



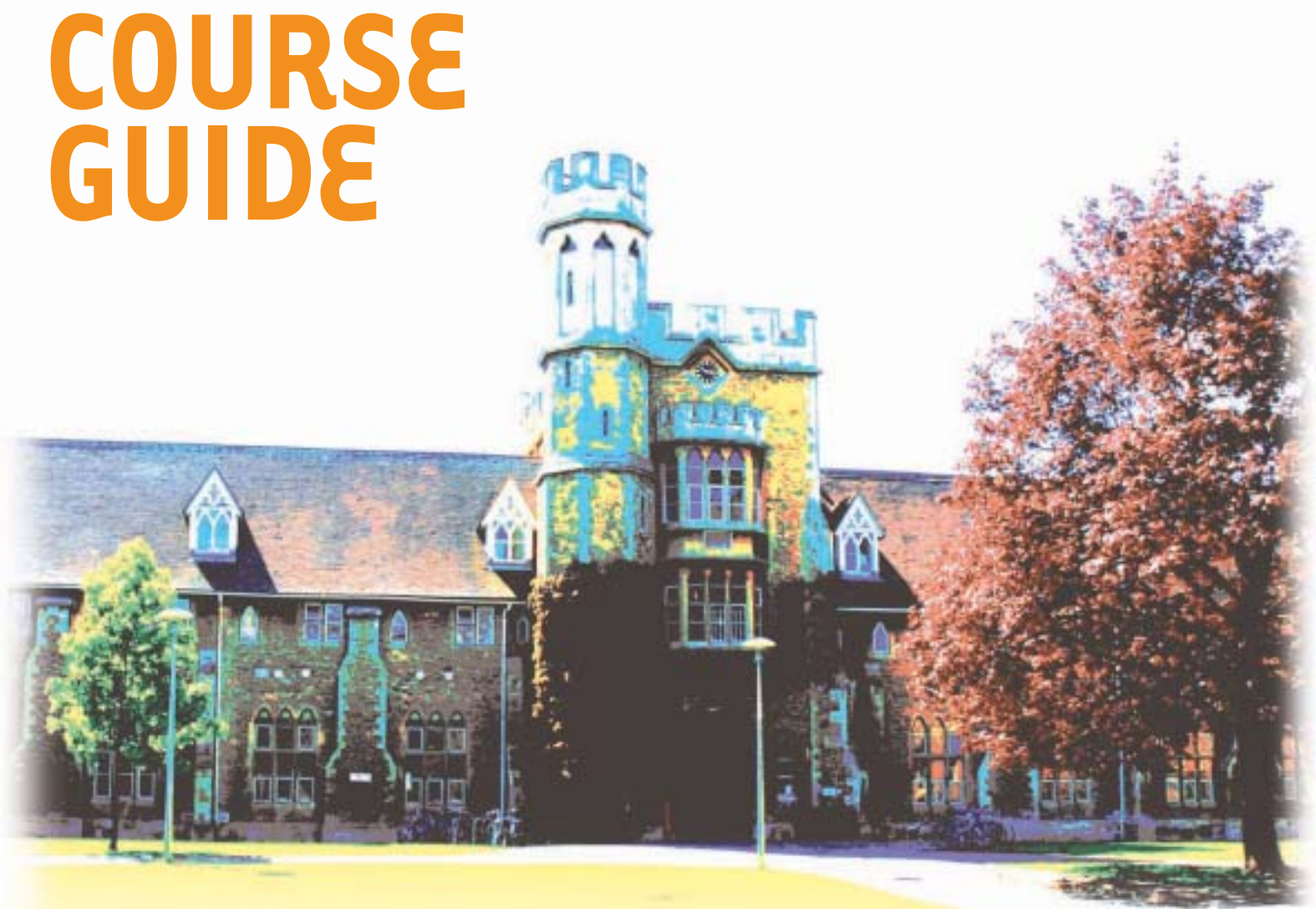
UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

at Cheltenham and Gloucester

FRANCIS CLOSE HALL CAMPUS

Department of Humanities

COURSE GUIDE



-challenging-explorative-creative-traditional-



-inspiring-expert-radical-engaging-

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Department of Humanities



Join us at the University of Gloucestershire

The photograph on the opposite page shows a group of people in a university context. They could be students discussing a project or presentation and talking about texts and images and what they represent.

They are not students, but lecturers and tutors. Students are, however the topic of conversation as they discuss ways of attracting new undergraduates to the Department of Humanities at the University of Gloucestershire. This brochure – and perhaps, you coming to the University of Gloucestershire – is the result.

The obvious starting point is giving information about the range of courses the department offers at both undergraduate and postgraduate level in the following subject areas: Creative Writing, English Language, English Literature, History and Religion, Philosophy & Ethics.

Each member of the team gathered round the table is responsible for a particular subject area, or Field, as we call the undergraduate programmes here. All of these tutors have on offer their expertise as widely-published academics with national and international reputations for both research and teaching. They have just been asked to think of a word that best describes their course; everyone responds energetically supplying a keyword, and even though the terms are, at first glance, somewhat contradictory, the team agrees with each of the individual offerings: traditional, radical, challenging, inspiring, flexible, engaged, accessible, ethical, explorative, imaginative, creative, expert, active, facilitating.

But at the core, it all comes down to the conception of 'Humanities', which is the umbrella term for a group of subjects that specifically question and explore what it means to be human. The answers and insights can be unexpected and this, for academics and students, is what makes studying 'the Humanities' so exciting and always relevant.

The world we live in is not static, and so the disciplines engaging with it must also be dynamic. At the same time, many of the questions addressed by the Humanities are long-standing, and have generated histories, texts, ideologies, religions and interpretations in every historical period, which continue to engage our attention and seek our reflection.

It is for these reasons that we think the programmes of study in the Humanities at the University of Gloucestershire are traditional (canonical) and topical (contemporary), distinctive yet innovative.

We hope you like what you find...

Shelley Saguro

Head of Department of Humanities



Studying in Cheltenham

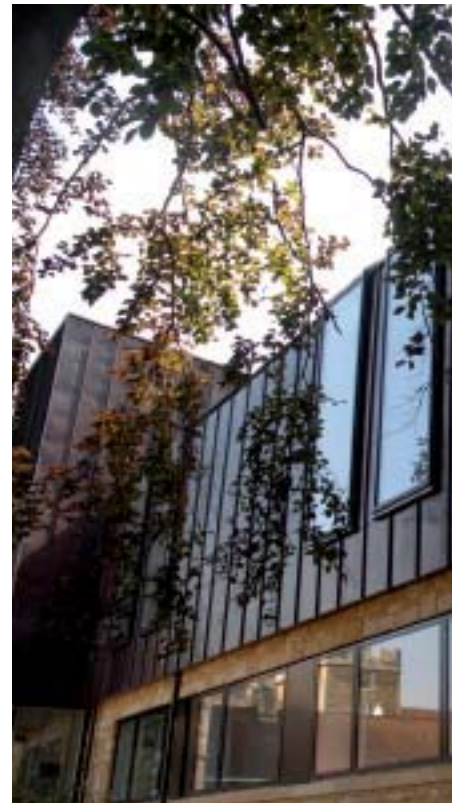
Cheltenham is one of those locations that is hard to beat. It is a vibrant and attractive place that is culturally rich, has a fascinating past and a very individual atmosphere.

The student experience is varied; this is what makes it stand out as a great place to study. Whether it is visiting the Literature Festival or one of the many renowned events and exhibitions that take place throughout the year, your time in Cheltenham will be rewarding and memorable.

If you come and study at the University of Gloucestershire you will benefit from living in an exciting and attractive location. You will be made to feel at home in a town that is easy to get around.

The Department of Humanities is based at Francis Close Hall Campus in the heart of Cheltenham. It is only a short walk away from the lively town centre and near to the many bars, restaurants and leisure activities.

There is a wide variety of sport, arts and other activities all within walking distance. These include Cheltenham's Art Gallery & Museum, Pittville Pump Rooms, The Everyman Theatre, The Playhouse Theatre and The Bacon Theatre, Leisure & Recreation Centre, Seven Screen Cinema, Ten Pin Bowling and Sandford Park & Lido, the town's open air heated swimming pool.



Welcome from Faculty Dean

I am delighted to introduce the course guide for the Department of Humanities. The Department is one of three which make up the Faculty of Education, Humanities and Sciences, located at the University's Francis Close Hall campus in Cheltenham. With its historic buildings, state of the art facilities and warm and friendly atmosphere, the Campus is fondly regarded by current and past students alike. But, of course, the Faculty is more than a collection of buildings. Our highly committed staff are dedicated to ensuring that all of our students receive the best possible learning opportunities, and when the time comes for them to leave us, are fully equipped for the world of work.

The Campus is home to the University's Centre for Active Learning, the underlying philosophy of which is that students learn best when they are actively involved in solving real problems in the real world. Accordingly our teaching methods are highly varied, often very innovative and centre upon the active engagement of the student in the learning process.

The Department of Humanities offers first class courses, delivered by an outstanding team of staff. Do please contact us should you have any questions about our courses, and I look forward to welcoming you personally to our Campus.



Dr Keith Sharp
Dean, Faculty of Education, Humanities and Sciences

Francis Close Hall Campus



English Literature

This course is designed to provide a programme of study that allows you to choose from a varied range of genres, periods and areas of literature in English, while enabling you to develop critical and analytical skills.

Within the broad scope of literary production you will be able to pursue your particular interests, such as the study of Shakespeare

and his contemporaries or the recent experimental fiction of such authors as Graham Swift and Zadie Smith. It is possible to choose a particular 'strand' within English Literature, so that you can trace a chronological route or choose a particular focus on Postcolonial or American literatures. It is also possible to focus on a theoretical strand of study.



Throughout the three years of study you will encounter a diverse range of literature and gain a sound knowledge of literary forms and conventions. You will be reading, discussing and writing about an exciting range of texts in a variety of contexts and from a range of perspectives, from the particular historical roots of Caribbean Writing, to the influence of psychoanalytic theories on modern literature. There will be opportunities to choose from a number of options offered by staff engaged in

literary research at national and international level and to develop and tailor your degree to suit your own enthusiasm for literature. Tutorial guidance is built into the programme and you will be able to work on independent studies with individual tutorial support.

English Literature is available as Single or Joint Honours. The subject combines well with any of the other Humanities subjects and also

with Film Studies, Media Communications, Psychology and Sport Science.

A degree in English Literature will equip you for a wide range of careers, including teaching, publishing, journalism and law, as well as enable you to pursue postgraduate courses and research.

SAMPLE MODULES		
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<p>Reading Literature/Practising Criticism This module introduces students to various ways of studying a wide range of literary genres and forms through an analysis of specific texts, from <i>Hamlet</i> and <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> to the short stories of Angela Carter and Raymond Carver.</p> <p>Myth, Epic and Folk-tale This module introduces students to four foundational texts in world literature, such as <i>The Bible</i>, <i>The Ramayana</i>, <i>The Odyssey</i> or the Fairy tales of Charles Perrault and the Grimm Brothers. These texts are chosen in part because they include many primary narratives, but also because they are themselves examples of diverse genres and are drawn from a diverse range of nationalities.</p>	<p>Contemporary Fiction: Writing Back to History This module will allow students to explore various modes of narrative experimentation in contemporary writing from the Postcolonial perspective. Contemporary/post-modern narrative experimentation will be discussed within a cultural/political context.</p> <p>Psychoanalysis, Sexuality and Writing This module explores the relationship between psychoanalysis and writing by exploring some of the key psychoanalytic theories. Debates centred around the issues of sexuality and writing, gender and genre and the construction/representation of sexuality will provide the module's focus.</p>	<p>American Literature Since 1900 This module will develop students' understanding of twentieth-century American literature and culture. Attention will be given to the textual (and sometimes visual) representation of issues of race, ethnicity, gender, nationalism and imperialism.</p> <p>Options in Contemporary Writing Students are offered a choice of four options – of which students take two – representing staff areas of interest and expertise in the post-1945 period. Students will engage with the experimentalism of writers attempting to comprehend and articulate the experience of twentieth-century modernity, pivoting on the terrible 'modern' event of the First World War.</p>
CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES		
Teaching, Journalism, Publishing, Media, Arts Administration		
FURTHER STUDY		
Postgraduate study is a very good option for English Literature graduates, as a degree can often be seen as a starting point for either a teaching career, further research or further training. In recent years, our graduates have embarked on PGCEs, MAs or PhDs here and at other universities. Others have embarked on postgraduate studies of Creative Writing, Journalism, Law and Publishing.		



U.A. Fanthorpe at the Cyder Press launch of *Coming Home*





Dr Shelley Saguardo
Head of Department

'Gardens were my interest outside my academic life, but I began to think about the ways in which gardens were used in some contemporary literary texts. I realised they were anything but a 'natural' backdrop, but that they raised a range of political and formal issues – hence the title: *Garden Plots* (Ashgate, 2006). The interdisciplinarity of the book, with its attention to language, environment, garden history and design, landscape and science seems fitting in a Faculty that embraces all these subjects. I look forward to the opportunities for further cross-disciplinary exploration.'

Jennifer Warriner
Student
BA(Hons) English Literature and Geography

Jennifer is in her final year and is currently using her degree training to teach English at secondary level whilst studying. Jennifer is hoping to further her study here with a Post Graduate Certificate in Education.

'I chose the University as it provides a wide range of joint courses so I found one that was perfect for me. I've grown with confidence and learnt how to voice my opinion, to analyse literature more closely and improve my knowledge of different authors' work.'

Dr Simon Barker
Principal Lecturer in English Literature

Although Dr Barker has a special passion for the theatre of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, his teaching reflects his interest in a range of periods and styles. His publications, including several books designed to support undergraduate study, examine the relationship between literature and history.

'I studied both subjects at university and continue to regard them as complementary. Students here benefit from contact between various areas and the original and intelligent response that it can inspire.'

This course covers linguistic as well as sociolinguistic aspects of the English Language. We examine the evidence for various theories, using examples from historical manuscripts, printed texts, literature, dialect recordings and modern electronic corpora.

We view language as a structured human communication system and investigate each of those different levels of structure. We cover areas such as: the historical origins and evolution of English; sociolinguistic factors, such as gender, age, social class;

the performative functions of language, rhetoric, dialectology and new varieties around the world.

The course will enable you as a student to use the language more confidently and accurately, understand its structure, and to see how we use language to inform, amuse, deceive and persuade.

Students intending to work in the media, teaching, communications, management, public services and cultural industries will particularly benefit from this programme.



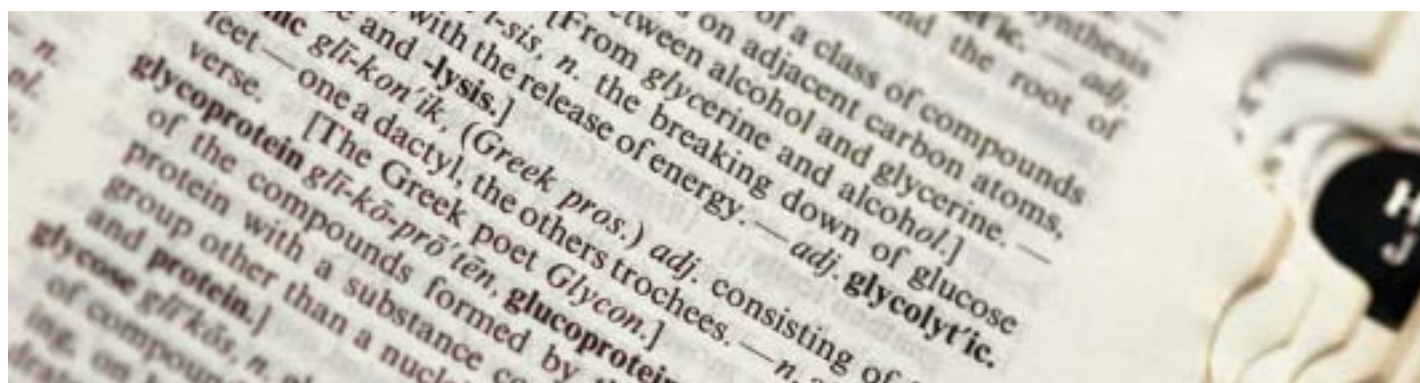
English Language

Our programme will fascinate and challenge you, while showing you how much you already know about English Language. You will be able to understand more about the peculiarities we find in the language, such as sayings and idiomatic constructions. Over the course of the three year degree programme you will encounter a broad range of modules, covering everything from Critical Discourse Analysis to History of the English Language.

Our students come from a variety of backgrounds and ages, and enjoy engaging with staff involved in exciting teaching and research in a number of language-based areas. We encourage and develop active learning, including independent study and dissertations which allow the student to develop the ability to engage in original research.

A degree in English Language combines well with many of the other Humanities subjects such as English Literature and Creative Writing.

SAMPLE MODULES		
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<p>What is Language? Concepts and Components This introductory module covers the elementary concepts of studying language such as word formation, sentence patterns and grammar, word meanings, pragmatics, morphology, phonetics and phonology.</p> <p>Language and Ecology This module takes the term <i>ecological literacy</i> literally, encouraging critical analysis of values and attitudes towards nature, the environment and sustainability as they are expressed in discourses ranging from advertising to nature poetry.</p>	<p>History of the English Language This module offers a basic account, supported by designated course-books, of the history of the English language from Old English to examples of English in the contemporary world.</p> <p>Ethics and Language This module engages students in an exploration of the role of language in ethics, covering both contemporary and historical aspects. The historical aspect involves investigation of the development of selected key ethical concepts such as good/evil, goodness/wickedness, virtue, value, justice, and freedom.</p>	<p>Englishes and Dialects This module develops students' knowledge and understanding of social variation within English across the world and also of the many dialects, pidgins and creoles within English-speaking countries, especially Britain.</p> <p>Rhetoric in Practice This module focuses on the general field of rhetoric in contemporary forms. It places emphasis on the contexts and practices of rhetoric, affording students equal opportunities to practice and analyse rhetorical styles which are familiar and less familiar from within fields of discourse in the contemporary world: advertising and commercial culture; the contemporary media; management; politics and the law.</p>
CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES	Media, Teaching, Communications, Management, Public Services, Cultural and Creative industries	
FURTHER STUDY	MA in English Language or Linguistics PhD in English Language or Linguistics	





Dr Jonathan Marshall

Field Chair for English Language

Dr Marshall's research interests are sociolinguistics, language variation and change, and varieties of English. His publications include: *Language Change and Sociolinguistics: Rethinking Social Networks* (London: Palgrave 2004).

'I am interested in helping students design and conduct their own research projects, for example, using IT for analysing dialectology recordings and quantified data on linguistic and social variables.'

Ian Grabowski

Student

BA(Hons) English Language

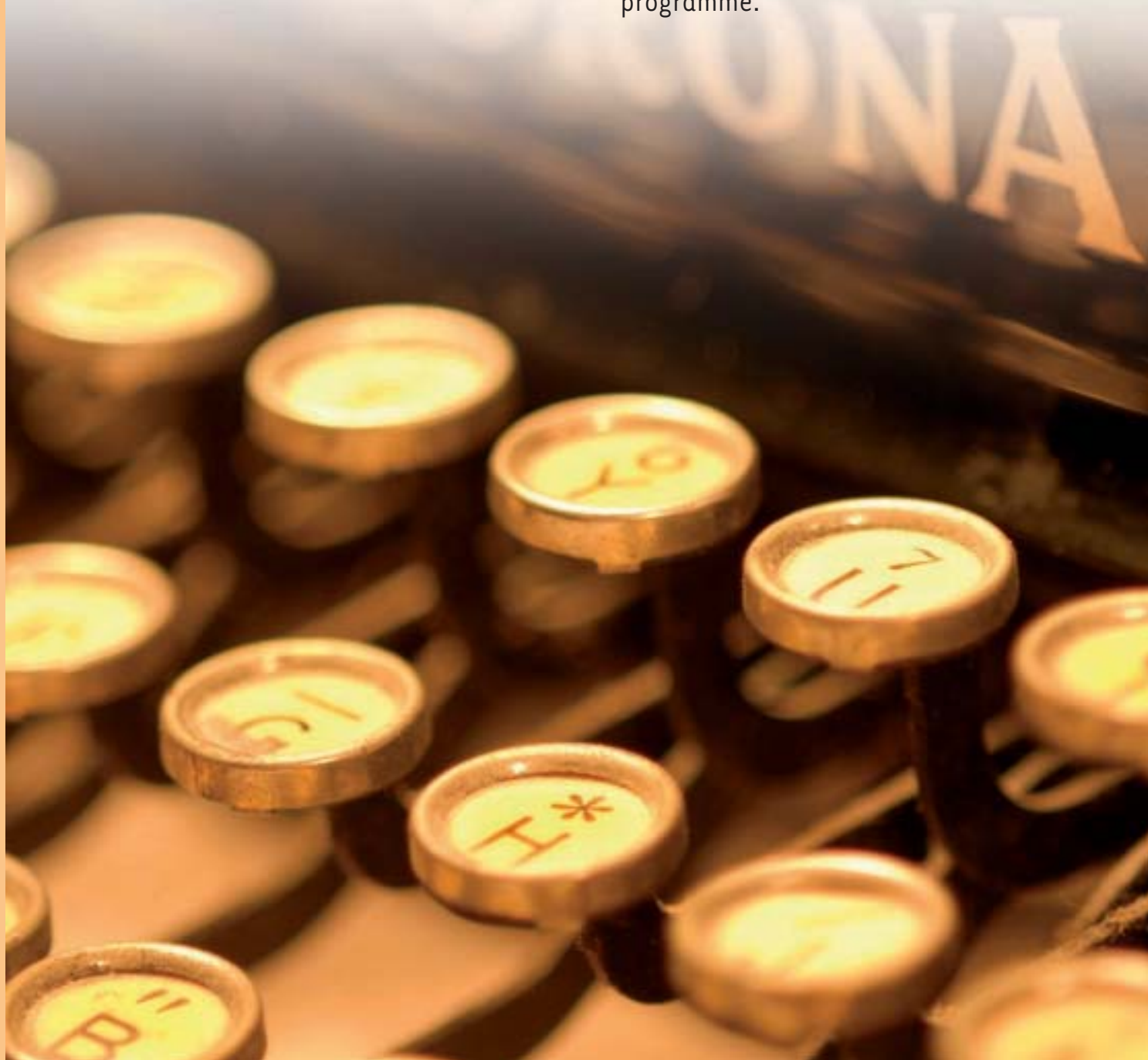
Ian is in his third year studying English Language with Journalism and Professional Writing.

'I chose to study English Language because I've always enjoyed looking at how language is used and played with in everyday life, rather than in a literary context. The course has been really engaging and has given me a new, fresh perspective on the English language as a whole.'

Creative Writing

As a student of creative writing you can explore your writing abilities in fiction, poetry and lyrics, drama and screenplay as well as through popular idioms such as journalism and copywriting. Experienced writers provide support and guidance in developing projects from the idea stage, through the draft process to the completed manuscript. You will be encouraged to pursue your work privately as well as in workshop environments and community projects.

Creative Writing begins where you are - as a writer - and takes you on a journey through a variety of written styles, contexts and imaginative and practical projects. Our degree course aims to develop your abilities and understanding of the entire spectrum of creative writing and practices in contemporary culture. We cater for students wishing to study in a single genre or in combinations of genres, enabling students to develop a flexible and skills-orientated programme.



Creative Writing

The students from the Creative Writing BA (Hons) course have access to a number of established literary events in the region, notably the Cheltenham Literature Festival, Ledbury Poetry Festival & the Hay-On-Wye Festival. Many of our students gain valuable experience at these festivals and some students have worked with them on a voluntary basis.

Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds; they practice in a variety of genres but what unites them is a common desire to develop their art and express themselves in the written medium.

Our course interweaves practice, criticism, analysis and self-reflection. You will be encouraged to reflect on subjects at the heart

of creative writing, such as the psychology of self-expression, theories of language and the written word and the relationship between art and commerce. The emphasis throughout however, is on how to develop your own style of writing and to create contexts in which to write.

SAMPLE MODULES		
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<p>Imaginary and Real World Looks at myth as the starting point of all literature and how the same plotlines and archetypes recur throughout the history of writing.</p> <p>Poetry: Fundamentals Provides an introduction to how to use form in poetry and how to experiment with various aspects of the poetic medium.</p>	<p>Prose: Craft and Practice Looks at the technical aspects of writing good prose and provides an opportunity for student prose writers to hone their craft.</p> <p>Writing, Re-writing and Showcasing Your Work In this Level 2 module, students explore the situation of the writer as 're-writer' of the canon; and compile portfolios of their own creative work with an eye to submission for publication or performance.</p>	<p>Playwriting: Masterclass Looks at ways to improve the student's dramatic writing and covers the technical aspects of dramaturgy in-depth.</p> <p>The Novel Supports students who are attempting to write their first novel to benefit from working with a published practitioner on a practical basis.</p>
CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES		
Novelist, Screen Writer, Playwright, Poet, Editor, Critic, Educator, Journalist, Academic, Speech Writer, Marketing, Advertising, Teaching		
FURTHER STUDY		
MA programmes in Writing MA programmes in Literature PhD in Creative Writing		



Creative Writing



Rebecca Nesvet

Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing

Rebecca Nesvet is a playwright. Her work has been produced in the Southwark Playhouse Miniaturists' Series; New York, Washington, and Montreal. Her criticism appears in the RES and WOMEN'S WRITING.

'You don't know Dick is a collaboration piece - Produced at the Washington DC Capitol Fringe by Art Riot in July 2006. Collaboration is a challenging yet exciting way to write.'

You don't know Dick is one of Rebecca's collaboration pieces.

Mariana Rueda Santana

BA(Hons) Creative Writing and English Literature

Mariana is a first year International Student

'I've found the course absolutely brilliant. We are constantly producing new material which leads me to explore new grounds and write about new themes. As writers, we need to get used to both meeting deadlines and producing work on a regular basis. This has been a great experience.'

I've made some great friends and have been taught by great teachers.'

Dr Nigel McLoughlin

Field Chair for Creative Writing

Dr McLoughlin is the author of three collections of poems, the most recent of which is *Blood* (Bluechrome, 2005). He has also published work on the creative process and the pedagogy of creative writing.

'I believe all creative writing is part craft and part gift. All writers need to learn their craft but they also need to learn ways to help the gift happen.'

The study of history enables you to encounter a variety of 'pasts' in different time periods and in many different countries.

You can study pre-historic communities, examine archaeological sites and see how people lived in Roman Britain. Look at medieval England and see what life was like in the Middle Ages. Take a tour around the royal courts of early modern Europe. Consider 'what the Victorians did for us'. Cross the

oceans to see the transformation of the new world into a global superpower. See the world as your grandparents experienced it during the twentieth century 'age of extremes'. The past is even right here on your own doorstep in the local history of Cheltenham and Gloucestershire. By the end of your explorations of the past, you will have a better idea of how we got to where we are today.



History

The History degree introduces you to a variety of ways of looking at the past. Just as people in the present experience the world around them in different ways, so History is written about, read and represented from a range of perspectives. You will develop techniques that will allow you to dismantle the past and to reconstruct history from your own point of

view. Your experience of History will be hands on through the presentation of artefacts and ephemera, documents from our own archive and local records offices, as well as site visits and field trips. Guidance on the different ways to assemble historical facts and to present your ideas to a range of different audiences and in a variety of formats, and training on

how to conduct your own primary research will also be part of your course. You will develop critical skills in analysing the past and in viewing the past through the visual culture of modern art, ancient buildings, political posters and contemporary film reels.

SAMPLE MODULES		
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<p>Crime and Punishment: Case Studies in History Through a series of case studies, you will learn about some of the changing notions of crime and punishment and of the historical debates surrounding these concepts.</p> <p>Writing and Representing History This module examines different historical 'texts', visual and literary, in order to consider the different representations and interpretations of the past, and the problems relating to them.</p>	<p>Methods of Enquiry in History This module further develops your understanding of and skills in the use of primary sources. It develops bibliographical skills, and enables you to formulate a dissertation proposal.</p> <p>The Past and its Presenters You will examine historians' preconceptions and what lies behind them. You will explore radical questioning of the nature of historical knowledge.</p>	<p>British Women's History This module explores aspects of women's social, economic and political roles in Britain in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Current debates in women's history are discussed within the context of the period.</p> <p>Black America and the Rise of the Civil Rights Movement Students will learn about some of the major developments in American History in the period from 1930 to 1975, particularly with reference to race and the development of the Civil Rights Movement.</p>
<p>CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES Archivist, Museum curator, Administration and Management, Broadcasting / TV and Radio production, Civil service, Editing and Publishing, Local government, Research consultancy, Teaching</p>		

Paul Oliver Collection of African American Music and Related Traditions

The University has custody of part of the Paul Oliver Collection of African American Music, owned by the European Blues Association (based in Gloucester). This extensive collection of books, papers, recordings, visual material, and other artefacts represents an enormously valuable resource in teaching and research as Paul Oliver is one of the world's leading authorities on the Blues and an award-winning author see *Blues Fell This Morning*. The Blues provides the basis for many other musical forms, most notably Jazz, but it is also true to say that much of western popular music has its roots in the Blues.

Thus the Paul Oliver collection, housed in the University Archives at FCH, covers the origins and development of African American music and culture from the time of slavery through to the Twentieth Century. It is a great resource for anyone working in American and African American History, African American Literature, American Studies, Cultural Studies, Popular Music Studies, Anthropology, and Transatlantic Studies.





Dr Melanie Ilic
Field Chair for History

Dr Ilic's major teaching and research interests are Soviet economic and social history and Russian women's studies, often working in collaboration with colleagues at the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, the University of Birmingham, where she is also an Honorary Research Fellow.

'I have just completed an ESRC-funded project on Terror, War Preparations and Soviet Economic Development and I am now researching for an AHRC-funded project on Policy and Governance in the Soviet Union under Nikita Khrushchev'

Carola Whitfield-Nunwick
BA(Hons) History

Carola is a mature history student and is in her final year.

'I chose to study History because it is a multifaceted, non-static discipline, it incorporates aspects of past human activity and analyses events from constantly changing perspectives. I've particularly enjoyed being part of a diverse group of students and participating in stimulating class debate. The tutors have been professional, approachable and supportive throughout the course. In fact, I've enjoyed my History degree so much I intend to register for an MA in September.'

Prof Neil Wynn
Professor of 20th Century American History

Prof Wynn's interests are in modern American social history, particularly African American History. He has written several books including *Historical Dictionary from the Great War to the Great Depression* (2003).

'Because of my background in American Studies I encourage students to use a wide range of source materials, ranging from film and literary texts, through to music – especially blues and jazz.'

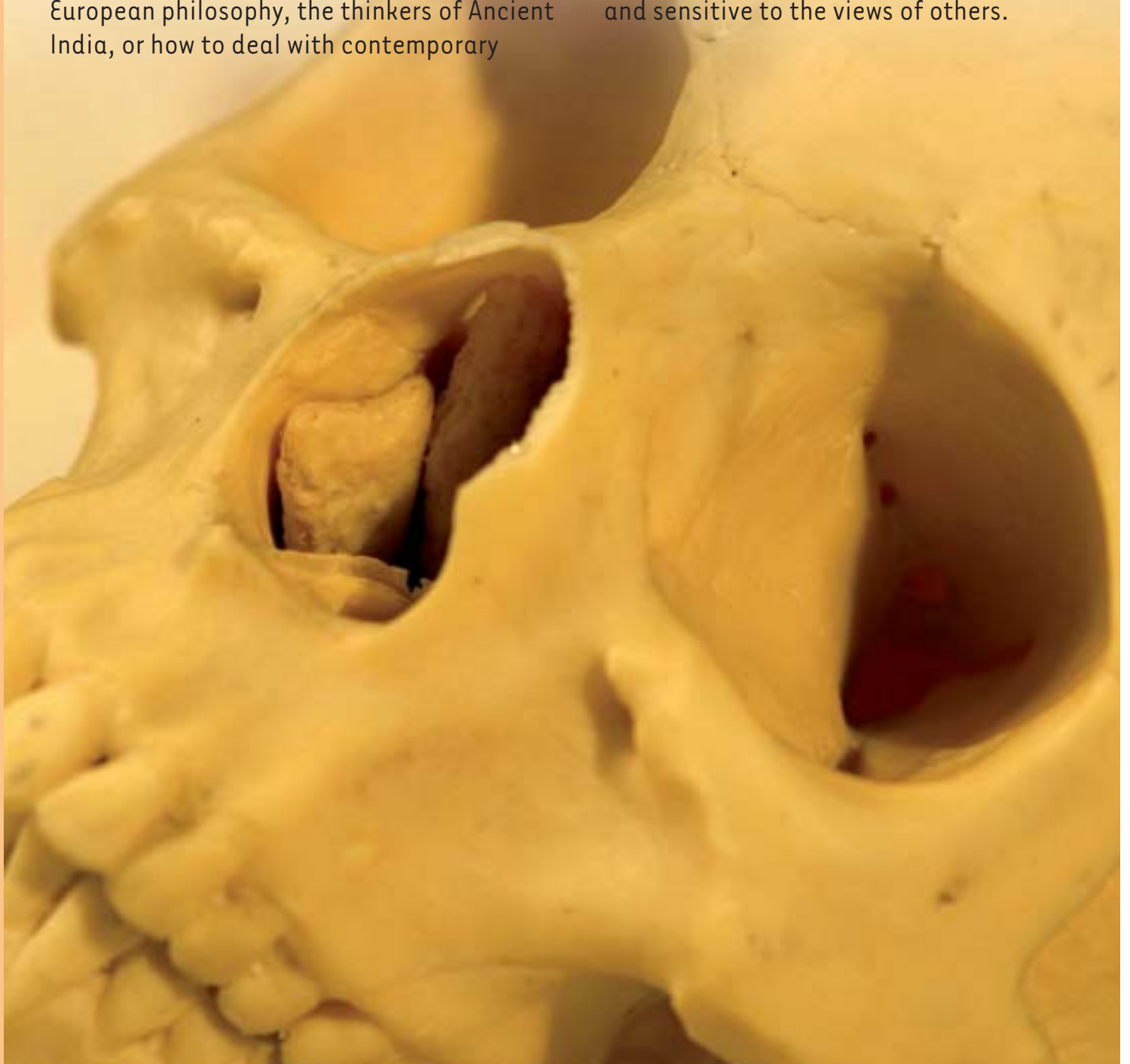
Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics (RPE) is a course that allows you the opportunity to engage with some of the most important and influential ideas to ever emerge. By interweaving these three strands of study, your programme of study will give you both knowledge of key thinkers, faiths and values and the skills needed to evaluate them critically.

Whether your interests lie in 20th Century European philosophy, the thinkers of Ancient India, or how to deal with contemporary

moral dilemmas, you will find modules addressing these topics. Compulsory modules (particularly at the start of your degree) will help you place individual thinkers and traditions in a broader context.

Our goal in RPE is to help students come to their own conclusions on life's most important issues – and to help them find these conclusions in a well-grounded, contemplative manner that is both rigorous and sensitive to the views of others.



Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

The shape of the course addresses the skills needed to study RPE throughout the first year (such as the ability to spot a variety of mistakes in argument), as well as providing broad overviews of both historical periods and the methodologies involved in the study of religion. Modules support both the development of analytical capabilities and knowledge of the historical development of philosophical enquiry.

Individual religions are studied throughout the first two years of the course. You will study some or all of: Judaism; Islam; Buddhism; Hinduism; and Christianity. In the final year, many modules are thematic, and bring a variety of philosophical and religious perspectives to bear on a particular set of concerns.

The teaching, and the way we assess your work in RPE is diverse and ranges from lectures and seminars to interactive workshops and debates. A personal tutor will help you find your feet as you begin to engage with the material, and be there to discuss material as you progress through the course.

SAMPLE MODULES		
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<p>Philosophical & Ethical Arguing This broad-based module introduces students to the skills and ideas that form the basis of philosophical and ethical enquiry. In addition to developing a basic philosophical and ethical vocabulary, you will be introduced to the concepts of logic and argumentation.</p> <p>Islam This module explores the historical and cultural characteristics of Islam, in the context of Islamic beliefs. This will include understanding of key Islamic texts, people and places. Some consideration is given to the variety of views surrounding Islam's role on the world stage, as this affects the ways in which Islam is perceived.</p>	<p>Philosophy, Science and Belief Does religion make truth-claims of an equivalent status to those of science? Issues also to be considered include the evolution/creation debates, the alleged convergences between science and religion/s, and miracles.</p> <p>20th Century Western Philosophy The legacy of Nietzsche will lead us to a consideration of the origins and major thinkers of existentialist thought. We will also examine the developments of the Logical Positivists and that of Wittgenstein. Alongside more linguistic philosophy we shall chart the rise of critical theory culminating in postmodernism and its critics.</p>	<p>Love, Sex and Death A range of both religious and non-religious views on 'desire' will be examined. These will include Buddhist, Hindu, Jain and Christian perspectives, as well as a survey of the ways in which Western thought has understood desire, love, sex and craving – and the relations between them.</p> <p>Ethics and Reason The relationship between rationality and morality is explored through considering analytical ethics (through neo-positivism), as well as the Continental approaches of Kant, Kierkegaard, Hegel, Nietzsche and Ricoeur. The module concludes with a consideration of the possibility of human action as exploratory and politically moral.</p>
CAREERS INFORMATION	Education/Teaching, Publishing, Social Care, Working with Religious Communities, and any area of employment that requires an analytical and thoughtful approach.	
FURTHER STUDY	MA in Religion and Society MA by research and PhD opportunities are also available in a range of areas of Religion, Philosophy & Ethics	



Shelley Campbell

BA(Hons) Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

'I chose the University as it was the exact course I wanted to pursue and it was within commuting distance of where I live. Highlights of my time here so far have been the course tutors and how well they teach, my fellow students and that there is always help when I need it.

I find the modules interesting and the course fascinating.

As a mature student, returning to study wasn't a small decision. I had become unfamiliar with attending lectures, note-taking, homework, research and assignments – all University cornerstones. I took one step at a time and gave myself plenty of time for the work. By the end of my first year I've sharpened my writing and research skills, met a lot of great people and have had a great time. I'm now looking forward to continuing to level 2.'

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics



Dr David Webster

Field Chair for Religion, Philosophy & Ethics.

Dr Webster's background is in Indian religion, most notably Theravada Buddhist philosophy. His book *The Philosophy of Desire in the Buddhist Pali Canon* was published in 2005.

'In addition to my work in Buddhist philosophy, I am also very interested in using technology to improve the learning of our students - be this via bringing in expert speakers by video-conference, or using instant messaging to stay in touch with students and help them with their work. I am also interested in how the study and practice of philosophy changes us as people - both students and staff. The idea of philosophy as therapeutic is a meeting point between my interests in Western Philosophy and Buddhist thought.'

Professor Melissa Raphael

Professor of Jewish Theology

Professor Raphael has published numerous books and articles in the fields of religion and gender and feminist theology, including *Rudolf Otto and the Concept of Holiness* (Oxford University Press, 1997) and *The Female Face of God in Auschwitz: A Jewish Feminist Theology of the Holocaust* (Routledge, 2003). Her new book on the visual dimension of Judaism will be published in 2008.

'My main contribution to RPE is in introducing students to the cultural and spiritual riches of Judaism and in helping students to see what a great difference gender makes to everyone's religious experience - men's as well as women's.'

Shajaat Kazmi

BA(Hons) Religion, Philosophy & Ethics and History

Shajaat is a first year student

'I chose the University because of its good reputation. The classes are challenging, but enjoyable - especially the ethical debates. Some of the classes are quite interactive - and this really helps you to understand the issues. I've enjoyed the field trips and meeting new people, but also feel I've grown as a person. Religion, Philosophy & Ethics has taught me a lot, but I still feel that I'm at the beginning of my personal journey.'

Open Theological College

Founded in 1992 as a charitable organisation, in partnership with six bible colleges, the Open Theological College was incorporated into the University in 2002, and provides Distance Learning qualifications in Theology.

As a student of the Open Theological College, you can explore in depth various aspects of Christianity and its relation to the world around it, from the comfort of your own home! Joining the OTC, you will be one of a

diverse body of students that includes people from all ages and walks of life. The course is, as the University's mission statement puts it, Christian but not exclusive – you will fit in perfectly whether you are professionally involved with Christian ministry or simply have an interest in the subject for its own sake. You will cover various aspects of Biblical Studies, Church History and Doctrine, and Ministry and Mission, and will find your studies a challenging – but rewarding – experience.

The OTC will support you in your journey to understand and to grow through reflection and dialogue with a range of viewpoints.

No previous educational qualifications required for entry at Level 1; join Level 2 and 3 if you have appropriate qualifications and/or experience.

Further information can be found at www.glos.ac.uk/faculties/ehs/humanities/otc



Open Theological College students at Graduation



Dr Pekka Pitkanen

Course Leader

Dr Pekka Pitkanen's main interest is in Old Testament studies. Dr Pitkanen has the overall responsibility of the academic side of the course, including leading course development.

'I find working with the OTC extremely rewarding as I enjoy working in theology and learn a lot from interacting with the course and with students.'



Staff Publications & Postgraduate Opportunities

STAFF PUBLISHED WORKS



Postgraduate Opportunities

The Humanities Department offers a range of taught postgraduate courses as well as research opportunities.

Taught Courses

Your Masters degree can be completed within 12 months, although you are permitted to take up to four years and there is flexibility in your mode of study. You may apply to study for the Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or the Masters degree and if you wish you may take one or more modules as a 'taster' of postgraduate study by enrolling as an Associate Student.

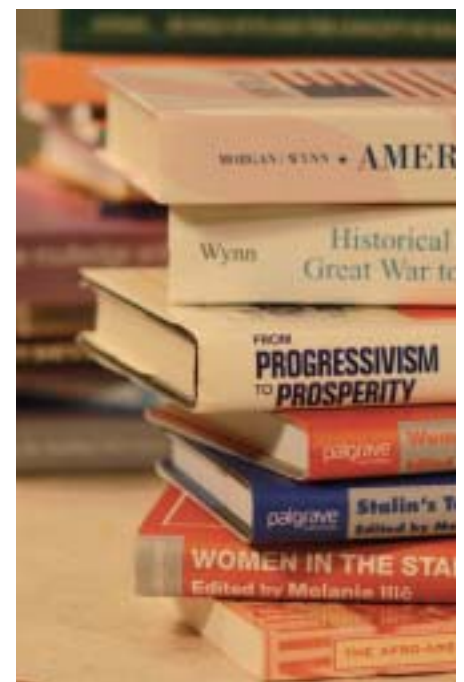
Taught Postgraduate courses are offered in Biblical Studies, Creative and Critical Writing, Literature Since 1950, Old Testament, Religion & Society.

Research

Research opportunities in English are available for either full-time or part-time study, and are offered at all levels. These opportunities will enable you to be innovative, critical and original.

Our stimulating research environment includes access to visiting lectures, programmes and seminars across the University, and we will expect you to contribute to the latter. We will encourage you to attend relevant conferences, as well as giving papers in the later stages of your studies. You will be well supported by your supervisory team and can expect regular tutorials with supervisors, combined with peer group seminars and discussions.

For Postgraduate enquiries contact
Tel: **01242 714500**
Email: postgrad@glos.ac.uk



Contacts & Further Information

FACULTY OF EDUCATION, HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

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Email: ehs@glos.ac.uk
Web: www.glos.ac.uk

Full-time/Part-time Enquiries, Open Days and Prospectus Requests

Tel: 08707 201100
Email: admissions@glos.ac.uk

Entry requirements

Current entry requirements and UCAS codes can be found in the Undergraduate Prospectus or online at www.glos.ac.uk.



Credits

Compiled and edited by the Department of Humanities and the Marketing Unit, Marketing and External Relations.

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University of Gloucestershire
Registered Charity No 900478

Other Publications:
Undergraduate/Postgraduate Prospectuses.

Getting Here

By Road

Cheltenham and Gloucester are both easily accessible from the motorway and dual carriageway network, situated a short distance from Junction 11 of the M5.

London is two hours away via the M40/A40 (Oxford) or the M4 (Swindon exit).

National Express and local bus/coach services run from the centre of Cheltenham and Gloucester.

By Rail

Cheltenham Spa and Gloucester are well served by intercity and rail services from London Paddington, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Plymouth, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

By Air

Both Birmingham International Airport and Bristol Airport are approximately 50 miles from Cheltenham and Gloucester, about one hour by road.

Heathrow is one and a half hours by road. There is a rail/bus link and a direct National Express Coach Service.

Intersite Bus Service

The University provides a free bus service, which regularly travels between all four campuses and the centres of Cheltenham and Gloucester. The service also links up with the railway station in Cheltenham.



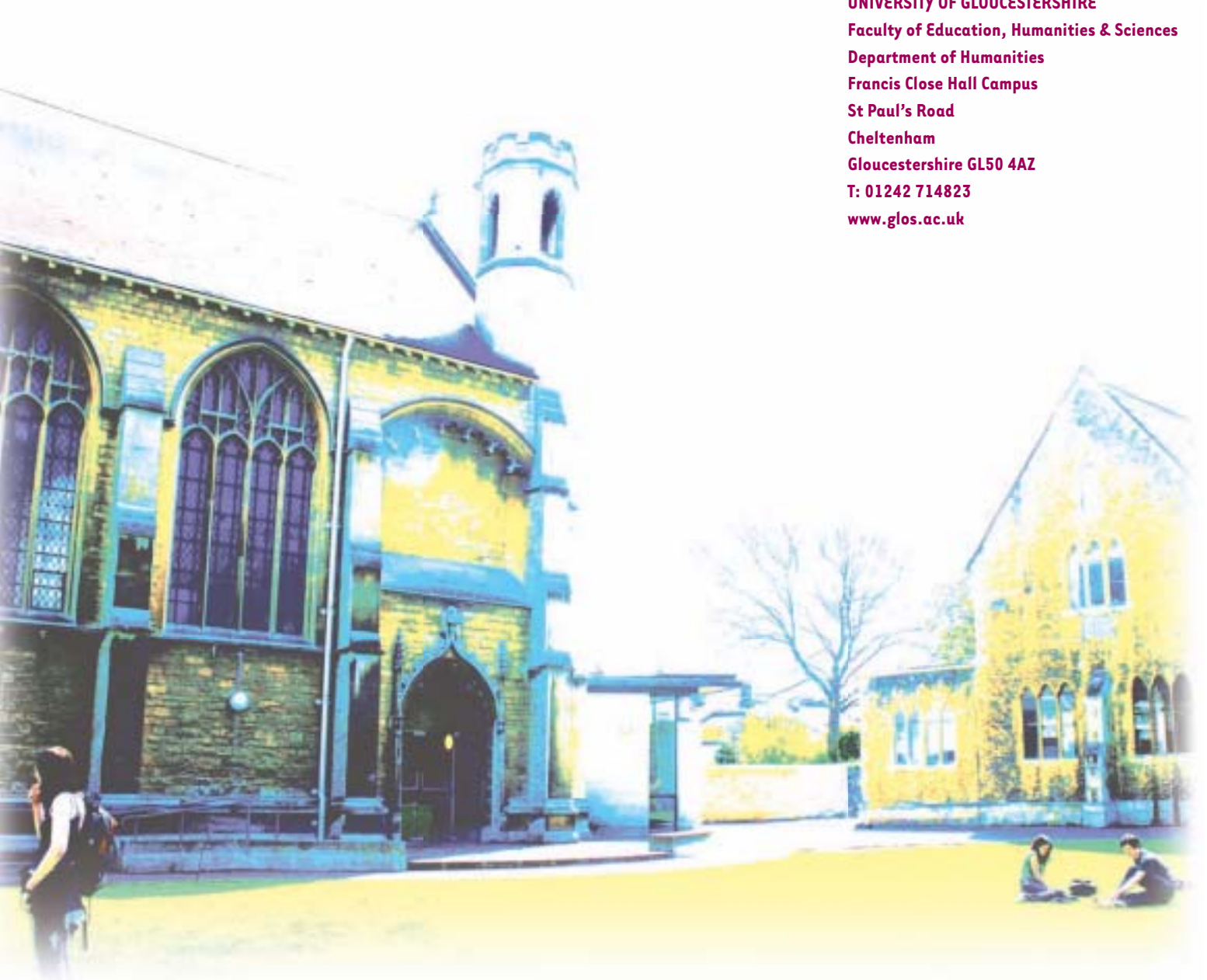
Birmingham
50 miles 80 km 1 hr
Bristol
43 miles 69 km 45 mins
Cardiff
69 miles 111 km 1 hr
Leeds
170 miles 274 km 3 hrs
London
96 miles 154 km 2 hrs
Manchester
131 miles 211 km 2.5 hrs
Oxford
41 miles 66 km 1 hr



**UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

at Cheltenham and Gloucester

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