenment's belief in rationality and objectivity Romantic writers tended to explore the more subjective and irrational aspects of life, like emotions and imagination, but also more unsettling psychological phenomena like dreams, hallucinations and mental illness. Syllabus



Module options for visiting students

GM3133V	Dark Tales: E.T.A. Hoffmann and German Romanticism	7.5 credits	January 2022	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
GM3134	National Socialism and the Third Reich in German film and visual culture from 1933 to the present	15 credits	September 2021	The module takes students from the period of the Third Reich to present-day Germany, engaging with a broad range of examples of the visual representation of National Socialism as an ideology, a political movement and a 'national' phenomenon. Starting in the 1930s and 1940s, students will be introduced to National Socialism in its historical context and asked to consider its defining characteristics, such as its pseudo-historical 'mythological' self-understanding and structure, the orientation around 'heroic' figures, the militarization of national identity and the focus upon youth. Syllabus
GM3134V	National Socialism and the Third Reich in German film and visual culture from 1933 to the present	15 Credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus

Hispanic:

SN1701	Spanish Advanced Written I	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Must be taken with SN1702 requires advanced Spanish (A-level equivalent)
SN1701V	Spanish Advanced Written I	7.5 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus Must be taken with SN1702 requires advanced Spanish (A-level equivalent)
SN1702	Spanish Advanced Oral I	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Must be taken with SN1701; requires advanced Spanish (A-level equivalent)
SN1702V	Spanish Advanced Oral I	7.5 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus Must be taken with SN1701; requires advanced Spanish (A-level equivalent)
SN1105	Culture and Identity in Latin America	15 credits	January 2022	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
SN1109	Comparative Hispanic Culture	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
SN1400	Spanish Language: Culture and Translation	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Requires advanced Spanish (A-level equivalent)
SN2001	Spanish II	30 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Requires advanced Spanish (A-level equivalent)



Module options for visiting students

SN2001V	Spanish II	15 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1 Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Requires advanced Spanish (A-level equivalent).
SN2400	Advanced Spanish Translation	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Requires advanced Spanish (A-level equivalent)
SN2113	Mexican Visual Arts	15 credits	September 2021	During the module attention will be devoted to analysing samples from early Twentieth century Mexican visual arts. Students will study the Mexican Mural Movement and will analyse the work of its most prominent members. Attention will be paid to the works of Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco. The first part of this module will also cover the photographic works of Edward Weston, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Tina Modotti, Mariana Yampolski, Araceli Herrera and Graciela Iturbide. During the second part of this module students will be introduced to some of the most significant cinematic works from Mexico's century of filmmaking. Students will analyse some of the most important filmic genres from a wide range of directors and periods in Mexican cinematic history. On this module students will be introduced to some areas of film theory and will learn how to apply theoretical concepts to a reading of Mexican visual arts and films. Syllabus
SN2122	Rebels, Revolution and Representation in Latin America	15 credits	January 2022	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.



Module options for visiting students

SN2XXX	Deceit, Desire and the Self	15 credits	September 2021	To be validated – check in May 2021 for more information
SN3111	Contemporary Mexican Cinema	15 credits	January 2022	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
SN3119	Conflict in 20 th -century Latin American Literature and Culture	15 credits	January 2022	Term 2 only This module explores, compares and contrasts representations of social and political conflict in a range of 20th-century Latin American literary texts. It considers conflict in literature critically with regards to and in the context of some of the following: revolution, racial difference, social inequality, economic exploitation, exile, urban violence and historical memory. It provides students with a basic understanding of the historical background and trajectory of some of the most relevant socio-political movements and events in the continent in the course of the century. Syllabus
SN3122	Horror Cinema in the Hispanic World	15 credits	September 2021	Term 1 only On this module students will explore the horror genre by exploring a broad range of films made in Spain and Latin America. Following an introduction to horror filmmaking, we will analyse texts in relation to horror's numerous subgenres (gothic, physiological, psychological, science fiction, zombie etc.) and will learn both how to identify different types of horror film as well as to situate them in the history of horror filmmaking. Syllabus

Italian:

IT1230	The Italian Three Crowns (the heritage of Dante & the Renaissance)	15 credits	January 2022	Syllabus - though note in process of revalidation, so some changes may be made for 2021
IT1701	Italian Advanced Written I	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Must be taken with IT1702; <i>requires advanced Italian (A-level equivalent)</i>
IT1701V	Italian Advanced Written I	7.5 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Must be taken with IT1702; <i>requires advanced Italian (A-level equivalent)</i> Syllabus
IT1702	Italian Advanced Oral I	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. Must be taken with IT1701; <i>requires advanced Italian (A-level equivalent)</i>
IT1702V	Italian Advanced Oral I	7.5 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Must be taken with IT1701; <i>requires advanced Italian (A-level equivalent)</i> Syllabus
IT1400	Italian Language: Culture and Translation	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. <i>requires advanced Italian (A-level equivalent)</i>



Module options for visiting students

IT2050	Advanced Italian II	30 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. <i>requires advanced Italian (A-level equivalent)</i>
IT2050V	Advanced Italian II	15 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. <i>Requires advanced Italian (A-level equivalent).</i> Syllabus
IT2400	Art and Literature in Renaissance Florence	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
IT2400V	Art and Literature in Renaissance Florence	7.5 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
IT2840	Italian Crime Fiction	15 credits	January 2022	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
IT2410	Advanced Italian Translation	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes. <i>requires advanced Italian (A-level equivalent)</i>
IT3230	Dante – <i>The Divine Comedy</i>	15 credits	January 2022	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
IT3980	Italian Fashion and Design	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.



Comparative Literature and Culture / Translation Studies:

ML1102	The Birth of Film	15 credits	January 2022	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
ML1204	Tales of the City: Introduction to Thematic Analysis	15 credits	January 2022	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
ML1204V	Tales of the City: Introduction to Thematic Analysis	7.5 credits	January 2022	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
ML1301	Visual Arts 1: An Introduction to Visual Media	15 credits	January 2022	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
ML1301V	Visual Arts 1: An Introduction to Visual Media	7.5 credits	January 2022	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
ML1400	Introduction to Translation: Professional Skills	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
ML2101	International Film II: Readings and Representations	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
ML2101V	International Film II: Readings and Representations	7.5 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
ML2302	Visual Arts II: Genres and Movements	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
ML2400	Questions of Translation and Transcultural Communication	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
ML2403	Gender and Clothing in Twentieth-Century Literature and Culture	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
ML2403V	Gender and Clothing in Twentieth-Century Literature and Culture	7.5 credits	September 2021	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
MLXXXX	21st Century World Food Fictions	15 credits	January 2022	To be validated – check in May 2021 for more information



Module options for visiting students

MLXXXX	World Literature: Transmission & Translation	30 credits	Two Terms	To be validated – check in May 2021 for more information
MLXXXX	Staging the Enlightenment	15 credits	January 2022	To be validated – check in May 2021 for more information
ML3207	Transnationalism, Diaspora and Globalization in Contemporary Film	15 credits	January 2022	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
ML3207V	Transnationalism, Diaspora and Globalization in Contemporary Film	7.5 credits	January 2022	For students leaving after Term 1. Syllabus
ML3212	Humans and Other Animals in Twenty-First Century Fiction and Thought	15 credits	September 2021	Click here for the synopsis and learning outcomes.
ML3214	The Text in the World, The World in the Text: Early Global Iberias	15 credits	January 2022	This module engages critically with theories of World Literature to examine how literary texts are translated, transmitted, and circulated, and how they conceptualise 'the world' from multiple perspectives and subject positions. Moving between the Iberian Peninsula, England, Latin America, and the Middle East, it encompasses textual production in a variety of languages (including Spanish, Arabic, Hebrew, English, and Quechua), to be studied through English translations, thus decentring traditional euro-centric approaches to the study of 'Hispanic'. Syllabus

