

NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN

UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

LITERATURE-CULTURE DIVISION

MA PROGRAMME

“ENGLISH STUDIES: LITERATURE AND CULTURE”

*Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Anglophone Literature and Culture*

2021-2023

STUDY GUIDE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

2021-2022

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**Steering Committee of the MA Programme**

**“English Studies: Literature and Culture” 2021-2023**

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| DIRECTOR | Efterpi Mitsi |
| ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR | Vassiliki Markidou |
| MEMBERS | Konstantinos BlatanisStamatina DimakopoulouChristina DokouMina Karavanta |

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| Department website | http://www.enl.uoa.gr |
| Webpage for the MA Programme in English Studies: Literature and Culture | http://en.enl.uoa.gr/postgraduatestudies/ma-programmes/english-studies-literature-and-culture.html |

MA PROGRAMME

1. Aims of the Programme and Areas of Specialization

The MA in “English Studies: Literature and Culture” of the Department of English Language and Literature offers a strong grounding in the fields of Anglophone literature, critical theory, and cultural studies. The programme fosters the interdisciplinary critical analysis of Anglophone literature as well as the study of contemporary culture, with a strong emphasis on recent developments in critical, literary, and cultural theory. Upon completion of the programme, graduates are equipped to pursue careers in education, research institutes, and other fields related to cultural or literary activities.

The programme offers the following areas of specialization, one of which is activated every two years:

1. The Greek Element in Anglophone Literature
2. Anglophone Theatre from the Renaissance to the Present
3. Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Anglophone Literature and Culture

The offered area of specialization is announced online in the MA programme’s call for applications. The programme of studies is updated every two years following faculty assessment, which takes place throughout its duration and at the end of its two-year term.

The degree is awarded by the Department of English Language and Literature of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

This MA Study Guide provides information on the content, scope, and structure of the programme.

2. Programme Duration

The MA programme will run for ten years, commencing in the academic year 2019-2020.

It was founded following the publication of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) Senate decision #1110/10.12.2018which approved the Postgraduate Programme Regulations, as announced in the Greek Government Gazette, 5878/31.12.2018, Vol. 2.

3. Programme Funding

The running costs of the MA programme “English Studies: Literature and Culture” are covered by the following sources: the central budget of the University; the budget of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs; donations, other benefits, and bequests; various sponsorships by public or private bodies; funds from research programmes; funds from the European Union or other international organizations; part of the NKUA’s Special Account for Research Grants (SARG) revenue; and any other legal source.

4. Student Support, Services and Facilities

Study advisor

The steering committee of the MA assigns a member of the academic staff to serve as study advisor for each student. Students may reach out to their advisor for academic advice, guidance and support.

Library and study areas

MA students can use and borrow books from the Library of the School of Philosophy where the English collection is held. They also have access to a Multimedia Laboratory for the Processing of Speech and Text (room 723) and a Centre for Self-Access Learning and Material Development (room 905). All MA students may have access to the computers and the internet in these areas.

Electronic Class (e-class)

Students enrolled in the MA programme have access to the e-class platform where instructors upload material related to their individual courses.

E-mail address

All postgraduate students are provided with an e-mail address from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Computer Centre. To apply for one, students should first visit the Department Secretariat (Room 411).

Conferences and workshops

The Department organizes various events such as international conferences, symposia, and lectures by academics specializing in English Studies and related areas. MA students are encouraged to attend and participate in these events, and to keep up with developments in their field of study in Greece and abroad.

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| Scholarships |  | Please visit [www.enl.uoa.gr/ypotrofies.html](http://www.enl.uoa.gr/ypotrofies.html) for more information on available scholarships |
| Student ID card |  | Provided as a standard procedure |
| Student discount on fares |  | Offered for the minimum duration of studies, with a provision for an extra 2 years |
| Health Insurance |  | From date of issue of ID card until its expiration  |
| Meals  |  | Available at the School of Philosophy restaurant |
| Textbooks |  | Students must purchase their own textbooks or borrow them from the Library. |
| Student Representatives |  | Elected student representatives may attend the Department’s General Assembly\*  |

\*According to article 2, Law # 3685/2008, students must elect two representatives who will represent them within the Department.

5. Admission to the MA Programme

Student admission is based on Law # 4485/2017 and on the current Postgraduate Programme Regulation. The maximum number of students admitted per academic year and per area of specialization is 15.

1. **Call for Applications – Requirements and necessary supporting documentation**

The call for applications is posted on the Department website every June. Applications, along with the necessary documentation, need to be submitted electronically in a single pdf file to the Department Secretariat within the announced deadline which may be extended by the Department’s General Assembly if necessary.

Applicants need to submit the following documents:

* an application form (available online at <http://www.enl.uoa.gr/hlektronikes-yphresies/hlektronika-entypa.html>).
* a full CV (available online at http://www.enl.uoa.gr/hlektronikes-yphresies/hlektronika-entypa.html).
* authenticated copy of original BA certificate or a study completion attestation provided by the Department Secretariat
* authenticated copies of other related higher education qualifications
* full transcript of university course grades
* two recommendation letters on a special form (available online at http://www.enl.uoa.gr/hlektronikes-yphresies/hlektronika-entypa.html) to be sent by the referees themselves directly to the secretariat
* for candidates with BA degrees from non-English language and literature departments a certificate of English (C2 level)
* for non-Greek candidates, additional attestation of knowledge of Greek (B1/B2 level)
* authenticated copies of other language certificates (excluding Greek and English), if available
* proof of relevant academic activity (e.g. publications in volumes of collected essays/academic journals, conference presentations, etc.) if available
* two research papers written and graded in the context of related undergraduate or postgraduate studies

Students holding degrees from non-Greek institutions need to provide proof of official recognition of their degrees from the Hellenic NARIC (Δ.Ο.Α.Τ.Α.Π.), in keeping with art. 34, par. 7, Law # 4485/2017, as that was amended by art. 101, par. 5, Law # 4547/2018.

The applications and relevant documents are examined by the Steering Committee. Eligible candidates are then invited to the written examination.

1. Written and oral exams

To be admitted to the programme, applicants need to pass both a written and an oral examination. It should be noted that both exams are in English. The written and oral exams are held in the School of Philosophy Building on the date that is announced on the Department website ([www.enl.uoa.gr](http://www.enl.uoa.gr) 🡪 Announcements). Both written and oral exams are held in English. Information about the structure and duration of the written and oral exams is uploaded on the postgraduate webpage (and in the Announcements) concurrently with the call for applications.

1. **Criteria for candidate selection**

For the selection of candidates, the following criteria are taken into account:

1. The candidate’s performance in the written exam together with his/her performance in the oral exam. The candidates need to pass the written exam in order to proceed to the oral exam.
2. The following qualifications, as gleaned from the candidate’s CV:

1. a grade of "Very Good" (at least) in their BA degree. A lower grade may be accepted if candidates have achieved a grade of "Very Good" in undergraduate courses or dissertations relevant to the postgraduate specialization applied for, or if they have a second degree, another postgraduate title, or proven research or professional experience.

 2. a high grade in undergraduate courses relevant to the postgraduate specialization

 3. a good performance in undergraduate research papers or dissertations

4. research experience relevant to the postgraduate programme, if any

5. excellent knowledge of the English Language and good knowledge of other languages

6. relevant academic activity (e.g. partici­pation in seminars, conferences, research projects, publications, etc.).

7. letters of recommendation

The Steering Committee compiles a list of selected candidates based on the above criteria and submits it to the Department’s General Assembly for approval. If more than one candidates have achieved the lowest score, they may all be accepted for admission provided that they do not exceed the 10% of the maximum number of possible entrants.

The final list of accepted candidates is published on the Department webpage. Successful candidates will have to register within 10 days from the date of the General Assembly meeting, which approved their entry into the MA programme, on the day and time that is announced. If one or more successful candidate(s) fail(s) to enrol, runners up may be invited to take their place on the basis of their relevant position on the approved grading list.

6. Studying in the MA Programme

The MA programme “English Studies: Literature and Culture” is conducted in English.

The programme commences in the fall semester every 2 academic years.

The duration of study of the MA programme which leads to the acquisition of the MA degree is set at 3 academic semesters. The first two semesters consist of taught courses, while the third semester is devoted to research and the MA Dissertation. The maximum time allowed for completion of studies is set at 3 academic semesters.

Each semester comprises at least 13 weeks of teaching and 3 weeks of exams (for those courses that require final exams). Potentially missed classes are rescheduled. The date and time of the make-up classes are posted on the Department website.

The total Credits (ECTS) required for the acquisition of the MA degree amount to 90, with each semester carrying 30. The programme offers a total of 6 courses during the first 2 terms, 3 per term. The 1st semester offers 1 compulsory and 2 elective courses, while the 2nd semester offers 3 elective courses. Each course corresponds to 10 ECTS. The 3rd semester is devoted to the MA Dissertation which carries 30 ECTS.

Attendance of classes/workshops etc. is compulsory. Postgraduate students are allowed to have up to two justified absences per course per semester for medical reasons, by providing a doctor’s note from a public hospital; or for serious personal reasons, by submitting a legally binding personal statement. If, under exceptional circumstances, the student surpasses the limit of absences, s/he must apply to the Steering Committee with all the relevant documentation for approval, which puts the matter before the Department’s General Assembly. If the application is rejected, the student must leave the programme.

The lessons are taught in person. The teaching hours for each lesson are 3 per week. In addition to these hours and in order to meet the needs of seminars, workshops and practical exercises, additional hours may be added to the programme following a decision of the Department’s General Assembly.

7. Exams and Student Assessment

The assessment of students in each course is determined by the instructors and stipulated in the course syllabi. As a general principle in evaluating student performance, the final grade of each course is based on the aggregate of at least two independent sources (e.g. research papers, written or oral exams, oral presentations and other research or educational activities). Any course assignments must be submitted strictly within the deadlines stipulated by the instructors.

For classes that include exams, these take place during January/February for the Fall semester, and in June for the Spring semester. There is no re-sit exam period in September.

As defined in the Postgraduate Programme Regulation, if students fail in one or more courses, they may be deemed to have failed the programme. In this case, the student is examined by a three-party committee of academic staff members who have the same or similar specialization and who are selected by the Department’s General Assembly. The instructor of the course in question is excluded from the three-party exam committee. If the student fails in a final written assignment, the assignment is re-assessed by the three-party committee.

Final grades for each course, as well as for the MA Dissertation, are based on the scale of 1-10 (6 being the minimum passing grade and 10 being the highest). These are submitted to the Department Secretariat within 20 days of the end of the examination period.

In order to acquire the MA degree, students are required to follow and successfully complete all of the courses offered in the MA programme as well as the MA Dissertation, thereby obtaining a total of 90 ECTS.

The final grade of the MA degree is determined by averaging (a) the grades of the 1st semester courses with (b) the grades of the 2nd semester courses, and (c) the grade of the MA Dissertation.

Performance in the MA programme is characterized as “**Excellent”** when the final grade is 10-9; “**Very Good”** when the final grade is 8-7; and “**Good”** when the final grade is 6.

8. MA Dissertation

The MA Dissertation is written in the 3rd and final semester of the programme. At the end of the 2nd semester, the steering committee provides the students with detailed instructions on how they should choose their topic and the deadlines. Briefly, students choose their topic from a wide range of thematic areas that are offered by the instructors and submit an application consisting of (a) a proposed title (b) a recommended supervisor, and (c) an abstract of the proposed topic of research. The Steering Committee then assigns each student a supervisor, and, upon completion of the dissertation, forms a three-member examining committee (which includes the supervisor).

All faculty members can act as supervisors or members of the three-party examining committee.

The supervisor guides the student throughout the research and writing process and approves the submission of the final draft within the deadline. He/She schedules meetings with the student offering advice on the research topic, the bibliography, and the theoretical/critical framework of the dissertation. The student submits drafts of his/her chapters regularly to the supervisor for feedback.

The MA Dissertation is written in English.

The dissertation, which corresponds to 30 ECTS, should conform to and will be assessed according to the following criteria. It should

• be original

• be between 18.000-20.000 words

• focus on the topic as set in the title

• be organized and presented according to standards of academic writing

• display accuracy, coherence, and clarity

• display the student’s ability to think critically

• exhibit the student’s understanding of the broader research area in which his/her topic falls

• include adequate citations in the main body of the dissertation as well as a list of references at the end presented according to the required bibliographic standards

Regarding the format of the dissertation, candidates must follow the guidelines provided by the MA steering committee.

The thesis is submitted in three printed copies and is sent electronically to the MA office, within the deadline set at the start of the 3rd semester.

Please note that

• Dissertations that fall short of or greatly surpass the word limit cannot be accepted.

• No extension to the dissertation submission deadline can be given, unless there are serious medical reasons (and only if the relevant medical documents are supplied).

• Plagiarism in the Dissertation is regarded as sufficient reason for a student to be expelled from the MA programme (see also section 11).

* Candidates have to defend their dissertation before the examining committee within a month after submission.

The final grade of the Dissertation is determined by averaging the marks given by the 3 members of the examining committee. If the dissertation is assessed as unsatisfactory (i.e. if it is marked by one examiner with a grade below 6, or if the examiners think that the dissertation needs improvement) the examining committee may request revisions within a period of one month.

The grade of the Dissertation is submitted by the examiners to the Department Secretariat. The student submits the dissertation (with any improvements suggested) in its final form in one copy at the Department Secretariat. Dissertations must be submitted electronically to the Digital Depository “PERGAMOS”, as per the relevant University Senate decision.

**Presentation of Dissertations**

Students who write interesting, original, and well-structured dissertations are invited to present their work at a symposium organized by the Literature-Culture Division of the Department. The promotion of the academic activity of the postgraduate students constitutes a priority of the Department.

9. Student Rights and Responsibilities

1. Postgraduate students are entitled to the same rights and amenities as undergraduate students, except for the right to free textbooks. The Department ensures accessibility to textbooks and lectures for disabled students and/or students with other special needs (see art. 34, par. 3, Law # 4485/2017). The NKUA Accessibility Unit also allows for various student facilities such as remote communication with fellow students, professors and admini­strative staff of the Institution, work stations at the library, provision of accessibility tools, etc.

2. Postgraduate students are encouraged to attend seminars, lectures, educational visits, conferences, colloquia and other scientific events related to the MA specialization, hosted by the Department of English Language and Literature or other departments and institutions.

3. Upon the recommendation of the Steering Committee, the General Assembly of the Department may decide to discontinue a student’s participation in the programme, following an *ex officio* application by the postgraduate student, or if the student in question

* exceeds the maximum absences allowed per course (as specified in section 8)
* exceeds the maximum study duration allowed for the programme (as specified in section 8)
* fails in the examination of a course/courses and consequently has not completed the programme
* breaks current Disciplinary Board regulations
* violates academic ethics, e.g., by committing **plagiarism** during the writing of assignments. More specifically, plagiarism is defined as the intentional or unintentional verbatim or paraphrased copying of parts of a text (irrespective of their size) from any print source (e.g., articles, books, newspapers, magazines, other students’ papers) or online source, without a full bibliographical reference to the source. Any third-party interference in the content or the structure of a paper (with no relevant reference) or the assigning of a paper for writing by a third party is also considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic ethics and leads to sanctions which, depending on the severity of the mis­conduct (to be determined by the Department’s General Assembly), may vary, from the student receiving a failing mark for the paper or failing the course, to being expelled from the MA programme. This applies to essays/papers of courses as well as to MA Dissertations.

4. At the end of each semester, students are asked to evaluate each course and instructor on a special form that they receive electronically from the MA office. The evaluations are completed anonymously, collected by one student in each course, and submitted in a sealed envelope to the MA office. Following the same procedure, students are also asked to assess the programme as a whole upon its completion and together with the submission of their MA Dissertations. The results of the overall student assessment of the programme are posted on the Department website.

5. The graduation ceremony takes place during a General Assembly meeting of the Department of English Language and Literature at the University premises, in the presence of the Director or the Associate Director of the MA programme, the Chair or the Associate Chair of the Department and, if possible, a representative of the Rector.

Graduates of the MA programme “English Studies: Literature and Culture” are granted a degree in the following areas of specialization:

* 1. The Greek Element in Anglophone Literature
	2. Anglophone Theatre from the Renaissance to the Present
	3. Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Anglophone Literature and Culture

6. BA degree holders from higher institutions outside of Greece who have not had their undergraduate studies recognized by the Hellenic NARIC (Δ.Ο.Α.Τ.Α.Π.) according to Law # 3328/2005 (A' 80), during the duration of their postgraduate studies, will not be eligible to receive the MA degree.

7. MA students may apply for an MA Supplement to be issued by the Department.

8. International ERASMUS+ students from universities with bilateral agreements (supporting graduate studies) with the NKUA may enrol in the programme and receive an attestation of their participation, provided the specialization of the MA “English Studies: Literature and Culture” matches a similar postgraduate programme offered by their own institution.

10. MA Programme Assessment

Programme assessment is continuous so that any emerging conclusions may be used to facilitate improvement. Intermediate assessments are conducted every semester in instructor meetings, as well as through an overall discussion at the Literature-Culture Division meetings. A final assessment is conducted after the completion of the programme. Assessment pertains to:

* MA instructors who (a) assess their students through a special questionnaire which is submitted to the MA office, and (b) convene once per semester to discuss the students’ comments and proposals as well as to share their own impressions and ideas for improvement.
* students who fill out questionnaires to assess (a) the courses at the end of each semester, and (b) the programme as a whole after its completion. Student assessments are submitted to the MA office in printed or electronic form (see also section 9.4).
* the members of the Department’s General Assembly who discuss the report submitted by the Steering Com­­mittee at the end of the programme.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Anglophone Literature and Culture

(2021-2023)

1st 12

The weekly class schedule is announced before the beginning of each semester. Updated course descriptions are posted on the MA webpage and detailed syllabi are given to the students in class by the instructors.

**1st Semester**

**Research Methodology:** **Theoretical and Cultural Approaches to 19th and 20th century Anglophone Literature**

Christina Dokou, Angelos Evangelou & Mina Karavanta

In this course, students will develop advanced critical and theoretical strategies through a series of seminars that will be conducted by faculty members of the postgraduate programme. The aim of this course is the further development and enhancement of the students’ methodological skills that are required for the writing of MA research papers and the MA thesis. The students will complete a number of short written and oral assignments and a longer research paper.

**Madness in Anglophone Literature of the 19th and 20th centuries**

Angelos Evangelou

This module introduces students to major English and American literary works of the 19th and 20th centuries that explore the theme of madness, with a focus on the representation of the “discourse of madness” and the experience of psychiatric intervention. Through the discussion of key theoretical texts, the students will assess the differences of terms such as “madness”, “unreason”, “psychosis” and “mental illness”, as well as the relation between madness and power, social discrimination, creativity, gender, sexuality, etc.

**Modernism, Marginality and Dissidence**

Stamatina Dimakopoulou

The course examines experiences of marginality in American modernism. Through a focus on marginal and/or dissident figures we will explore works by writers who were or still are in the margins of the American modernist canon. Work by writers like Mina Loy, Djuna Barnes and Claude MacKay, well-established in the modernist canon by now, will be read alongside writers, like Charles Henri Ford and Richard Bruce Nugent who still sit uneasily in modernist contexts and legacies.

**2nd Semester**

**Decolonial Approaches to Contemporary Caribbean Writing: Narratives of Dispossession, Migration and Return**

Mina Karavanta

This course intersects contemporary Caribbean poetics and decolonial thought to examine the Caribbean as a paradigmatic site of “trans-modernity” (Enrique Dussel; Walter Mignolo). We will focus on the Caribbean poetics of Édouard Glissant and the theoretical essays of Sylvia Wynter and C.L.R James and will study and examine their connections with decolonial thinkers like Walter Mignolo, Catherine Walsh, Gayatri Spivak, and Enrique Dussel, among others. The theorization of the decolonial Caribbean poetics of alterity and relation will be further developed through the novels and essays of Erna Brodber, Patrick Chamoiseau, Michelle Cliff, Maryse Condé and Caryl Phillips, the poetry of M. Nourbese Philip, Dionne Brand, Nancy Morejón and Joan Anim-Addo, and the documentary films and artwork of John Akomfrah and Steve McQueen.

**Rewriting Ancient Greek Drama in American Theatre**

Konstantinos Blatanis

This course focuses on select and varying rewrites of ancient Greek plays authored by American playwrights and directors over the course of the past century. Interest revolves around the multiple results this wide-ranging cultural osmosis has yielded so far through canonical works as well as experimental ventures and, thus, the course examines the ways in which this engagement with the classics has shaped the trajectory of development that American drama and theatre have followed throughout the twentieth century.

**Comics and the Graphic Novel: The Margin, the Gutter, and the Big Picture**

Christina Dokou

Heralded as a hybrid art form with a complex and profound affective impact—and not only on youth/pop culture—comics and their literary progeny, graphic novels, have gained academic and theoretical recognition for both their formal properties and their potential to express, and sensitize people on, issues of marginality and divergence. The analysis of selected graphic novels by western Anglophone authors will introduce us to the theory and techniques behind sequential art interpretation, while also showing how graphic auteurs employ those techniques to depict in a familiarizing (though not beautifying) light identities excluded and/or alienated from the societal big picture.

Useful addresses and telephone numbers:

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| HELLENIC NATIONAL ACADEMIC RECOGNITION (HELLENIC NARIC – Δ.Ο.Α.Τ.Α.Π.)  | 54, Ag. Konstantinou Str., 10437 Athens. Tel. 210 5281000, [www.doatap.gr](http://www.doatap.gr) |
| MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS | 37, Andrea Papandreou Str., 15180 Marousi. Tel. 210 344 2000, [www.ypep.gr](http://www.ypepth.gr/) |
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| STATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOUNDATION (IKY)State scholarships for post-graduate studies |

 | 41, Ethnikis Antistaseos Str., 14234 Nea Ionia, Athens. Tel. 210 3726300, [www.iky.gr](http://www.iky.gr/) |
| NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS Department of Postgraduate Studies and Research |

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| 7, Paleon Patron Germanou, 10561 Athens. Tel. 210 3689919 |

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| NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS Legacy Directorate: Scholarships & Prizes (scholarships funded by legacies and bequests donated to the NKUA, for post-graduate studies) | 6, Christou Lada, 10561 Athens.Tel. 210 3689131/4 |
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