

MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Writing Historical Fiction	Level: 5	Credit Value: 20
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Module code: HUM539	Cost Centre: GAHN	JACS3 code: W800
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Trimester(s) in which to be offered: 1	With effect from: September 2014
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Office use only: To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: July 2014 Date revised: - Version no: 1
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Existing/New: New	Title of module being replaced (if any): N/A
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Originating Academic Department: Creative Industries	Module Leader: Dr Mike Miles
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Module duration (total hours): 200	Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate): Core
Scheduled learning & teaching hours: 60	
Independent study hours: 140	
Placement hours: 0	

Programme(s) in which to be offered: BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing BA (Hons) History and Creative Writing	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): None
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Module Aims:

This module aims to:

- Develop skills of close reading, analysis and discussion of appropriate genre texts from a writer's perspective
- Practise and develop skills of historical fiction writing in accordance with established conventions

Intended Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1. Understand and analyse the complex relationship between history and fiction (KS7)
2. Closely analyse selected texts/films, demonstrating detailed knowledge and understanding of character, plot, theme, structure, voice and setting (KS3)
3. Produce a sustained piece of literature in the historical genre, demonstrating the technical skills necessary to the selection, planning, drafting and writing the finished piece (KS1, KS4, KS6)
4. Critically reflect on and improve their own creative practice (KS5)

Key skills (KS) for employability

1. *Written, oral and media communication skills*
2. *Leadership, team working and networking skills*
3. *Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills*
4. *Information technology skills and digital literacy*
5. *Information management skills*
6. *Research skills*
7. *Intercultural and sustainability skills*
8. *Career management skills*
9. *Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)*
10. *Numeracy*

Assessment:

Assessment One - Essay on a specified topic e.g. History: Fact or Fiction?

Assessment Two - Case study, including pastiche and critical commentary

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1, 2	Essay	50%		2,000
2	3, 4	Case study	50%		2,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

- Lectures – on different historical novels, movies, docudramas, biographies (fictionalised and ‘true’) and various aspects of the writing process
- Practical classes and workshops – in which students share their writing experience
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Guided independent study – to inform case study content and seminar/tutorial discussions

Indicative Syllabus outline:

- History and Fiction – a *History*
- History: Fact or Fiction?
- Fiction, History and Memory
- Fiction, History and Ethics
- The Mechanics of Story Construction

Bibliography:**Essential reading**

Cam, Helen, *Historical Novel* (London, Historical Association, 1999)

Southgate, Beverley, *History meets Fiction* (London: Longman Pearson, 2008)

Tosh, John (ed), *Historians on History* (London, Longman Pearson, 2009)

Indicative reading

Text extracts and film clips provided by tutor