

Module Code	HPEN5041
Title	Speculative Fiction: Sci-fi, fantasy, magic realism and other imagined worlds
Date	13/02/2023
Level	5
Credits	20
Pre-Requisites	None

AIM(S)

- To develop students' awareness and appreciation of the characteristics of a variety of different types of speculative fiction, through close reading, analysis and reflective creative practice and to develop practical competence in the application of creative writing skills relevant to speculative fiction.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the characteristics, tropes and conventions of a variety of different sub-genres of speculative fiction;
- demonstrate, in both creative and evaluative writing, an increased command of a variety of techniques for crafting speculative fiction such as: worldbuilding; genre tropes; language and imagery; character and dialogue; plot and structure; narrative voice and point of view;
- demonstrate an ability to reflect critically on the nature of a variety of different types of speculative fiction, through discussion of both published texts, their own work, and that of their peers;
- demonstrate, in reflective prose, an awareness of their own writing process and an ability to improve their writing craft through reflective practice, redrafting and editing.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

- Introduction to a variety of different types of speculative fiction such as: science fiction; high fantasy; portal fantasy; afrofuturism; steampunk; magic realism and utopia/dystopia.
- Reading, analysis and discussion of texts.
- Writing activities designed to facilitate and embed an understanding of the tropes and conventions of a variety of approaches to speculative fiction as well as elements of craft that are crucial to the genre, such as world-building.
- Creative workshopping in which students hone their reflective practice and feedback skills.
- Exploring plot and story structure as a function of sub-genres of speculative fiction.
- Creative reflective practice and the critical commentary.

Study Time Allocation

The study time for the module is divided as follows:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning	36	18%
Independent learning	164	82%
Placement learning		
TOTAL	200	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Portfolio	Maximum 4 items (Equivalent to 4,000 words)	75%

Assessment Component 2

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Reflective Essay	Equivalent to 1,000 words	25%

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written exam	
Coursework	100%
Practical	
TOTAL	100%

INDICATIVE READING LIST

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Module Title	Speculative Fiction: Sci-fi, fantasy, magic realism and other imagined worlds.	
Classification	Reading List entry	Electronic*
Essential	Booker, Christopher, <i>The Seven Basic Plots : Why We Tell Stories</i> (London: Continuum, 2004)	☐
Essential	Storr, Will, <i>The Science of Storytelling</i> (London: William Collins, 2019)	☐
Essential	Chester, Deborah, <i>The Fantasy Fiction Formula</i> (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016)	☒
Essential	Shurin, Jared (Ed.) <i>Best of British Fantasy 2019</i> (Huntingdon: Newcon Press, 2020)	☒
Further	Chiang, Ted, <i>Stories of Your Life and Others</i> (London: Picador, 2020)	☐
Further	Grossman, Lev, <i>The Magicians</i> (New York: Viking Press, 2009)	☐
Further	Le Guin, Ursula, <i>Tales from Earthsea: Short Stories</i> (San Diego: Harcourt, 2001)	☐
Further	King, Stephen, <i>On Writing: a Memoir of the Craft</i> (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2001)	☐
Further	McGuire, Seanan, <i>Every Heart a Doorway</i> (London: Macmillan, 2014)	☐
Further	Okorafor, Nnedi, <i>Who Fears Death</i> (London: Penguin, 2010)	☐
Further	Clute, Grant and John Grant, <i>The Encyclopedia of Fantasy</i> (London: Orbit Books, 1997)	☐
Further	McC Campbell, Lori M., <i>Portals of Power: Magical Agency and Transformation in Literary Fantasy</i> (Jefferson: McFarland, 2010)	☐
Further	James, Edward and Farah Mendlesohn, <i>The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003)	☐
Further	Candy, Linda, <i>The Creative Reflective Practitioner : Research Through Making and Practice</i> (Abingdon: Routledge, 2020)	☒
Further	Borges, Jorge Luis, <i>Fictions</i> (London: Penguin Classics, 2000)	☐

Further	Butler, Octavia, <i>Kindred</i> (Boston: Beacon Press, 1997)	☐
Further	Le Guin, Ursula, <i>Steering the Craft</i> , 3 rd edn. (New York: Harper Perennial, 2015)	☐
Further	Carrington, André M., <i>Speculative Blackness : the Future of Race in Science Fiction</i> (Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 2016)	☐
Further	Samatar, Sofia, 'Toward a Planetary History of Afrofuturism', <i>Research in African Literatures</i> , 48.4 (2017), 175–91	☒