

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	CASS
Programme:	Communications (Media Studies and Media Production pathways)
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	Writing Science Fiction
Course Code:	COM 4420
Course Leader:	Alex Seago
Student Engagement Hours:	120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall, Spring, Summer
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Science Fiction inspires writers in all kinds of narrative formats (short stories, traditional novels, the film industry, gaming and comics). By exploring different types of writers and media, students will be able to develop their creative writing skills as they learn about the historical and cultural evolution of science fiction. There will be field trips and guest lectures with this course.

Prerequisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of the significance of the genre
- To introduce some of the key themes, developments and authors in the field
- To use the above as resources for developing creative writing skills

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course students will have achieved the following programme outcomes:

- A4 (i)
- A4 (iii)
- B4 (iii)
- C4 (i)
- D4 (i)
- D4 (ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of key SF writers and the evolution of the genre;
- Demonstrate the ability to comment critically on selected SF texts and media;
- Demonstrate an ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and integrate them effectively in written drafts;

Indicative Content:

- Defining SF
- A history of the genre
- The economic significance of the field
- SF's relationship with technology
- Different writers' strategies and approaches to SF
- Observational techniques
- Narrative forms
- Points of view

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Writing Intensive Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>

Teaching Methodology:

This creative writing workshop involves some lectures and relevant visits and guest lectures, plus reading and discussion of peer work, sharing works and ideas and receiving peer and instructor feedback. Workshop sessions involve small-group tasks (research/observations) coupled with peer editing.

Indicative Text(s):

Roberts, Adam, *The History of Science Fiction*, 2nd ed., London: Palgrave: 2016

Roberts, Adam, *Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy*, London: Hodder & Stoughton: 2014

Journals

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Web Sites

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See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry