COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Real and Imagined Journeys: Italy, Epic and the Self

Course Code: LIT 5805

Course Leader: Monica Giovanini

Student Engagement Hours:120Lectures:22.5Seminar / Tutorials:22.5Independent / Guided Learning:75

Semester: Fall/Spring/Summer

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description

ITALIAN STUDY CENTRES ONLY. This course explores the concept of the journey in its archetypal, metaphysical, and aesthetic dimensions, reflecting on the subtle interplay of reality and imagination. Students discover Italian shores with Homer's Ulysses and visit the underworld with Virgil's Aeneas; they encounter Dante's Satan and God, travel to the Far-East with the Venetian merchant Marco Polo, and join Columbus on his discovery of the New World. The perception of 'otherness' through invented geography, fantastic animals, monstrous races or religious difference mingles with the spirit of adventure, the desire to cross borders, and to conquer the unknown in a fascinating search for the self.

Prerequisites: GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

The course aims to:

 Explore the broad concept of the journey, considered from different points of view

- Highlight the importance of the Italian journey as a form of personal and cultural development
- Compare the famous imaginary journeys of classical and Christian literature with the chronicles of real journeys and explorations.
- Analyse the importance of Italy as a cultural space, and its historical significance in mapping the globe and shaping the global literary and cultural imagination.

Programme Outcomes:

A5i, A5ii, B5ii; C5ii, C5iii, D5ii

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/admitted-students/programme-and-course-specifications/

Learning Outcomes:

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

- demonstrate a critical understanding of the key concept of the journey in the major works of Homer, Virgil and Dante
- demonstrate a critical understanding of the socio-cultural contexts and themes that have shaped the study of Mediterranean cultures and world literature
- deliver work that demonstrates both critical and creative engagement with the real and imaginary journeys studied

Indicative Content:

- Site visits and lessons
- The symbolism of the journey
- The journey as a quest: The *Odyssey* as archetypal journey
- The journey as divine lesson: Virgil's Aeneid and Virgil's underworld
- Sea adventures; Dido.
- Dante's *Divine Comedy:* Christian culture, the spiritual journey, the pilgrim and the guide.
- Sinners, cannibals, monsters. Ulysses.
- Mapping Medieval, Hellish Florence
- Carlo Lorenzini's *Pinocchio*: the life journey and Comencini's *Pinocchio*
- Realism and the stereotypes of imagination in the illustrations to Marco Polo's Millione
- Columbus' journey to India. Amerigo Vespucci

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/

Teaching Methodology:

This is a lecture/discussion course with a seminar format. Students will be encouraged to take an active part in each class and must complete the weekly readings. Students will work on specific and original on-site projects, individually or in groups, and make presentations on them.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

IndicativeText(s):

Dante, A. (2003), The Portable Dante, Penguin Classics.

Fowler, R., (2004). *The Cambridge Companion to Homer*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Martindale, C., (1997). *The Cambridge Companion to Virgil*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Journals

Web Sites

See syllabus for complete list

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

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

Richmond, the American International University in London October 2015