



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Social History

Course Code: MASHI

2025/26

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MA Social History (MASHI)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2025/26 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at MAR/2025

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Social History
Contained Awards	Post Graduate Certificate Social History Post Graduate Diploma Social History
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and Credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
Course Lengths and Standard Timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 year (full time, campus based)• 2 years (part-time, campus based)
Part Time Study	PT students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
Location(s) of Delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
Entry Requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/ Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Fees

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to:

Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Policies, Standards and Regulations (<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>)

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Dr Rachel Rich
r.rich@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Academic Advisor

Dr Kelly Hignett
k.l.hignett@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Course Administrator

The name of your Course Administrator/s will be confirmed during induction. Their contact details are:
HistoryAdmin@Leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional Body

N/A

Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

N/A

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- a) Develop an understanding of contemporary approaches to the study of social history;
- b) Encourage critical engagement with theories, concepts, debates and interpretations in the field of social and cultural history;
- c) Develop knowledge of major themes and developments in social history since 1750;
- d) Support the evaluation and application of a range of current methods and methodologies for researching social history;
- e) Develop critical awareness of the variety of sources available, including archive sources and electronic sources and their appropriateness for specific types of historical study;
- f) Develop intellectual independence and undertake independent study.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	possess a systematic understanding of a body of historical knowledge, and a critical awareness of historical trends, processes and events;
2	appreciate and utilise comparative approaches, frameworks, methods and historical interpretations which reflect a range of history specialisms;
3	identify and evaluate appropriate questions, sources and methods for historical investigation; primary sources include not only textual sources but also visual and material evidence; ¹
4	critically engage with and apply the theoretical underpinnings and intellectual standing of history as a discipline and, where appropriate, demonstrate knowledge of cross-disciplinary influences and approaches;
5	effectively articulate ideas and participate in discussions and construct cogent and persuasive arguments both orally and in written form, supported by appropriate critical vocabularies and confident handling of scholarly referencing;
6	demonstrate intellectual independence, self-direction, appropriate research techniques and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act independently in planning, designing and implementing research, particularly in a sustained dissertation project.

¹ History is a discipline in which a very wide variety of sources might come into play; from written documents (printed and published or handwritten and private); to visual sources – paintings (landscapes, portraits, cityscapes, genre painting), political cartoons, adverts, sketches, postcards, photographs, maps; to databases (electronic) and archives (usually paper-based, but increasingly digital). Our programme aims to expose our students to the variety of source material and to train them in its evaluation, interpretation and other uses.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Teaching will be delivered via blended learning, lectures will be delivered asynchronously online, with in person seminars. Additional learning resources will also be provided online via our Virtual Learning Environment.

Face-to-face and online sessions will include a variety of learning activities including document analysis; seminar discussion based on close reading; presentations; tutor-led introductory lectures; debate and group work. Teaching and learning methods, therefore, aim to enhance collaborative and group skills, as well as the abilities and initiative of the individual scholar. The course team recognises that a significant part of learning takes place outside taught sessions, in study undertaken by students individually and in groups. Each week students are expected to undertake directed reading and to engage in directed tasks, such as book searches and primary source analysis. The move to increasing levels of student independence is modified as the course progresses, with significant levels of support in 'Researching Cultures', in order to build up students' knowledge and confidence, and proportionately less in the Dissertation, when students are expected to demonstrate a substantial degree of personal initiative and decision-making.

The Dissertation module is made up of workshops and individual work with the guidance of a supervisor from within the teaching team. The workshop element of this module allows students to clarify ideas, benefit from staff expertise on methods and sources, and come to an understanding of the practicalities of independent research. It concludes with a written proposal on which students receive feedback before embarking on their independent study.

Teaching is delivered in three blocks of 10 weeks (with 7 weeks teaching, 1 week of assessment and 2 weeks of tutorials/workshops). Students study two 20 Credit modules (or equivalent) in each teaching block through a combination of: on-line asynchronous tutor-led learning; and small group, face-to-face learning on campus at City Campus. Dissertation workshops take place alongside the modules, after which students are assigned a supervisor and work independently on their dissertation over the summer. Students are also expected to do independent reading, research and preparation related to the modules they are studying.

Students are provided with guidance on the best ways to engage with all modes of teaching and learning, along with support to assist acquisition of academic knowledge and associated development of high-level skills. Engagement with each module studied during the three teaching blocks is expected, and students will encounter varied forms of assessment that are designed to demonstrate their academic progress.

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Part time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7	
Semester 1 – modules delivered over 7 weeks	Core (Y/N)
Researching Cultures (20 credits)	Y
*One from the list below (20 credits)	Y
Dissertation Workshops 1 and 2 (0 credits - preparation for the Dissertation)	Y
Semester 2 – modules delivered over 7 weeks	Core (Y/N)
*One from the list below (20 credits)	Y
*One from the list below (20 credits)	Y
Dissertation Workshops 3 and 4 (0 credits - preparation for the Dissertation)	Y
Semester 3/over the summer – modules delivered over 7 weeks	Core (Y/N)
*One from the list below (20 credits)	Y
*One from the list below (20 credits)	Y
Dissertation (60 credits)	Y

***Level 7 Modules will include five of the following:**

- All Consuming: Researching Eighteenth Century Material Culture.
- Cultures of Confinement: The United States, 1800-2020
- Debating Documents of Life in Twentieth Century History
- European Cities: Making Urban Landscapes and Cultures since c.1945
- Fame, hero-worship and celebrity culture, c. 1750- c. 1914
- Field to Fork: Food History in a Global World
- Journeys and Discoveries: Travel, tourism and exploration 1768-1996
- Organised Crime in the Modern World: Global Criminal Cultures
- Real Men? British Masculinities, c.1850-2000
- Rethinking the Past: Definitions, Concepts and Approaches to Public History
- The Victorians in Italy

- Useable Past

***These modules rotate on an annual basis. Not all modules listed may be available in your year of entry.**

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

This Course contains a mixture of coursework assessments and an extended dissertation project. With the exception of the Dissertation, each module has a single point of assessment and we work with students to manage their time effectively. As this is a postgraduate course, it is essential that you develop your core academic skills through researching for and writing essays. These are skills which you will extend and deepen in the writing of your MA dissertation proposal and dissertation. These skills are complemented by those developed in other forms of assessment which can include presentations, research posters, and other writing tasks.

Workload

Your work for the MA Social History will be made up of a large number of hours of independent study outside the classroom. Classroom hours will support and guide your learning, with much of the content of classroom discussion coming from the reading you will be expected to do in preparation. There are no work placements on this course, but students wishing to look for relevant work experience are encouraged to do so, and will be supported by our careers advisor in looking for opportunities.

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	156 hours
Independent Study	1644 hours
Placement	-

Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk, telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

Support and opportunities

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.