

Interdisciplinary Modules

For Postgraduate Students 2018-19

Autumn Term 2018



The Medical Mind in Literature & Culture IL901 Dr Elizabeth Barry (English)

The aim of the module is to explore and critique past and current models of the mind in medical research and practice, through the medium of science writing, literature, theatre, history and film. It will consider issues relating to mental illness, neurological disorder and trauma memory in the light of these models. The module takes place over 10 two-hour seminar/workshops. These will involve guest speakers, seminar discussion, performance-related activities, and student presentations. Learners will read works by Virginia Woolf, Samuel Beckett, Oliver Sacks, Harold Pinter and/or Sarah Kane.

Spring Term 2019



Ways of Knowing IL902 Dr Cath Lambert (Sociology)

Emerging from a 6 month experimental research project, this module offers students an opportunity to engage with feminist theory and practice and learn through a range of experiential methods. The module is underpinned by feminist critical pedagogy which emphasises students' own (personal and academic) locations as epistemic agents and encourages them to be research-active (producers of knowledge) through connecting research and practice and reflecting critically on the relationship between them. Each week, students will explore how a particular approach to knowledge production conceptualises, and sheds light on, relations of gender.



Thinking Water IL905 Dr Elena Riva (IATL)

Issues related to water are among the main challenges of our time and only a global, interdisciplinary approach to them can ensure steps towards possible solutions. Therefore the main aim of this module is to present the topic of water in its complexity and to get you involved at every stage of the learning process so you can discover, research and experiment the great potentialities of a holistic approach to the matter. Through experts' seminars and student-centred and team-based activities, you will analyse the effects of recent discoveries in the field of water on our planet's history, ecology, and future and you will be able to identify and study the central role of water in our society, in the organisation of our cities and in the development of political scenarios



Habitability in the Universe IL907 Dr David Armstrong (Physics)

This module will draw together concepts of habitability from across the university, starting in our own Solar System and exploring how we find and understand habitable planets in the wider galaxy using modern telescopes. We will look at life at the extremes, considering extremophiles on Earth, and what they might tell us about habitable conditions elsewhere, before approaching the sustainability and long term habitability of our own planet. From this initial exploration of the realities of habitability, we will turn to our own reactions to it. Popular culture is replete with the idea of the other, within our normal environment and outside of it. Finally, even the ideas of politics are affected: how should we organise a growing settlement on another planet, where small mistakes can rapidly lead to failure and death?



Contemporary Memory Studies IL908 Prof Alison Ribeiro de Menezes (Modern Languages)

The aim of this module is to explore and evaluate key concepts underpinning the field of memory studies, critique the disciplinary boundaries that memory studies emerge from and train students to utilise methods and approaches to memory research and practice within their current and future work. The module will enable the students to understand the role of discourses, forms and practices of memory within their discipline and in an interdisciplinary content. Students will be able to evaluate the main concepts underpinning memory studies and use new theoretical tools and methods for reflecting and evaluating memory in historical, cultural, media, societal and psychological contexts.

Summer Term 2019



Humanitarian Law IL9HE7 Prof Andrew Williams (Law)

This module aims to consider the increasingly complex inter-relationship between law and humanitarianism. In tracking changing ideas about 'natural' disasters and international intervention, it first focuses on the key questions that these events can raise: do law, politics, and humanitarianism live up to the tests posed by disaster and crisis? In what ways might disasters be considered injustices provoking a legal response? Does law have a positive role to play or does it act as a burden? What legal and political agency have disaster victims asserted or been denied? And what do disasters reveal about poverty, inequality, and social injustice through the operation or absence of law?

Why choose an interdisciplinary module?

Warwick was an interdisciplinary university from its inception, and twenty-first century learning has continued to bend towards an interdisciplinary future. In establishing new programmes and initiatives that support this goal, the University is also committed to offering students more opportunities to pursue interdisciplinary pathways within their curriculum. Increasingly, feedback informs us that both students and employers want an education that places a problem or a topic, rather than the discipline, at the heart of the student learning experience. IATL's portfolio of interdisciplinary postgraduate modules include: 'Habitability in the Universe' and 'Thinking Water'. Within these modules, there is a flexible definition of 'interdisciplinarity' which is recognised to have many variants across higher education. For IATL Director, Dr Jonathan Heron, there are three levels of study:

"At IATL we recognise three levels beyond disciplinarity. The first is multidisciplinarity, which features in the many excellent joint degrees at Warwick, and in a number of IATL modules where each individual discipline, independent of any others, offers students its own perspective on an issue. The second is interdisciplinarity, in which one discipline might begin to challenge the pre-conceptions of a partner discipline, and question their own. And finally, transdisciplinarity, in which disciplines work together, beginning with the problem or the issue, rather than starting from a disciplinary stance. In the latter case, students have an important role to play in synthesising disciplinary material in collaborative ways to arrive at insights that are new to them, and may even break fresh ground in the wider academic world. Students are offered the opportunity in this way to become learners by research as they collaborate in the creation of knowledge both within their peer group, and with their tutors."

In 2018/19 IATL will run five postgraduate interdisciplinary modules, alongside the established module 'The Medical Mind in Literature and Culture' which has brought together medical students, as well as postgraduates from the faculties of arts and social science in a unique and mutually rewarding way (you can read more about this module below). For Emily Dunford, this approach to learning has encouraged 'students to take responsibility in their learning, to connect the dots between disciplines and between prior education experiences'. These modules support the subject-specific education of taught postgraduates, through rich learning experiences that circumnavigate the full range of knowledge within a university. IATL modules allow you to cross boundaries, experiment with new methods and communicate across the disciplines. This is both a challenging and a rewarding opportunity, which is worth seeking out. Make that discovery today.

POSTGRADUATE MODULE - A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

The Medical Mind in Literature and Culture

Emily Dunford, English Post Grad (Taught)

"As a taught student (UG or PGT), it can feel like an essay is handed in and grades received never to be spoken of again - all knowledge of the books you crammed into your brain erased. One of the greatest strengths of IATL's module offering is that it encourages students to take responsibility in their learning, to connect the dots between disciplines and between prior educational experiences.

In each week of The Medical Mind, a member of our small cohort, largely composed of MA students from English, Philosophy, and Cultural Policy Studies, made an observation which brought to light some aspect of the matter at hand that had previously remained in the shadows from the comfort of my home discipline. We took part in a Beckett workshop run by IATL's Dr Jonny Heron, had the opportunity to speak with Professor of Psychiatry Femi Oyebode, and, outside of the classroom, we shared articles and TV episodes via social media. To conclude the module, we each gave a presentation, workshop, or performance on a topic of our choosing, drawing together an interdisciplinary understanding of our subject with communication skills that'd been honed through weeks of student-led seminars.

IATL is leading the way in innovative teaching and learning at Warwick, but also helping the University move away from humdrum classes and assessments in favour of a holistic approach to higher education that is undoubtedly beneficial for postgraduate study in the long and short term. I just wish more students had the option to get involved with IATL modules advertised by their home department."

Questions? Come and meet us during Welcome Week to find out more about our PG Modules:

Monday 24 September 14.00-15.00 - OC1.02, Oculus
Tuesday 25 September 16.00-17.00 - OC1.02, Oculus
Wednesday 26 September 16.00-17.00 - OC1.02, Oculus
Thursday 27 September 16.00-17.00 - Humanities Studio
Friday 28 September 14.00-15.00 - Humanities Studio

These modules are available to all PGT students (with home department approval). PGR students are welcome to audit the modules, noting that priority in assigning places will be given to PGT students. To find out more information about these modules and how to register please go to warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/iatl/activities/modules/pgmodules