**Academic School / Department:**      Communications & The Arts

**Programme:**      MA Film: Science Fiction and Fantasy

*FHEQ* **Level:**      7

**Course Title:**      Thesis Research

**Course Code:**      FLM 7500

**Student Engagement Hours:**      400
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

**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 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

**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 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 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**:

- Joyner, R. L. *Writing the winning thesis or dissertation: a step-by-step guide*. (Corwin 2013).
- Moscowitz, 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).
- Turabian, K.L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, These, and Dissertations* (Sixth Edition) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).
- Wallace, M., Wray, A. *Critical reading and writing for postgraduates*. (SAGE 2016).

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 |
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