

Module Title	Contemporary Genre Fiction: Theory and Craft
Programme(s)/Course	English with Creative Writing
Level	5
Semester	2
Ref No:	
Credit Value	20 CAT Points
Student Study hours	Contact hours: 48 Student managed learning hours: 152
Pre-requisite learning	Level 4 modules
Co-requisites	
Excluded combinations	
Module Coordinator [Name + e mail address]	Dr Leon Betsworth leon.betsworth@lsbu.ac.uk
Parent Department	Arts and Performance
Parent Course	English with Creative Writing
JACS Code	
Description [100 words max]	The module focuses on the theory and craft of Contemporary Genre Fiction, including thriller, fantasy, sci-fi and young adult fiction. The students will explore texts that set narrative patterns in plot, setting and character development, for various forms of genre writing, as well as those that play with genre patterns. The students will use those patterns as the basis for their own writing. Indicative reading includes contemporary British texts by authors such as Philip Pullman, Kate Atkinson, Mark Haddon, and Iain Banks, where students are introduced to the wider cultural and commercial contexts in which contemporary genre fiction is produced.
Aims	The aims of this module are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the conventions and tropes of genre fiction, including sci-fi, fantasy, and young adult fiction. • Enable students to produce creative content, deploying relevant genre conventions. Introduce students to the narratology of genre fiction. • Introduce students to the cultural and commercial contexts of contemporary genre fiction.
Learning outcomes	<p>Knowledge and Understanding: On completion of the module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply analysis to the processes and tropes of genre fiction, and apply that to a self-directed, practical project. • Write a piece of genre fiction, demonstrating an awareness of the specific conventions of the chosen genre. • Analyse contemporary genre fiction from a foundation of critical theory and narratology, as well as from a creative practice-as-research perspective. <p>Intellectual Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an ability to produce narratives which demonstrate a

	<p>successful application of genre-specific conventions: character, narration, plot, dialogue and theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an ability to edit, rewrite and present creative work to industry standard Demonstrate an ability to research, including library databases <p>Practical Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce creative content within the set parameters of a brief. • Draft, edit and present writing to a professional standard. <p>Transferable Skills: students will acquire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level communication skills, in writing and orally, appropriate to the presentation of a sustained argument. • High-level reading skills including the ability to gain, select and interpret large amounts of information from relevant sources.
Employability	<p>Contemporary Genre Fiction further builds English and Creative Writing students' skills in researching, structuring and editing professional work, as well as further enhancing brief-led creative practice skills. Genre conventions of story telling, as well as adaptations of works of genre fiction, are widely applied in film, television and video games. The informed understanding of genre categories is relevant to marketing and promotion of creative content in media and publishing. The subject specific skills are significant to those industries into which English and Creative Writing students might expect to gain entry upon graduation: notably publishing, advertising, and media.</p>
Teaching & Learning Pattern	<p>The module will be delivered over twelve weeks, with as indicative pattern:</p> <p>1 hour lectures delivering key theory and knowledge 1 hour seminar analysing texts and critical reading 2 hour workshops exploring foundational techniques of writing genre fiction</p>
Indicative content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is genre fiction? Is it a marketing category or a structural pattern? What defines something as genre? Where do the edges blur? • Genre as a lens to interpret/focus/understand contemporary experience. • The conventions of genres (e.g. fantasy, sci-fi, thriller, with cross-over into young adult fiction): patterns of character, narration, plot, dialogue and theme • Reader expectations and historical reception of genres. - Transmedia narrative, film, television, games. • Contemporary trends in genre fiction.
Assessment method (Please give details – of components, weightings, sequence of components, final component)	<p>CW1: Critical essay, 2,000 words (50%)</p> <p>CW2: Creative writing piece 2,000 words (50%)</p> <p>The pass mark for each component is 40%</p>

<p>Indicative Reading</p>	<p>CORE READING: Banks, Iain M., 1987, <i>Consider Phlebas</i> (Science Fiction) Blackman, Malorie, 2004, <i>Noughts and Crosses</i> (Alternate History/YAF) Flynn, Gillian, 2012, <i>Gone Girl</i> (Psychological Thriller) Haddon, Mark, 2003, <i>A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime</i> (Detective/YAF) Healey, Emma, 2014, <i>Elizabeth is Missing</i> (Detective/Crime Fiction) Moore, Alan, 1989, <i>V for Vendetta</i> (Science/Speculative Fiction) Pullman, Philip, 2008, <i>His Dark Materials</i> (Fantasy Fiction) SJ Watson, 2011, <i>Before I go to Sleep</i> (Psychological Thriller)</p> <p>OPTIONAL READING: Burroway, Janet, 2011, <i>Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft</i>. Chamberlain, Mary and Paul Thompson, 1998, <i>Narrative and Genre</i>. Duff, David (ed.), 2000, <i>Modern Genre Theory</i>. Gregory Klein, Kathleen, 1995, <i>The Woman Detective: Gender & Genre</i>. Hellekson, Karen, et al. (eds.), 2010, <i>Practicing Science Fiction: Critical Essays on Writing, Reading and Teaching the Genre</i> Lacey, Nick, 2000, <i>Narrative and Genre: Key Concepts in Media Studies</i>.</p>
<p>Other Learning Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VLE • Critical essays • Literary reviews • Recorded interviews/Podcasts • Newspaper/magazine articles • Guest lecture from genre writer • Genre fiction sales/publishing statistics • Field trip to National Theatre Archive