

**College of Arts and Law**

**School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music**

**Department of Modern Languages**

MODULES FOR   
INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS

2024/2025

Contents

[Departmental-wide modules 4](#_Toc161223962)

[39282 LI Language and power 5](#_Toc161223965)

[34928 LH Back to the Future – Hidden Histories and Utopian Possibilities, 1800-present 6](#_Toc161223968)

[30754 LH From Text to Tech: Digital Approaches to Languages and Cultures 7](#_Toc161223969)

[Mandarin Chinese Studies 8](#_Toc161223975)

[26169 LI Mandarin Chinese Language Intermediate II 9](#_Toc161223977)

[26167 LH Mandarin Chinese Language Advanced II 10](#_Toc161223979)

[French Studies 11](#_Toc161223980)

[31910 LC Transferring Meaning and Culture (Applied Languages Specialism) B 12](#_Toc161223981)

[31912 LC Transferring Meaning and Culture (Literary Specialism) B 13](#_Toc161223982)

[35102 LC La France Moderne B 14](#_Toc161223982)

[39278 LI Global French: Communities, Politics and International Relations 15](#_Toc161223984)

[German Studies 16](#_Toc161223987)

[35115 LC Writing Identities in the German-Speaking World B 17](#_Toc161223988)

[39273 LI Cultures of Protest and Terror in West Germany, 1967-1977 18](#_Toc161223988)

[Italian Studies 19](#_Toc161223990)

[35113 LC Visions of Italy: Modern Italy in the Making B 20](#_Toc161223992)

[30223 LI Italian Core IV – Advanced: Icons of Italy 21](#_Toc161223992)

[30135 LI Italian Core IV – Intermediate: Icons of Italy 22](#_Toc161223994)

[33722 LH Italian Core VII – Language and Contexts 23](#_Toc161223995)

[Japanese Studies 25](#_Toc161223997)

[26156 LI Japanese Language Intermediate II 26](#_Toc161223999)

[20694 LH Japanese Language Advanced II 27](#_Toc161224001)

[Portuguese Studies 28](#_Toc161224002)

[37019 LC Roots of Inequality: Race, Gender and the Legacies of Colonialism in the Global North 29](#_Toc161224003)

[Russian Studies 30](#_Toc161224004)

[30225 LI Russian Core IV – Advanced: Understanding Russia and the Russians 31](#_Toc161224006)

[30138 LI Russian Core IV – Intermediate: Understanding Russia and the Russians 32](#_Toc161224008)

[33738 LH Russian Core VII – Language and Contexts 33](#_Toc161224010)

[Spanish Studies 34](#_Toc161224012)

[34908 LC Unity, Diversity and the Re-shaping of the New World: Latin America since 1900 35](#_Toc161224013)

[35098 LC Figuring and Re-figuring the Hispanic World in Visual Culture B 36](#_Toc161224013)

[30975 LI Icons of the Hispanic World 37](#_Toc161224013)

[30354 LH Advanced Spanish Translation for Erasmus Students (Semester 2) 38](#_Toc161224014)

[34941 LH The Marginal Other in the Hispanic World 39](#_Toc161224017)

[Catalan Studies 40](#_Toc161224012)

[33745 LI Beginners Catalan Language B 41](#_Toc161224017)

[33749 LI Intermediate Catalan Language B 42](#_Toc161224017)

[33754 LH Intermediate Catalan Language B 43](#_Toc161224017)

[33757 LH Advanced Catalan Language B 44](#_Toc161224017)

# Departmental-wide modules

The majority of these modules are open to all students studying Modern Languages. Please check any pre-requisites noted on the module information.

## 39282 LI Language and power

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  All Modern Languages students can take this module.  This module is also available to Exchange students with the appropriate level of one Romance language. |
| **Module Description:**  This module fosters students’ ability to identify and articulate the relationship between, and conflation of, language and power. Through a transdisciplinary approach combining the applied study of linguistics and linguistic anthropology, postcolonial critical thought, and cultural analysis, we will encounter different languages around the world, situating language and power relations in historical and geopolitical terms. Focusing mainly on issues of contact and difference in terms of linguistic, social and cultural systems, we will identify and deconstruct pre- and misconceptions surrounding how language is used to exert and react to power, learning to challenge the fetishization of peoples and languages and their sociocultural and linguistic identities. Throughout, we will combine theory with reflective practice to better understand how language and culture are used as a tool for domination, leading students to critically reassess their own position in this transnational process as language users endowed with agency. |
| **Assessment:**   * 1 x portfolio of evidence of learning (3,500 word-equivalent), in English (100%) |

## 34928 LH Back to the Future – Hidden Histories and Utopian Possibilities, 1800-present

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  All Modern Languages students can take this module.  This module is also available to Exchange students with the appropriate level of one Romance language. |
| **Module Description:**  It is a truism that history is written by the victors - however, recent attempts to decolonise and expand the curriculum are questioning that very assumption and practice. This course introduces students to important events and ideas that have been excluded from the historical canon and provides them with theoretical and methodological tools to analyse their cultural legacy and critical potential.  Taught by colleagues from across the Department, the course covers multiple disciplines and extends across times, places and identities. Based on an engagement with models of historiography and utopian theory, as well as case studies from a range of cultural and linguistic contexts, we will explore how radical movements in the past and present have used language, images, historical references, political ideas, and the imagination to address the urgent socio-political problems of their respective times and work towards the world they want to live in. Creative group work activities and a creative assignment allow students to think outside the box and develop transferable skills that are required for jobs in creative industries (e.g. film, radio, publishing, and advertising). |
| **Assessment:**  Assignment 1: a creative assignment in English (40% of the mark).  The creative assignment has two components:  1) a piece of creative work. This should take one of the following forms:  a) a text of up to 500 words (e.g., a utopian manifesto, song lyrics, a poem or another creative text);  b) a podcast or video of no more than 5-7 minutes (e.g., an interview, a musical piece or sound installation, a role play);  c) an image (e.g. a drawing, a political poster, a collage, or a different creative image).  2) evidence of creative research, to include: a project proposal (max. 200 words) AND a short reflective piece (max. 500 words) AND  an annotated bibliography (3-5 sources). These formats will be described in more detail during class sessions. The purpose of this component is to document and reflect upon the creative research process and your chosen approach.  Assignment 2: A 2500-word essay in English (60% of the mark). |

## 30754 LH From Text to Tech: Digital Approaches to Languages and Cultures

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  All Modern Languages students can take this module.  This module is also available to Exchange students with the appropriate level of one Romance language. |
| **Module Description:**  This research-led module allows students to engage with digital humanities, both as a methodological approach to research and as a means of presenting and disseminating findings. Students will have the opportunity to learn about tools and approaches linking to the three methodological strands of DH - datamining, networks / mapping, and digitization. Students will also have the opportunity to test and critique new digital approaches which move beyond these three categories, such as digital performance studies of audio and visual media.  Taking as case studies a range of texts and historical contexts pertaining to key study areas - from poetry to journalistic texts, from historical accounts to recorded performances - the module will encourage students to think about different approaches to reading and studying texts. From Text to Tech will be open to final-year students of all Modern Languages-based degree programmes and will thus use texts primarily in English / in translation.  The module requires students to think critically about the validity and suitability of different approaches, selecting appropriate tools to achieve their desired research outcomes. It demands that learners consider the specific challenges of working with texts in languages other than English, and students will be required to make use of source texts in languages they study within the context of the module, as part of formative and / or summative work. In the latter phase of the module, the focus will shift from methodological approaches to exploring ways of presenting research findings through web-based tools and smartphone applications. The module outline and course content is designed to move, gradually, from theory to practice, allowing students to grow in confidence in applying higher-level skills in technology and, most importantly in their engagement with language and culture |
| **Assessment:**   * 1 x Digital Research Project in English- (3000 words) - 75% * 1 x in-class presentation in English (10 mins) – 25%   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Live oral assessments will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |

# Mandarin Chinese Studies

## 26169 LI Mandarin Chinese Language Intermediate II

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is only available to Exchange students who have the required level of Chinese and you will only be registered for the module once the Module Tutor has assessed your language level (this will be when you have arrived in Birmingham).  Students who have Chinese listed as a compulsory module on their learning agreements will be given priority, however, **places are extremely limited** for all students and cannot be guaranteed.    Students are expected to attend all classes: 8 hours per week in Semester 2 |
| **Module Description:**  This course aims at the upper-intermediate learners and will further consolidate, develop, and extend listening, speaking, reading and writing skills acquired at the previous course. More complex structures of Chinese will be taught and students are expected to cope with a variety of less predictable real-life situations and a large amount of Chinese characters/words will also be taught throughout the course.  Some intensive briefings will be conducted to help students with the China Year Abroad preparation.    Students will be given opportunities to work in a group as well as individually. Teaching is through practical language classes involving both whole-group and small group / pair-work activities with emphasis on communicative settings, use of visual aids and audio/video materials from the internet where appropriate.  The course will also aim to equip students with the ability to access the language autonomously. |
| **Assessment:**   * One 2-hour written exam comprising grammar, reading and writing (50%) * One 20-minute aural and oral assessment (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  If live oral assessments are planned, then the alternative will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype.  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers. |

## 26167 LH Mandarin Chinese Language Advanced II

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is only available to Exchange students who have the required level of Chinese and you will only be registered for the module once the Module Tutor has assessed your language level (this will be when you have arrived in Birmingham).  Students who have Chinese listed as a compulsory module on their learning agreements will be given priority, however, **places are extremely limited** for all students and cannot be guaranteed.    Students are expected to attend all classes: 4 hours per week in Semester 2 |
| **Module Description:**  This module aims at the more advanced level and extends receptive and productive skills to a more sophisticated level. Learning strategies and study methods will be developed to increase independent learning. Students will be exposed to a variety of different types of written texts. It will teach students to critically analyse written Chinese and to develop their comprehension skills by reading different styles of writing. It also aims to enhance students’ ability to express themselves in writing in Chinese through work on a range of contemporary topics.  Students will be given opportunities to work in a group as well as individually. Teaching is through practical language classes involving both whole-group and small group / pair-work activities with emphasis on communicative settings, use of visual aids and audio/video materials from the internet where appropriate.  The course will also aim to equip students with the ability to access the language autonomously. |
| **Assessment:**   * Oral-aural exercise (with supporting written/visual aids) (50%); * Two-hour reading and writing exam (50%).   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  If live oral assessments are planned, then the alternative will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype (50%).  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers (50%). |

# French Studies

## 31910 LC Transferring Meaning and Culture (Applied Languages Specialism) B

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is compulsory for Francophone Erasmus and Exchange students whose main degree programme in their University abroad focuses primarily on English.  It is optional for other Francophone Erasmus and Exchange students specialising in English at their University abroad. |
| **Module Description:**  *LC Transferring Meaning and Culture (Applied Languages Specialism) A*  Translation into and from the target language (English) will be practised with reference to journalistic texts of an intellectually challenging nature. Vocabulary and grammar exercises will be used to enhance written proficiency. Aural comprehension work will develop the ability to understand in detail, and summarise audio-visual materials. Oral expression will be enhanced by practising the skills involved in making presentations to the whole class on aspects of British civilisation researched through group projects.  *LC Transferring Meaning and Culture (Applied Languages Specialism) B*  Translation into and from the target language (English) will be practised with reference to journalistic texts of an intellectually challenging nature. Vocabulary and grammar exercises will be used to enhance written proficiency. |
| **Assessment:**  *LC Transferring Meaning and Culture (Applied Languages Specialism) B*   * 1 x 2-hour translation exam in May/June made up of 1 translation into French and 1 translation into English, weighted equally (100%). No dictionary is allowed in the exam.   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home paper |

## 31912 LC Transferring Meaning and Culture (Literary Specialism) B

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is compulsory for Francophone Erasmus and Exchange students whose main degree programme in their University abroad focuses primarily on English  It is optional for other Francophone Erasmus and Exchange students specialising in English at their University abroad. |
| **Module Description:**  *LC Transferring Meaning and Culture (Applied Languages Specialism) A*  Translation into and from the target language (English) will be practised with reference to narrative/descriptive texts of an intellectually challenging nature. Vocabulary and grammar exercises will be used to enhance written proficiency. Aural comprehension work will develop the ability to understand in detail, and summarise audio-visual materials. Oral expression will be enhanced by practising the skills involved in making presentations to the whole class on aspects of British civilisation researched through group projects.  *LC Transferring Meaning and Culture (Applied Languages Specialism) B*  Translation into and from the target language (English) will be practised with reference to narrative/descriptive texts of an intellectually challenging nature. Vocabulary and grammar exercises will be used to enhance written proficiency. |
| **Assessment:**  *LC Transferring Meaning and Culture (Applied Languages Specialism) B*   * 1 x 2-hour translation exam in May/June made up of 1 translation into French and 1 translation into English, weighted equally (100%). No dictionary is allowed in the exam.   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home paper |

## 35102 LC La France Moderne B

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| This module is for advanced students only; it is not available at beginner level.  Students must have A-Level French or equivalent.  **For timetabling reasons, French cannot be combined with Catalan.** |
| **Module Description:**  Building on the work undertaken in La France moderne A, this module introduces 5 more Dossiers based on aspects of French politics and society. The topics under consideration will be tackling the climate emergency, immigration and asylum, France and the European Union, gender equality and either foreign policy or higher education (based on student preference). The module is taught primarily in French with plenty of opportunities for discussion and debate. Students are supported through structured vocabulary learning and the seminars are themed around problems/ dilemmas which encourage the students to walk in the shoes of politicians in order better to understand the challenges they face. |
| **Assessment:**  The overarching theme of the assessment is that they are a journalist who produces both a short editorial (in French) and a feature length article (in English) on French politics and society. They are then invited to take part in a ‘televised debate’ as a member of a panel of experts.   * Student-led ‘feature article’/ mini-research project. 1500 words in English (30%)  [normally in Semester 2] * Round table oral exam in French (30 mins duration, students sit the exam in groups of 4 but are marked individually) (40%) [normally in Semester 2]   **Alternative Assessment for single-semester Exchange students (Semester 2 only):**   * 1500 word ‘feature article’ in English (60%) * Round table group oral exam (40%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  live oral assessments will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype |
| **Module Convenor: Craig Blunt** |

## 39278 LI Global French: Communities, Politics and International Relations

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is available to students taking Intermediate and Advanced French.  This module is also available to Exchange students. |
| **Module Description:**  This module explores the ways in which communities around the world communicate, cooperate and interact with each other using the French language. In addition to examining the legacy of Empire and France’s place in the world, students will investigate the complexities, tensions and ambiguities of the Francophone postcolonial world as seen from the perspective of metropolitan France (and Belgium), and from former colonies and overseas territories.  The module will typically be based around 3-4 topics, for example:   * Remembering the colonial past * Minorities in the Francophone world * French diplomacy and postcolonial relations * ‘Soft power’ and managing the Francophone family   Students will explore key texts, audio-visual material and scholarly articles. The module will introduce students to key aspects of each topic and provide them with the opportunity to undertake short presentations on the chosen topic as well as to engage in discussion and debate on questions which remain divisive within France and the Francophone world. |
| **Assessment:**  1 x 3500 word essay in English (100%) |

# German Studies

## 35115 LC Writing Identities in the German-Speaking World B

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| This module is available to students taking Beginners and Advanced German.  **For timetabling reasons German cannot be combined with Mandarin Chinese or Portuguese.** |
| **Module Description:**  Close textual analysis, conducted both inside and outside class, will have the explicit purpose and function of developing students’ vocabulary and reading skills: the amount of weekly reading required in preparation will initially be very small, and will gradually increase as students’ competence and confidence in this respect increases. Approachability and coherence will be further enhanced by the fact that the texts will usually be studied in reverse chronological order.  Rather than seeking to cover all historical and literary-historical trends after the manner of a traditional ‘survey’ course, the syllabus will focus on a number of key nodal points. This will enable informed and concerted discussion of certain specifically German, Austrian and Swiss contributions to pan-European debates such as the meaning of and interplay between individual, social and national identity, and the role(s) of the critical artist in society. Such an approach should enable students to make and articulate connections extending across time periods and national and cultural borders. It will also involve them in making critical assessments of the labels habitually used to differentiate genres, periods, religious affiliations, nationalities and regions.  *35115 LC Writing Identities in the German-Speaking World B (Sem 2)*  The principal subject matter will be a range of brief texts from between the 1830s and the 1920s, primarily plays. These will be examined as works of literature, but also as texts documenting a range of socio-political processes which preoccupied the German-speaking lands during that period (including the early years of the German Empire, the First World War, and the Weimar Republic). As such, the course’s themes and concerns will in some ways reflect and reinforce those of German Core II. |
| **Assessment:**  *35115 LC Writing Identities in the German-Speaking World B (Sem 2)*   * One essay of 2,000 words (in English, 100%), |
| **Module Convenor: Nigel Harris** |

## 39273 LI Cultures of Protest and Terror in West Germany, 1967-1977

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is available to students taking Intermediate and Advanced German.  This module is also available to Exchange students with at least level B1 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) in German. |
| **Module Description:**  The module explores the history, politics and cultural memory of the West German student movement and its violent offshoot, the Rote Armee Fraktion (RAF) aka the Baader-Meinhof Group, during the period 1967–1977. Materials studied will include contemporary media reports, terrorist manifestos and communiqués, a selection of documentary and feature films as well as (semi-) fictional writings by various authors on protest and terror in West Germany.  The classes will be taught in a mixture of English and German |
| **Assessment:**   * Essay of 3,500 words in English (100%) |

# Italian Studies

## 35113 LC Visions of Italy: Modern Italy in the Making B

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Credits: 10** | **Semester 2** |
| This module is available to students taking Beginners and Advanced Italian.  **For timetabling reasons Italian cannot be combined with Japanese or Russian.** | |
| **Module Description:**  *35113 LC Visions of Italy: Modern Italy in the Making B (Sem 2)*  The aim of part B of this module is to provide students with an overview of Italian cultural and historical events from the eighteenth century to our times. Students will first explore a range of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century discourses that politicians, literary writers and musicians alike engaged in to fuel rebellion, overthrow foreign occupation and work towards the political unification of Italy. From more recent times, a variety of literary, visual and cinematic texts will be selected. Topics will include Futurist art and manifestoes, the poetry of World War I and II and the economic boom of the sixties which exacerbated the problem of the North South divide still pertinent to our days. | |
| **Assessment:**  *35113 LC Visions of Italy: Modern Italy in the Making B (Sem 2)*   * 1 essay of 2000 words in English, 100% | |
| **Module Convenor: Paola Cori** | |

## 30223 LI Italian Core IV – Advanced: Icons of Italy

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is only available to Exchange students who have the required level of Italian and you will only be registered for the module once the Module Tutor has assessed your language level (this will be when you have arrived in Birmingham).  Students who have Italian listed as a compulsory module on their learning agreements will be given priority, however, **places are extremely limited** for all students and cannot be guaranteed.  Students are expected to attend all classes: 3 hours per week in Semester 2 |
| **Module Description:**  This module presents a fusion of linguistic competencies and content analysis to allow students to continue developing a depth and breadth of subject expertise within Italian studies and explaining the significance and relevance of that knowledge. In place of the traditional separation between language and content in Modern Languages curricula, and through the interrelation of comprehension, speaking, and writing, students on the module will develop their understanding and expertise within Italian language in conjunction with a consistent focus on cultural awareness, with specific reference to living and working or studying in an Italian-speaking country. The module will build on knowledge acquired in previous Core modules to prepare students for everyday interactions in the country concerned, by enabling them to acquire a sophisticated understanding of relevant aspects of the target culture. Students will have regular opportunities to use technology to understand language and culture. |
| **Assessment:**   * 1 hour exam (50%) * Oral/aural assessment (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers and live oral assessments will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |

## 30135 LI Italian Core IV – Intermediate: Icons of Italy

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is only available to Exchange students who have the required level of Italian and you will only be registered for the module once the Module Tutor has assessed your language level (this will be when you have arrived in Birmingham).  Students who have Italian listed as a compulsory module on their learning agreements will be given priority, however, **places are extremely limited** for all students and cannot be guaranteed.  Students are expected to attend all classes: 4 hours per week in Semester 2 |
| **Module Description:**  This module presents a fusion of linguistic competencies and content analysis to allow students to continue developing a depth and breadth of subject expertise within Italian studies and explaining the significance and relevance of that knowledge. In place of the traditional separation between language and content in Modern Languages curricula, and through the interrelation of comprehension, speaking, and writing, students on the module will develop their understanding and expertise within Italian language in conjunction with a consistent focus on cultural awareness, with specific reference to living and working or studying in an Italian-speaking country. The module will build on knowledge acquired in previous Core modules to prepare students for everyday interactions in the country concerned, by enabling them to acquire a sophisticated understanding of relevant aspects of the target culture. Students will have regular opportunities to use technology to understand language and culture. |
| **Assessment:**   * 1 hour exam (50%) * Oral/aural assessment (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers and live oral assessments will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |

## 33722 LH Italian Core VII – Language and Contexts

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is only available to Exchange students who have the required level of Italian and you will only be registered for the module once the Module Tutor has assessed your language level (this will be when you have arrived in Birmingham).  Students who have Italian listed as a compulsory module on their learning agreements will be given priority, however, **places are extremely limited** for all students and cannot be guaranteed.  Students are expected to attend all classes: 3 hours per week each semester |
| **Module Description:**  *LH Italian Core VI (Sem 1)*  This module presents a fusion of linguistic and analytical competencies to allow students to build on the subject expertise acquired in previous core modules and explain the significance and relevance of that knowledge. Through the interrelation of comprehension, speaking, and writing, students on the module will develop their understanding and expertise in the Italian language, with specific reference to key debates in the Italian-speaking world. The module will build on knowledge acquired in previous modules to prepare students for expressing ideas in sophisticated written and spoken Italian.  *LH Italian Core VII (Sem 2)*  This module presents a fusion of linguistic and analytical competencies to allow students to develop advanced depth and breadth of subject expertise within Italian studies and explain the significance and relevance of that knowledge. Through the interrelation of comprehension, speaking, and writing, students on the module will develop their understanding and expertise in the Italian language, with specific reference to key debates in the Italian-speaking world. The module will build on students’ previous work and prepare them for debating topics with oral examiners and working into and out of Italian in guided writing exercises. |
| **Assessment:**  The assessment for modules 33719 and 33722 is linked.   * 500 word coursework written exercise in Italian (30%) [normally in Semester 1] * 2-hour exam (40%) [normally in Semester 2] * 15 min ‘live’ oral (30%) [normally in Semester 2]   **Alternative Assessment for single-semester Exchange students (Semester 2 only):**   * 2-hour exam (50%) * 10 min ‘live’ oral (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**   * Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers and if live oral assessments are planned, then the alternative will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |

# Japanese Studies

## 26156 LI Japanese Language Intermediate II

|  |
| --- |
| * **Credits: 20** * **Semester 2** |
| * **Pre-requisite Information:** * This module is only available to Exchange students who have the required level of Japanese and you will only be registered for the module once the Module Tutor has assessed your language level (this will be when you have arrived in Birmingham). * Students who have Japanese listed as a compulsory module on their learning agreements will be given priority, however, **places are extremely limited** for all students and cannot be guaranteed. * Students are expected to attend all classes: 6 hours per week in Semester 2 |
| * **Module Description:** * This module will build up the knowledge acquired in Intensive Japanese Language Intermediate I by developing further skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. You will acquire a high level of competence in written and oral language including debating skills on less common topics. Structured language will be taught in the context of situations and personalised topics and you will begin to cope with a variety of less predictable real life situations. The concept of Keigo (respect form and humble form) will be introduced. * You will learn further 150 Kanji throughout the course. * You will be given the opportunity to work in a group as well as individually. * The course will also aim to equip you with the ability to access the language autonomously. |
| * **Assessment:** * One 2-hour written exam comprising grammar, reading and writing (50%) * One 20-minute aural and oral assessment (50%) * **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:** * If live oral assessments are planned, then the alternative will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. * Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers. |

## 20694 LH Japanese Language Advanced II

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is only available to Exchange students who have the required level of Japanese and you will only be registered for the module once the Module Tutor has assessed your language level (this will be when you have arrived in Birmingham).  Students who have Japanese listed as a compulsory module on their learning agreements will be given priority, however, **places are extremely limited** for all students and cannot be guaranteed.  Students are expected to attend all classes: 4 hours per week in Semester 2 |
| **Module Description:**  This module builds on the knowledge acquired during a study abroad period in Japan. It will teach students to critically analyse written Japanese and to develop their comprehension skills by reading different styles of writing. This module also aims to enhance students’ ability to express themselves in written Japanese on the topics read or given. |
| **Assessment:**   * Oral-aural exercise (with supporting written/visual aids) (50%) * Two-hour reading and writing exam (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  If live oral assessments are planned, then the alternative will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype.  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers. |

# Portuguese Studies

## 37019 LC Roots of Inequality: Race, Gender and the Legacies of Colonialism in the Global North

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| Available as an optional module for all Modern Languages students  **For timetabling reasons Portuguese cannot be combined with Mandarin Chinese or German.** |
| **Module Description:**  *37019 LC Roots of Inequality: Race, Gender and the Legacies of Colonialism in the Global North (Sem 2)*  This module continues the critical discussions on the historical and cultural connections between colonialisms and inequality developed in ‘LC Roots of Inequality: Race, Gender and the Legacies of Colonialism in the Global South’. Focusing on the transformations that colonialism brought to societies situated in the Global North, this module draws from examples of Portuguese colonialism, which was the longest modern European colonial empire. Through an analysis of selected contemporary cultural artefacts in the realm of film, music and text, students will be able to identify and assess the colonial and imperial legacies, particularly in terms of race and gender, still active today in the above-mentioned areas. As such, the module will further students’ knowledge of key concepts in the fields of postcolonial studies, gender studies, memory studies and critical race theory that are fundamental for the study of modern languages as global languages. |
| **Assessment:**  *37019 LC Roots of Inequality: Race, Gender and the Legacies of Colonialism in the Global North (Sem 2)*   * 30%: Reflective essay in English (500 words) * 70%: Critical essay in English (1500 words) |
| **Module Convenor: Maria Inês Castro E Silva** |

# Russian Studies

## 30225 LI Russian Core IV – Advanced: Understanding Russia and the Russians

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is only available to Exchange students who have the required level of Russian and you will only be registered for the module once the Module Tutor has assessed your language level (this will be when you have arrived in Birmingham).  Students who have Russian listed as a compulsory module on their learning agreements will be given priority, however, **places are extremely limited** for all students and cannot be guaranteed.  Students are expected to attend all classes: 6 hours per week in Semester 2 |
| **Module Description:**  This module presents a fusion of linguistic competencies and content analysis to allow students to continue developing a depth and breadth of subject expertise within Russian studies and explaining the significance and relevance of that knowledge. In place of the traditional separation between language and content in Modern Languages curricula, and through the interrelation of comprehension, speaking, and writing, students on the module will develop their understanding and expertise within the Russian language in conjunction with a consistent focus on cultural awareness and analysis, with specific reference to living and working or studying in Russia. The module will build on knowledge acquired in previous Core modules to prepare students for everyday interactions in the country concerned, by enabling them to acquire a sophisticated understanding of relevant aspects of the target culture. Students will have regular opportunities to use technology to understand language and culture. |
| **Assessment:**   * 2 hour exam (50%) * Oral/aural assessment (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers and live oral assessments will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |

## 30138 LI Russian Core IV – Intermediate: Understanding Russia and the Russians

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is only available to Exchange students who have the required level of Russian and you will only be registered for the module once the Module Tutor has assessed your language level (this will be when you have arrived in Birmingham).  Students who have Russian listed as a compulsory module on their learning agreements will be given priority, however, **places are extremely limited** for all students and cannot be guaranteed.  Students are expected to attend all classes: 6 hours per week in Semester 2 |
| **Module Description:**  This module presents a fusion of linguistic competencies and content analysis to allow students to continue developing a depth and breadth of subject expertise within Russian studies and explaining the significance and relevance of that knowledge. In place of the traditional separation between language and content in Modern Languages curricula, and through the interrelation of comprehension, speaking, and writing, students on the module will develop their understanding and expertise within the Russian language in conjunction with a consistent focus on cultural awareness and analysis, with specific reference to living and working or studying in Russia. The module will build on knowledge acquired in previous Core modules to prepare students for everyday interactions in the country concerned, by enabling them to acquire a sophisticated understanding of relevant aspects of the target culture. Students will have regular opportunities to use technology to understand language and culture. |
| **Assessment:**   * 2 hour exam (50%) * Oral/aural assessment (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers and live oral assessments will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |

## 33738 LH Russian Core VII – Language and Contexts

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  LH Russian Core VI & LH Russian Core VII are co-requisites and both modules must be taken.  This module is only available to Exchange students who have the required level of Russian and you will only be registered for the module once the Module Tutor has assessed your language level (this will be when you have arrived in Birmingham).  Students who have Russian listed as a compulsory module on their learning agreements will be given priority, however, **places are extremely limited** for all students and cannot be guaranteed.  Students are expected to attend all classes: 3 hours per week in Semester 1 and Semester 2 |
| **Module Description:**  *LH Russian Core VII (Sem 2)*  This module presents a fusion of linguistic and analytical competencies to allow students to develop advanced depth and breadth of subject expertise within Russian studies and explain the significance and relevance of that knowledge. Through the interrelation of comprehension, speaking, and writing, students on the module will develop their understanding and expertise in the Russian language, with specific reference to key debates in the Russian-speaking world. The module will build on students’ previous work and and prepare them for debating topics with oral examiners and working into and out of Russian in guided writing exercises. |
| **Assessment:**  The assessment for modules 33730 and 33738 is linked.   * 2-hour exam (40%) [normally in Semester 2] * 15 min ‘live’ oral (30%) [normally in Semester 2]   **Alternative Assessment for single-semester Exchange students (Semester 2 only):**   * 2-hour exam (50%) * 10 min ‘live’ oral (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**   * Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers and if live oral assessments are planned, then the alternative will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |

# Spanish Studies

## 34908 LC Unity, Diversity and the Re-shaping of the New World: Latin America since 1900

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| This module is available to students taking Beginners and Advanced Spanish. |
| **Module Description:**  *34908 LC Unity, Diversity and the Re-shaping of the New World: Latin America since 1900 (Sem 2)*  The module will develop students’ understanding of the main historical developments relating to the incorporation of Latin American countries to global markets, the emergence of mass politics and the effects of the geopolitics of the Cold War in the region until the end of the twentieth century. |
| **Assessment:**  *34908 LC Unity, Diversity and the Re-shaping of the New World: Latin America since 1900 (Sem 2)*   * Essay (2,000 words) in English 70% * Video presentation (10 minutes) in English on Canvas 30% |
| **Module Convenor: Antonio Sánchez** |

## 35098 LC Figuring and Re-figuring the Hispanic World in Visual Culture B

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| This module is available to students taking Beginners and Advanced Spanish. |
| **Module Description:**  *35098 LC Figuring and Re-figuring the Hispanic World in Visual Culture B (Sem 2)*  The module will develop students’ understanding of visual culture in the Hispanic world through exploration of selected themes that invite the identification of connections across that world. In the process it will consider how visual practices can negotiate notions of labelling and the politics of identity. Selected texts in a variety of visual media will address these notions in Iberian and/or Transatlantic contexts. |
| **Assessment:**  *35098 LC Figuring and Re-figuring the Hispanic World in Visual Culture B (Sem 2)*   * Essay in English 70% (2,000 words) * Video presentation (10 minutes) in English on Canvas 30% |
| **Module Convenor: Jules Whicker** |

## 30975 LI Icons of the Hispanic World

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is available to Exchange students with the appropriate knowledge of Spanish. |
| **Module Description:**  This module will explore the formation of some of the most representative iconic figures in the Hispanic world across different periods.   * Those figures will be studied in relation to the ways they have forged ideas of Hispanic culture and identity as well as the way they have been appropriated both from within and outside the Hispanic world. * They will also be studied in connection to their contribution towards the development of perceptions that continue to shape both popular and cultural imaginaries. * This study will be framed within general discussions relating to basic notions of iconicity and the characteristics and formation of iconic images. |
| **Assessment (please note this is subject to change):**   * 1 x 2,000 word essay in English (75%) * 1 x 10 minute video presentation in Spanish (25%) |

## 30354 LH Advanced Spanish Translation for Erasmus Students (Semester 2)

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  Erasmus and exchange students who are native speakers of Spanish only.  Exchange students who are here for a full year, must take both 10cr modules |
| **Module Description:**  These courses will cover the advanced analysis and translation of different text types and functions in Spanish, focusing in particular on levels of language, register and stylistics. Students will be shown how to analyse the features of a variety of texts, and will translate selected examples of these texts from English to Spanish and Spanish to English. The classes will also address different techniques and approaches to translation |
| **Assessment:**  *30354 LH Advanced Spanish Translation for Erasmus Students (Semester 2)*   * One 2-hour examination in May/June (100%) comprising English to Spanish and Spanish to English translation.   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers |

## 34941 LH The Marginal Other in the Hispanic World

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 20**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  This module is also available to Exchange students with a good level of Spanish |
| **Module Description:**  This module deals with the processes of inclusion and exclusion in cinematic and literary texts from the Hispanic and Lusophone worlds. In the texts under study, dictatorships, imperialism, war, post-conflict societies, and the ascendancy of market societies give rise to rigid national “imagined communities” (Anderson), which create coteries of excluded individuals who are displaced corporeally (disability and ageing), economically (neoliberalism and immigration), spatially (ecocriticism including waste and trash culture, globalisation), geographically (refugees and immigrants), and ideologically (memory). Departing from cultural critiques and sociological perspectives on the relationship between nationhood, power, domination and resistance, this module analyses a range of texts in which marginalised citizens, who are generally considered relatively powerless social coteries are used to scrutinise a panoply of cutting-edge themes and literary and filmic texts, as well as a wide range of theoretical frameworks. This course will afford students an increased understanding of the intersection between social and political change and the subjective experiences of nationhood, individual identity, and globalisation. |
| **Assessment:**   * 1 X 2500 -word essay in Spanish (75%) * 1 x 5 minute presentation (using a digital app) to be submitted on CANVAS in Spanish (25%). |

# Catalan Studies

## 33745 LI Beginners Catalan Language B

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:** NB: This module is not open to students already taking 3 languages.  This module is available to Exchange students. |
| **Module Description:**  *LI Beginners Catalan Language B (Sem 2)*  The three weekly hours are distributed between communicative language and grammar classes (2 hours per week) and a parallel translation hour to develop sophisticated translation strategies and to provide an introduction to Catalan culture by using historical, literary and cultural texts. Direct training in an intermediate level of aural and oral skills will be taught across these three hours.  Students will also have the opportunity to achieve an extra qualification to increase their employability by taking the International Catalan Certificate issued by the Institut Ramon Llull and held at the University of Birmingham. |
| **Assessment:**  *LI Beginners Catalan Language B (Sem 2)*   * 2- hour written examination (50%) * Oral-aural assessment (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers and live oral assessments will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |

## 33749 LI Intermediate Catalan Language B

|  |
| --- |
| Credits: 10  **Semesters 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  These modules are also available to Exchange students with the appropriate level of Catalan. |
| **Module** **Description:**  *LI Intermediate Catalan Language B (Sem 2)*  The intermediate Catalan Course focuses on expanding language skills acquired in Beginners Catalan, and particularly on consolidating grammar knowledge and further developing oral, written and translation skills. The course will also expose students to interpreting and consecutive translation exercises by using role play and authentic materials.  Students will also have the opportunity to improve their employability by taking the International Catalan Certificate issued by the Institut Ramon Llull and held at the University of Birmingham. |
| **Assessment:**  *LI Intermediate Catalan Language B (Sem 2)*   * 1.5 hour written exam (50%) * Oral-aural examination (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers and live oral assessments will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |

## 33754 LH Intermediate Catalan Language B

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  These modules are also available to Exchange students with the appropriate level of Catalan. |
| **Module Description:**  The intermediate Catalan Course focuses on expanding language skills acquired in Beginners Catalan, and particularly on consolidating grammar knowledge and further developing oral, written and translation skills. Students will also have the opportunity to improve their employability by taking the International Catalan Certificate issued by the Institut Ramon Llull and held at the University of Birmingham.  *LH Intermediate Catalan Language B (Sem 2)*  The course will also expose students to interpreting and consecutive translation exercises by using role play and authentic materials |
| **Assessment:**  *LH Intermediate Catalan Language B (Sem 2)*   * 1.5 hour written exam (50%) * Oral-aural examination (50%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers and live oral assessments will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |

## 33757 LH Advanced Catalan Language B

|  |
| --- |
| **Credits: 10**  **Semester 2** |
| **Pre-requisite Information:**  These modules are also available to Exchange students with the appropriate level of Catalan. |
| **Module Description:**  The student will also have the opportunity to achieve an extra qualification by taking the International Catalan Certificate issued by the Institut Ramon Llull and held at the University of Birmingham.  *LH Advanced Catalan Language B (Sem 2)*  Three hours per week, all primarily in the target language, covering advanced grammar, translation, stylistics and oral and written production. Emphasis will be placed on developing advanced translation strategies. |
| **Assessment:**  *LH Advanced Catalan Language B (Sem 2)*   * 1.5 hour written examination (50%) * Oral/Aural examination (35%) * Translation Handbook (15%)   **Alternative assessment if on campus activity is restricted:**  Proctored exams will be converted to take home papers. If live oral assessments are planned, then the alternative will either be recorded presentations or conducted via Zoom/Skype. |