

THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS & LITERATURE

MA Caribbean Studies: Languages/Literatures

Introduction/Objectives

This programme has been designed to broaden the scope of literary and linguistic studies in the Humanities at postgraduate level by introducing an interdisciplinary and pan-Caribbean perspective to the Department's taught offerings. Students will build on the analytical skills initiated at undergraduate level, but also learn to make new, cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary connections and thus acquire a more comprehensive knowledge of the region's literary and linguistic heritage and contemporary reality. Incorporating research from other disciplines such as Creative Arts, Communication Studies, Media Studies and Cultural Studies, the programme is designed to equip the student with transferable skills applicable to a range of professions.

By the end of this programme students should be able to:

GENERAL

1. Critically analyse the interventions of various Caribbean thinkers on a variety of issues in order to evaluate the depth of their contributions to Caribbean thought;
2. Write rhetorical analyses of texts in film, television shows, advertisements, etc.; and
3. Use appropriate skills and knowledge to produce a critical academic paper, a creative piece of writing, film, art, or installation; or performance.

LITERATURE STREAM

1. Articulate a critical vision of regional literature that goes beyond a single linguistic or national canon by exploring significant commonalities alongside observed divergences in the writing of various Caribbean persons;
 2. Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Caribbean literatures from throughout the diaspora;
 3. Examine and interpret visual images of the Caribbean in the fine arts to determine how changes in the images over time reflect the (re)appropriation of power by Caribbean peoples;
 4. Read dramatic texts as social and rhetorical acts and explore how *performance* operates as a way of being, knowing and acting in the world;
 5. Select appropriate literary texts for classroom use at various instructional levels;
 6. Devise and implement a reader-oriented literature programme which demonstrates an understanding of approaches to teaching young adult literature, strategies for assisting struggling readers, and approaches to teaching literature for CSEC and CAPE; and
 7. Write creatively in the genre of choice to produce a manuscript of publishable standard.
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LANGUAGE STREAM

1. Identify and describe the components of a Caribbean linguistic and cultural identity and explore its multifaceted nature;
2. Demonstrate an appreciation for the nature of rhetoric in its varied roles by writing critical reviews of various media;
3. Analyse the rhetoric of popular media in the Caribbean to develop visual and media literacies;
4. Develop and implement programmes based on current research and methodology to teach English to speakers of other languages;
5. Explore traditional and contemporary methods of foreign language teaching to select those best suited to the Caribbean context; and
6. Use proficiency-oriented methods and learner-centred approaches to develop and implement programmes for the teaching of foreign languages and for English as a second language.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should have at least a Second Class honours degree or equivalent from a recognised tertiary institution. For this programme the Department will consider applications from students with a first degree in relevant areas such as literatures in English, modern languages, linguistics, communication studies, cultural studies, or area studies.

Programme of Study/Course of Study

Students are required to gain 35 credits through successful completion of 4 courses and a Research Paper. Full-time candidates are required to complete the 4 courses during their first two semesters of study while part-time candidates are required to complete the 4 courses during their first three semesters of study.

Independent Reading Courses

Candidates for the MA degree may, only in special circumstances, substitute up to two (2) Independent Reading Courses. This is contingent upon the availability of staff to direct such courses as well as the approval of the Department. To this end, candidates should first identify and consult with a potential Director for the project.

Independent Reading Courses may be based upon extant courses (in which case the course content, the reading list, the methods of assessment, etc. may be slightly altered) or may be designed to suit the special needs of the candidate. Any such proposal must be related to the major focus or foci of the MA degree of the discipline in question and / or should be compatible with the resources and expertise available in the Department.

In the case of the latter, students, in consultation with the proposed Director, must write a proposal providing the following information:

- **RATIONALE:** an explanation of how the material of the proposed course forms a coherent focus of study, and an outline of the objectives thereof.
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- **ASSESSMENT:** a list of the format, number, and length of assignments to be submitted to the Director.
- **CONTACT SCHEDULE:** a statement of the frequency and length of time you and your Director will meet (e.g once per week for one hour).
- **READING LIST:** this list should follow the guidelines prescribed by the MLA HANDBOOK and should be divided into *Required* and *Recommended* readings.

The proposal is to be submitted to the proposed Director who will then formally pass it on, indicating his/her approval, to the Department's Coordinator of Graduate Studies.

Research Paper

Full-time candidates are required to complete a Research Paper (15,000-20,000 words, exclusive of notes and bibliography) after completing all required courses.

The Research Paper is worth 15 credits for the MA Caribbean Studies: Languages/Literatures and may take the form of a creative work (piece of writing, film, art installation, performance) with critical commentary or portfolio.

Upon completion of their coursework (if not earlier), candidates should submit a brief written proposal (including a title) to the Coordinator of Graduate Studies. Once the proposal has been approved, a Supervisor is appointed to guide the candidate in his/her research. Candidates are required to meet with their Supervisors a minimum of once per semester. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that this minimum is met.

Research Papers which are not presented in accordance with these guidelines in the Graduate Studies Thesis Guide will not be accepted for examination.

Duration

In this programme the summer session is only used for writing up the Research Paper. No teaching takes place during the summer.

As candidates are required to complete all courses before working on their Research Paper, full-time candidates who begin the programme in Semester 1 (August) are expected to complete courses by May and submit their Research Papers by August 31st for a total of 12 months.

Full-time candidates who begin in Semester 2 (January) will complete courses by December and are required to submit their Research Papers by April 30th of the following year for a total of 15 months.

Part-time candidates must complete all requirements in 27 months.

In cases where students begin their Research Paper at times other than those stated above, the deadline for submission shall be set at four months after the agreed start date for full-time students, seven months for part-time students.

LIST OF COURSES

LITERATURES

Compulsory Courses (5 credits each)

CARI 6000 Contemporary Caribbean Literature across Languages

CARI 6001 Caribbean Thought

CARI 6900 Research Paper (15 credits)

Select 2 electives (4 or 5 credits) from

CARI 6005 Caribbean Diasporic Literatures

CARI 6006 Teaching Literature in the Caribbean Classroom

CARI 6009 Creative Writing

CARI 6010 Visualizing the Caribbean

CARI 6011 Caribbean Theatre: Text and Performance

A pre-existing postgraduate course in the Discipline

Any approved course from other programme (e.g. Cultural Studies)

Compulsory

LANGUAGES

Compulsory Courses (5 credits each)

CARI 6002 Caribbean Linguistic and Cultural Identity

CARI 6003 Language and Media in the Caribbean

CARI 6900 Research Paper (15 credits)

Select 2 electives (4 or 5 credits) from

CARI 6009 Creative Writing

CARI 6010 Visualizing the Caribbean

CARI 6011 Caribbean Theatre: Text and Performance

CARI 6007 Teaching Second and Foreign Languages

CARI 6008 Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

A pre-existing postgraduate course in the Discipline

Approved Course from other programme (e.g. Cultural Studies)
