COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: Combined Studies

***FHEQ* Level:**   5

Course Title: British Fantasy Writing

Course Code: LIT 5405

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

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

Course Description:
This course will explore the vibrant genre tradition of fantastic and non-realist writing using a range of critical approaches. The first half of the course will survey some of the major texts on which modern Fantasy literature draws, including *Beowulf,* Arthurian texts and selections from works by Shakespeare, Milton, Jane Austen and Lewis Carroll. The second half of the course will focus more intensively on a few major fantasies from the past 120 years and their filmed adaptations, including works by Bram Stoker, J.R.R. Tolkien, and J.K. Rowling, and will look at how these texts and their filmic counterparts repurpose and revision older ideas for novel purposes.

Prerequisites: ARW 4195 or GEP 4180

Aims and Objectives:
- To explain how modern genre Fantasy fits into a long and varied literary traditions;
- To study the advantages and disadvantages of writing in a mode or a genre, and of categorizing writing by its mode or genre;

- To examine intertextuality 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 impact which the genre has on Britain's contemporary identity, culture and creative industries.

Programme Outcomes:
5A(ii); 5B(ii, iii); 5C(iii); 5D(ii)

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:
- Students should 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;
- Students should demonstrate their understanding of a range of critical and theoretical approaches through reference to literary history and thematic analysis;
- Students should 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;
- Students should 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 Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and can be found at
https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/

Teaching Methodology:
Course meetings consist of interactive lectures on assigned readings, small group discussions and reflection activities. Some audio visual material is included. Student work is assessed through a variety of ways using both formative and summative approaches. Feedback is intended to help improved student approach to learning and achieve better results.

Bibliography:

IndicativeText(s):

Mathews, Richard, *Fantasy: The Liberation of Imagination* (London: Routledge, 2002) Mendlesohn, Farah, *Rhetorics of Fantasy* (Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2008)
Sandner, David, *Fantastic Literature* (Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press, 2004)

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

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Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Revision – annual update	May 2023	