

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	Communications and the Arts
<b>Programme:</b>	Study Abroad
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	From Hogwarts to Hellmouth: British Fantasy and Horror in Literature and Film
<b>Course Code:</b>	LITR/FILM 5601
<b>Total Hours:</b>	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
<b>Credit</b>	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

### **Course Description:**

Britain is an ancient land, full of mystery and wonder and who knows what lies just beneath the surface? Primordial mysteries, stretching back into Deep Time, ready to irrupt into the present day, and portals to magical and hellish otherworlds? Using the lens of fantasy theory and discussions of folk horror, this course explores the magical literary worlds of early British mythology and folklore, including Arthurian legend, late Victorian writers of the macabre, and some of the cornerstones of modern British fantasy literature, including C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and J.K. Rowling. Through a variety of British literature and contemporary British film and television, students will examine how these genres reflect particular societal anxieties and cultural identities, as well as the complex relationship between art and politics.

### **Prerequisites:**

40 Credits

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To explore the roots of British mythology and its impact on later literature;
- To discuss how modern genres of Fantasy and Horror fit into a long and varied literary traditions;
- To study the advantages and disadvantages of writing in a mode or a genre, and of categorizing writing by its mode or genre;
- To examine intertextuality in literary history and practice;
- To explore a variety of literary and historical texts through the lens of the theory of folk horror;
- To engage with a range of different critical approaches;
- To study the significance of the relationship between Fantasy/Horror and popular British culture, and to recognise the impact which the genre has on Britain's contemporary identity, culture and creative industries.

**Programme Outcomes:**

5AII

5BI

5CI, 5CII

5DI

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

### **Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Demonstrate knowledge of an appropriate range of texts from the Fantasy/Horror genres whilst presenting their awareness of the contexts for these writings.
- Demonstrate their understanding of a range of critical and theoretical approaches through reference to literary history; literary theory and thematic analysis.
- Students should demonstrate a sense of the continuities and transformations in the historical development of English literature, appreciating both the common backgrounds of texts and their unique specificities.
- Students should demonstrate their ability to write analytically, exercising independent critical judgement and applying relevant critical sources.
- Develop knowledge of the impact of Fantasy/Horror literature through reading, engaging with, and responding to, both primary and secondary texts.
- Demonstrate their understanding of a range of critical and theoretical approaches through reference to literary history and thematic analysis.
- Demonstrate the ability draw out the connections between texts through comparison, through reference to literary history, through thematic analysis and through employing and engaging with the insights of other critics.
- Demonstrate a sense of the continuities and transformations in the historical development of English literature, appreciating both the common background of texts and their unique specificities.
- Demonstrate the ability to write analytically, exercising independent critical judgement and applying relevant critical sources.
- Demonstrate their ability to work as a group to provide an oral/visual presentation, demonstrating clear interpretation and analysis of primary texts and secondary criticism.

**Indicative Content:**

- British mythology and folklore
- Arthurian literature
- Folk Horror in cinema
- The quest as trope
- The supernatural and magic
- Britain and “Deep Time”
- Portal-quest fantasy Literature

**Assessment:**

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

**Teaching Methodology:**

Course meetings consist of interactive lectures on assigned readings, small group discussions and reflection activities. Some audio-visual material is included and class excursions may be arranged. Student work is assessed through a variety of ways using both formative and summative approaches. Feedback is intended to help improved student approach to learning and achieve better results. The formative assessment approaches we shall use in this class include monitored discussions and debates on the texts and on the wider issues which they evoke.

**Indicative Text(s):**

- Andrew, M. and Waldron, R. (ed.). (2007) 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' in *Poems of the Pearl Manuscript*. 5th ed. Exeter: Exeter Press.
- Coverley, M. (2020) *Hauntology: Ghosts of Futures Past*. Harpenden: Oldcastle Books.
- Ingham, H. D. (2018) *We Don't Go Back: A Watcher's Guide to Folk Horror*. Room 207 Press.
- Jackson, R. (1981) *Fantasy: The Literature of Subversion*. London: Routledge.
- Lewis, C.S. (2009) *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. UK: Harper Collins.
- Mendelsohn, F. (2008) *Rhetorics of Fantasy*. USA: Wesleyan University Press.
- Newland, P. (ed.). (2019) *British Rural Landscapes on Film*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Rowling, J.K. (1997-2007) *The Harry Potter Series*. UK: Bloomsbury.
- Royle, N. (2003) *The Uncanny*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Sangster, M. (2023) *An Introduction to the Fantastic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Scovell, A. (2017) *Folk Horror: Hours Dreadful and Things Strange*. Liverpool: Auteur
- Tolkien, J.R.R. (2007) *The Lord of the Rings*. UK: Harper Collins.

**Films**

- *Blood on Satan's Claw* (1971) Directed by P. Haggard. Tigon Studios.
- *Hellraiser* (1987) Directed by C. Barker. New World Pictures, 1987.
- *Quatermass and the Pit* (1967) Directed by Roy Ward Baker. Hammer Films.
- *The Stone Tape* (1972) Directed by Peter Sasdy. BBC.
- *The Wicker Man* (1973) Directed by R. Hardy. British Lion Film Corporation.
- *Witchfinder General* (1968) Directed by M. Reeves. Tigon Studios.

**Handouts include:**

- Texts on Early English Mythology.
- Sir Orfeo.
- Thomas of Ercildoune.
- *The Road* by Nigel Kneale.

**Websites**

On Folk and Arthouse horror. Available at:

<https://collider.com/folk-horror-wicker-man-blood-on-satans-claw-witchfinder-general/#:~:text=The%20folk%20horror%20subgenre,%20epitomized%20by> (Accessed November 2024)

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
First Edition	Nov 2024	