



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Master of Arts in Cultural Studies: Texts and Cultures 2012-13

Applications for admission into the MA in Cultural Studies: Texts and Cultures program are reviewed by the English Departmental Graduate Program Committee.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

This course-based MA program is intended to give students an excellent grounding in cultural, literary, textual, and visual studies. It is also ideal preparation for students interested in pursuing further graduate work at the PhD level in English and Cultural Studies (among other related fields), as well as for those interested in pursuing careers in secondary-school teaching, publishing, management, marketing, and other careers in communications and cultural industries, where MA degrees are increasingly valued. Information about specific faculty research interests can be found on the Department of English website at <http://english.uwinnipeg.ca/MAprogram.shtml>, and, for faculty instructors from other departments, on the faculty member's home departmental website.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN MA IN CULTURAL STUDIES: TEXTS AND CULTURES

ADMISSION REQUIREMENT

Applicants should have an Honours or Four-year BA in English, a joint Honours or Four-Year BA in English and another subject, or an Honours or Four-Year BA in a field that provides the applicant with preparation in cultural, literary, textual, and/or visual studies (in this context, some degrees we will consider include Honours or Four-Year BAs in Anthropology, Art History, History, Politics, Rhetoric and Communication, Sociology, and Women's and Gender Studies). Other degrees and/or experience also will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A minimum number of courses in textual studies (the equivalent of 30 credit hours* of study at the Honours level or 48 credit hours* of study at other postsecondary levels) is required of all students, to be completed either before entry into the program or during a qualifying period.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Application packages will be on hold until ALL required documents are received. The application deadline is **January 15** for Canadian applicants and **December 15** for international applicants. Applications received after the official deadline will be considered, but financial assistance cannot be guaranteed for late applicants. The normal date to begin the program is September. For current information on scholarships, please visit the Department and Graduate Studies websites.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete the on-line application form available at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action?file=pdfs/grad-studies/grad-studies-app.pdf>
2. Provide one official/notarized transcript of academic work completed to date, sent directly from the issuing institution. If the final transcript does not show that a completed degree has been conferred, an official/notarized copy of your diploma is also required or a letter indicating expected graduation date.
3. Supply two confidential letters of recommendation from individuals most familiar with your academic work and relevant experience. Letters should be signed and sealed if they are submitted by the student as part of an application package.
4. Attach a statement of interest of 500 words, which includes a brief description of your undergraduate training, your reasons for

applying to this program, and your areas of research interest in cultural studies.

5. If applicable, attach an academic resumé. Pertinent listings include scholarships, awards, grants, and other distinctions; conference papers, other presentations, and publications; and volunteer and community service.
6. Include an academic writing sample, preferably an essay from a recent course with the instructor's comments, written in English. The committee will also consider supplementary materials.
7. Applicants for whom English is an additional language should include an official copy of TOEFL scores.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

4 year Undergraduate degree with a minimum entry requirement:
Overall GPA of 3.0
A GPA of 3.5 in the major subject

English requirement for applicants for whom English is an additional language:

A minimum TOEFL iBT score of 100, with a score of at least 22 on the writing and speaking components, or an IELTS score of 7.5.

The test should have been taken within a year of the date a completed application is filed.

CONTACT US

Further inquiries should be directed to

Dr. Mavis Reimer, Graduate Coordinator
3C24A, Department of English
(204) 786-9185 m.reimer@uwinnipeg.ca

Completed application forms should be submitted to

Graduate Studies Admissions Office
Dagmawit Habtemariam, 3D07B
(204) 786-9309 d.habtemariam@uwinnipeg.ca

The University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3B 2E9

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Full-time students may complete this program of study over a twelve-month period. Students also may be enrolled in the program on a part-time basis, normally completing the program requirements in two years. All students take 4 full-course equivalents (24 credit hours, effective September 2011), one of which is a required course in Research Methods and Practice.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGL-7112/3* and ENGL-7113/6* Topics in Cultural Theory These courses focus on such questions as: What constitutes a text? How do some texts come to be valued over others? How do questions of value relate to the distribution of power and authority? How do social differences such as race, ethnicity, class, and gender shape and unsettle cultural production and consumption over time? How may “cultural theory” and “critical theory” be situated in relation to one another?

ENGL-7160/3 and ENGL-7161/6 Topics in Cultures of Childhood These courses focus on such questions as: How has the subject category of “the child,” different in different times and places, been used to secure definitions of class, nation, history, and the modern individual? How do digital, filmic, and television texts, texts of material culture such as toys and video games, and oral texts such as family stories and schoolyard games take up and reframe these debates? How does studying texts designed for young readers allow for theoretical investigations into the manufacture of consent in liberal democratic cultures?

ENGL-7901/3 and ENGL-7902/6 Topics in Genders, Sexualities, and Cultures These courses focus on such issues as: the relationship between feminist theory, queer theory and literary and cultural production; the impact of queer theory on historical considerations and contemporary understandings of sex, gender and sexuality; the continued relevance of feminism and feminist theory to questions of gender and sexuality; and the development and circulation of terms such as “homosexual” and “heterosexual” and concepts such as “masculine” and “feminine,” categories that have a fundamental impact on how we organize and understand cultures, subjectivities, and knowledges.

ENGL-7740/3 and ENGL-7741/6 Topics in Local, National, and Global Cultures These courses focus on such topics as: the implications of globalization for Canadian and Aboriginal texts and identities; the potential for dialogue and collaboration across nations and cultures; the ways in which local histories and contexts engender different relations to the global; and the language of human rights.

ENGL-7811/3 and ENGL-7812/6 Topics in Manuscript, Print, and Digital Cultures These courses will focus on such topics as: historical and contemporary theoretical debates over aesthetics and culture, archiving and public

memory, orality and writing, popular cultures and reading publics; copyright and censorship; manual, industrial, and digital publishing; book production, distribution and consumption; and media institutions.

ENGL-7820/3 and ENGL-7821/6 Topics in Visual Cultures These courses focus on visual images, the circumstances of their production, and the variety of cultural and social functions they serve. The study of visual culture includes artifacts from all historical periods and cultures, as well as media such as film, television and the internet. The processes and discourses around seeing and the cultural construction of the visual are taken into account.

ENGL-7122/3 and ENGL-7131/6 Special Studies in Cultural Theories and Practices These courses encourage students to consult with interested faculty members from English and cognate departments to develop reading courses related to particular areas of cultural theories and practices. Individualized programs for completing the required course work as well as independent study projects are submitted to be approved by the English Graduate Program Committee. Cognate departments may include the following, among others: Anthropology; Politics; Sociology; Philosophy; History; Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications; and Women’s and Gender Studies.

ENGL-7103/3 Research Methods and Practice This course aims to equip students with advanced bibliographical and research skills that will support their graduate study. Such resources will include archival, library, web-based and informational technologies, and will incorporate theoretical and applied methodologies. Each year course material will be integrated with other graduate courses being offered, and might include a practicum in local cultural projects and communities.

MINIMUM COURSE AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 24 credit hours of course work, effective September 2011, is mandatory. Students should arrange their specific distribution of courses in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator or designate.

Students are required to obtain a minimum grade of B (grade point of 3.0) in all courses presented for graduation.

Expected Time to Graduate: 12 months
Maximum Time to Graduate: 3 years

Note: These requirements come into effect in September 2011. This document is revised as of August 2011.

*A three-credit-hour course typically is a one-term or half course. A six-credit-hour course typically is a two-term or full course.

For more information, visit us at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/grad-studies-index>