1. KentVision Code and title of the module

ENGL7160 Marxism, Literature and Culture

## Division and School/Department or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module

Division of Arts and Humanities, School of English

## The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)

Level 6

## The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents

30 (15 ECTS)

## Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)

Term 1 OR term 2

## Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or any module restrictions

None

## The course(s) of study to which the module contributes

Optional to the following courses:

BA English Literature; BA English Literature and Creative Writing; BA Drama and English Literature; BA English Literature and English Language and Linguistics; BA English Literature and Film

Also available as an elective module

## The intended subject specific learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will possess:

* 1. A systematic understanding and detailed knowledge of key texts and issues in Marxist cultural history and theory
  2. The ability to deploy the techniques of Marxist thought in approaching cultural phenomena, including literature
  3. The ability to evaluate contemporary and historical examples of cultural criticism on their own terms and in comparative relation to other critical approaches
  4. A conceptual understanding of Marxist thought that will allow them to devise and maintain coherent arguments about literature and culture

## The intended generic learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will possess

* 1. An ability to use established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis
  2. An Ability to communicate information, arguments, and analysis effectively using a variety of methods
  3. An ability to use self-direction and autonomy in approaching and completing a critical task
  4. An understanding of critical theory and its applications within a range of contexts

## A synopsis of the curriculum

This module offers students a synoptic perspective on Marxist cultural criticism from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day in Europe, Russia and North America. It begins with an analysis of a selection from Marx’s own writings, with the aim of introducing key terms, such as “alienation,” “ideology,” and “dialectic.” Students’ understanding of these terms and their critical uses for literary and cultural studies will develop during the course of the module, as they encounter a range of important Marxist thinkers and their writings.

Throughout the module students will be invited to interrogate and transgress the boundaries separating literary from critical texts, and theory from practice. For instance, they will approach C.L.R. James’s *Beyond a Boundary* as both Marxist cultural criticism and personal memoir, and consider Richard Wright’s *Native Son* as both novel and social theory. In addition, they will be invited to consider creative practice and Marxist criticism in dialogue with one another at particular historical moments, for example by reading Lenin’s literary theory and criticism alongside Mayakovsky’s poem “Conversation with Comrade Lenin.”

Although anchored in the literary and the textual, the module will also offer opportunities to think critically about the term “culture” itself in its broadest senses, encompassing a range of aesthetic and social practices, such as sport and music. Progressing through the great class conflicts of the early twentieth century, the Frankfurt School, New Left and anti-racist decolonization movements of the postwar period, up to the contemporary neoliberal moment, the module aims finally to offer students a set of tools with which to understand their own cultural encounters in the present as well as to reconfigure and re-evaluate the cultural knowledge they have accumulated in stages one and two of their degree programmes.

## Reading list

## The University is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are in accessible electronic format in line with the Kent Inclusive Practices.

## The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the university's [reading list pages](https://kent.rl.talis.com/index.html).

## Contact Hours

Private Study: 268

Contact Hours: 32

Total: 300

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

## Essay 1 3,000 words 40%

Essay 2 3,000 words 40%

Seminar Participation 20%

* 1. Reassessment methods

100% coursework (4,500 words)

## Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods and methods of assessment

| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Private Study** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Seminar** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Lectures** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Essays | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Seminar Participation | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

## Inclusive module design

The Division recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

## Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered

Canterbury

## Internationalisation

This module is international by its nature, with content covering the literature of the United States, Britain, Germany, and various diaspora. Its content treats capitalism as an international phenomenon in its relation to global cultural and political change.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Module record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

| Date approved | New/Major/minor revision | Start date of delivery of (revised) version | Section revised  (if applicable) | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15/11/16 | Minor | September 2016 | 6, 14 (+new template) | No |
| 05/03/18 | Major | September 2018 | 13 (optional dissertation removed) | No |
| 21/12/2021 | Minor | 2022/23 | 13-14 | No |