

MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Writing Crime Fiction and Thrillers	Level: 5	Credit Value: 20
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Module code: HUM538	Cost Centre: GAHN	JACS3 code: W800
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Trimester(s) in which to be offered: 2	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:

- Study specific texts and films from a writer's perspective and understand the conventions which shape their form and content
- Analyse the relationship between film adaptations/interpretations and their original sources, considering aspects such as pace, length, structure, perspective and setting

Intended Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Closely analyse selected texts/films, demonstrating detailed knowledge and understanding of character, plot, theme, structure, voice and setting (KS1)
2. Produce a sustained piece of literature in the crime or thriller genre, demonstrating the technical skills necessary to the selection, planning, drafting and writing the finished piece (KS3)
3. Critically reflect on and improve their own creative practice (KS4, 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. comparing and contrasting two crime/thriller writers' styles.

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	Essay	50%		2,000
2	2, 3	Case Study	50%		2,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

- Lectures – on different crime/thriller authors 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:

- The history of crime and thriller writing since Victorian times
- What is genre/literary fiction?
- Does the truth matter or the story?
- Study of key texts

Bibliography:

Essential reading

Dan Brown, *The De-Vinci Code* (London: Corgi Books, 2013)

Buchan, John, *The Thirty-Nine Steps* (London: Harper Press, 2012)

Christie, Agatha, *One, Two, Buckle my Shoe* (London: Harper Collins, 2008)

Conan-Doyle, Arthur, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (London: Penguin, 2011).

Cornwell, Patricia, *All That Remains* (London: Sphere 2010).

Hammett, Dashiell, *The Maltese Falcon* (London: Collectors' Library, 2013).

Lane, Brian, *The Encyclopaedia of Forensic Science* (London: Headline)

Rankin, Ian, *Strip Jack* (London: Orion).

Indicative reading

Extracts provided by tutor