

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Communications & The Arts
Programme:	MA Film: Science Fiction and Fantasy
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Final Film Project
Course Code:	FLM 7505
Total Hours:	400
Timetabled Hours:	N/A
Guided Learning Hours:	N/A
Independent Learning Hours:	400
Credits:	40 UK CATS credits 20 ECTS credits 8 US credits

Course Description:

For students working independently on their Master's final film project. The final film 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. The course is comprised of independent research, writing and practical filmmaking, overseen by a thesis supervisor, resulting in production of a 3,000-4,000 word Research Treatment and 15-20 minute Film Project. Collaborative and supportive dialogue with the supervisor and fellow 'junior research colleagues' will involve advice on the research, writing and practical process, suggestions for resources and research directions, and comments on draft versions of the research treatment and final film project.

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: MA Film: Science Fiction and Fantasy students only

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 research treatment and final film project
- 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, D1, D3.

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
- Apply current technologies to enhance research and be fully computer literate
- Retrieve, process and manipulate information from a variety of valid sources

Indicative Content:

- production of a 3,000-4,000 word Research Treatment and 15-20 minute Film Project, 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
- meeting practical standards and filmmaking conventions (appropriate to the project)

Assessment:

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

Teaching Methodology:

Autonomous research and research supervision.

The module will require independent research and creative filmmaking practice overseen by a thesis supervisor, tutorial opportunities including working with specialist faculty for more

specific academic guidance, including comments on draft materials, and faculty and peer review feedback at a thesis conference.

Bibliography:

- Ascher, S., Pincus, E. *The Filmmaker's Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide for the Digital Age* (Plume, 2007)
- Hughes M K. *Digital Filmmaking for Beginners: A Practical Guide to Video Production* (McGrawHill 2012)
- Moscovitz, 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).
- Thurlow M, Thurlow, C. *Making Short Films, Third Edition: The Complete Guide from Script to Screen* (Bloomsbury 2012)
- Trump, M. *The Documentary Filmmaker's Roadmap: A Practical Guide to Planning, Production and Distribution* (Routledge 2019).
- Turabian, K.L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, These, and Dissertations* (Sixth Edition) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

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