

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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| <b>Academic School / Department:</b> | Communications & The Arts                              |
| <b>Programme:</b>                    | MA Film: Science Fiction and Fantasy                   |
| <b>FHEQ Level:</b>                   | 7                                                      |
| <b>Course Title:</b>                 | Extended Thesis (alternative to the Internship only)   |
| <b>Course Code:</b>                  | FLM 7550                                               |
| <b>Total Hours:</b>                  | 600                                                    |
| Timetabled Hours:                    |                                                        |
| Guided Learning Hours:               |                                                        |
| Independent Learning Hours:          | 600                                                    |
| <b>Credits:</b>                      | 60 UK CATS credits<br>30 ECTS credits<br>12 US credits |

### **Course Description:**

For students working independently on their Master's thesis. An extended thesis of 15,000 words is offered as an alternative to the mandatory internship. The extended thesis encourages students to study intensively a topic agreed with a supervisor, and so develop skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work. Students apply their knowledge from across the fall and spring semesters to researching and developing a project, which may relate to the internship. This course is comprised of intensive and regular meetings on a group and one-to-one (by appointment) basis with a project supervisor to discuss the progress of research, development and writing.

**Prerequisites:** MA Film: Science Fiction and Fantasy students only, offered only as an alternative to those not taking the mandatory internship.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- For the supervisor to guide the student, as a junior research colleague, through the research, writing and production of an MA level thesis of 15,000 words
- For the student to undertake independent/autonomous research on a topic which makes a valuable contribution to the field
- To develop skills and experience which can be applied in the work placements or further graduate work

### **Programme Outcomes:**

At the end of the course, the student will have achieved the following programme outcomes:

B1, B2, B3, B4

A detailed list of the Programme Outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:  
<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students are expected to be able to:

- Deploy sophisticated visual literacy including sustained formal analysis
- Show systematic, critical engagement with texts and objects
- Conduct successful and original research, including application of appropriate methodologies for locating, assessing and interpreting primary sources
- Show excellent writing skills including logical and structured narratives and arguments supported by relevant primary and secondary evidence

### **Indicative Content:**

- production of a 15,000 word thesis, suitably illustrated, evidencing:
- intensive autonomous study of a topic agreed with a supervisor
- primary research making a valuable contribution to the field
- a coherent argument
- sustained visual analysis
- appropriate, critical use of secondary sources
- footnotes and a bibliography complying with the Chicago Manual Style
- satisfactory presentation and scholarly apparatus.

### **Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Assessment approved at Academic Board and are located at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

### **Teaching Methodology:**

Autonomous research and research supervision.

Guided independent study. Initial classes would provide briefing and enable students to commence their own project work. They would thereafter discuss progress in tutorials.

### **Bibliography:**

Moscowitz, J. *Critical Approaches to Writing About Film* (Pearson Hill, 2000)

Rountree, K. *Writing by Degrees: A Practical Guide to Writing These and Research Papers*. (Auckland: Longman Paul, 1996).

Turabian, K.L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, These, and Dissertations* (Sixth Edition) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996[1937]).

See syllabus for complete reading list

**Change Log for this CSD:**

| Nature of Change         | Date<br>Approved &<br>Approval Body<br>(School or AB) | Change Actioned by<br>Registry Services |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Revision – annual update | May 2023                                              |                                         |
| Total hours updated      | April 2024                                            |                                         |
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