

Presentation pattern: October – June

February - September

Module description

This module aims to introduce students to the study of the arts and humanities at university level. It provides a starting point for studying Art History, Classical Studies, Creative Writing, English Literature, History, Music, Philosophy and Religious Studies. It invites students to think about the kind of knowledge and understanding that is offered through the study of the arts and humanities and why this matters today.

A111 is a key introductory module, which means that it is compulsory for all students on the Arts and Humanities undergraduate programme. It replaces the current module AA100 from October 2019. Some of the topics of AA100 have been reworked for inclusion in A111; however, all the study material is completely new.

The module is presented in three blocks of study. The first block, *Reputations*, explores how reputations are formed and change over time. It includes units on Cleopatra, the Virgin Mary, Elizabeth I, Mozart, Mary Wollstonecraft, Charles Dickens, and Van Gogh. The second block, *Traditions*, continues to explore how the past reaches us today. It includes units on Greek and Roman sculpture, the Blues, creative writing, poetry about animals, Plato's Laches, Irish history, material Christianity, and the Gothic tradition in architecture. The third block, *Crossing boundaries*, considers how different cultures represent and transform each other. Three inter-related units explore Sophocles' *Antigone* alongside Fugard, Kani and Ntshona's play *The Island* and music as a form of protest in South Africa. Two units consider the art of Benin in terms of its making, display and role in British and European colonial history. The final two units examine the philosophy of compassion alongside the study of Buddhist practices and thought. The module aims to develop subject-specific skills, whilst showing how different subject areas can work together to create new knowledge. The module pays particular attention to the practice of academic writing.

Person specification

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the [generic person specification](#) for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As an associate lecturer, you should have:

- a degree or equivalent, or a professional or vocational qualification in the subject area you wish to teach
- an appreciation of how adults learn and an appreciation of study skills
- the ability and willingness to promote the learning of adults through correspondence tuition, telephone and face-to-face tuition and, where appropriate, online tuition
- the ability to use information and communication technology in teaching and supporting students and communicating with other areas of the OU
- the ability to work with students from diverse educational, cultural and work backgrounds
- the ability to work with students with disabilities
- a commitment to student-centred learning

- an understanding of and commitment to equal opportunities policies and practices
- an organised and systematic approach to work
- the potential to work successfully in a team and the potential to work independently
- good written and oral communication skills
- a commitment to personal staff development
- availability and accessibility to students
- ability to travel to designated tutorial centres.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- an undergraduate degree or equivalent in a discipline relevant to the module (e.g. Art History, Classical Studies, Creative Writing, English Literature, History, Music, Philosophy and Religious Studies)
- knowledge of, and willingness to engage with, material outside of your own specialism
- awareness and understanding of current developments and debates in the arts and humanities
- experience of teaching arts and humanities subjects face-to-face and online, and an awareness of the pedagogic issues related to learning and teaching
- a willingness to engage with individual students who are likely to be new to HE study and to support them in relation to specific module content and also personal development planning (PDP) and study skills
- the ability to grade assessments, provide feedback and support collaborative study
- appropriate IT equipment & skills, and a willingness to develop Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) expertise
- a willingness to work with other module colleagues in collaborative teaching throughout the module
- a commitment to keeping your skills and knowledge updated.

It would be an advantage to have:

- a teaching qualification (such as a PGCE, HEA Fellowship, or comparable);
- a further qualification in an arts and humanities subject
- recent experience of teaching the arts and humanities face-to-face or online at Level 1
- experience of synchronous online teaching.

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:	60
Number of assignments submitted by the student:	6
Method of submission for assignments:	2
Level of ICT requirements:	2
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	15
Salary band:	8
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	7