COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Communications and The Arts

Programme: BA Contemporary Literature and Creative
     Writing

***FHEQ* Level:**   5

Course Title: British Fantasy Travel: Magic and Memory (TP)

Course Code: LIT 5700

Student Engagement Hours: 120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures: 22.5
Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5
Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Semester: Summer

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
     6 ECTS credits
     3 US credits

Course Description:

This special 'travelling' course ties in a wide array of fantasy literature written in or about Britain. It explores some of the earliest descriptions of the land which informed writers such as Geoffrey of Monmouth who produced the first "popular" history of King Arthur, through the Gothic period, and twentieth century post-war fantasy writing such as *Lord of the Rings* and C.S. Lewis's *Narnia* series. More recent works including the *Harry Potter* series and the *Game of Thrones* series will also be included. The texts are considered in the context of the locations where they were written or the places they describe, from the haunting castle ruins of Tintagel in Cornwall, the prehistoric sites of Anglesey (Ynys Môn), Stonehenge and Avebury, the imposing architecture of Tolkien's Oxford and Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill House near London. (This may change subject to availability). Students cannot take both this course and LIT 5405.

Prerequisites:

ARW 4195 or GEP 4180

Aims and Objectives:
- To explore how the modern Fantasy genre fits into a long and varied literary tradition;
- To study the advantages and disadvantages of writing in a mode or a genre;
- To examine intertextuality and influence in literary history and practice;
- To engage with a range of different critical approaches;
- To study the significance of the relationship between Fantasy and popular British culture, and to recognise the genre's impact on Britain's contemporary identity, culture and creative industries.

Programme Outcomes:
5Ai, 5Aii; 5Bi, 5Ci, 5Cii, 5Di

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 should be able to:
- Demonstrate their knowledge of an appropriate range of texts from the Fantasy genre whilst presenting in a reasonably complex manner their awareness of the contexts for these writings;

- Demonstrate their understanding of a range of critical and theoretical approaches through reference to literary history and thematic analysis;

- 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;

- Demonstrate their ability to write analytically, exercising independent critical judgement and applying relevant critical sources.

Indicative Content:
- British and European mythology and folklore
- Medievalism
- The nature of evil
- The quest as trope
- The supernatural and magic
- Structuralism

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

Teaching Methodology:
This course will be taught through a combination of lectures, student presentations, class discussions, close reading groups and text-based activities as well as through on-site visits as part of the extended travel programme. Themes and links between the literature and locations may be complemented with films where appropriate.

Bibliography:
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See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):
Geoffrey of Monmouth. *The History of the Kings of Britain*. Trans. Lewis Thorpe (London: Penguin Classics, 1973. (Extracts)
Rowling, J.K. The Harry Potter Series. London: Bloomsbury, 1997-2007.
Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Lord of the Rings*. London: Harper Collins, 2007.

Journals
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Web Sites
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Change Log for this CSD:

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