

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	MA Film: Science Fiction and Fantasy
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Thesis Research
Course Code:	FLM 7500
Course Leader:	Dr Caleb Turner
Student Engagement Hours:	400 ¹
Independent / Guided Learning:	400
Semester:	SUMMER
Credits:	40 UK CATS credits 20 ECTS credits 8 US credits

Course Description:

For students working independently on their Master's thesis. The dissertation 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 and writing, overseen by thesis supervisor, resulting in production of a 10-12,000 word thesis. Collaborative and supportive dialogue with the supervisor and fellow 'junior research colleagues' will involve advice on the research and writing process, suggestions for resources and research directions, and comments on draft chapters of the thesis.

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 thesis of 10-12,000 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

¹ Please see the Credit Hour policy for non-traditional courses. Range of independent hours must fall within the range of 45-60 hours per credit.

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 are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Department/School's page of the portal.

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 10-12,000 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 Dissertation Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/policies/>

The required thesis word count is 10-12,000 words.

Teaching Methodology:

Autonomous research and research supervision.

The module will require independent research 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.

