

Module specification

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Refer to guidance notes for completion of each section of the specification.

Module code	HUM679
Module title	The Contemporary Novel
Level	6
Credit value	20
Faculty	FAST
Module Leader	Debbie Hayfield
HECoS Code	100319
Cost Code	GAHN

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BA (Hons) Creative Writing and English	Core
BA (Hons) Social and Cultural History and Creative Writing	Core

Pre-requisites

N/A

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	24 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	24 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	176 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	25/09/2018
With effect from date	01/09/2021
Date and details of revision	20/09/2021 Change of assessment
Version number	1

Module aims

- To enable the development of reading and understanding of a range of contemporary fiction from the 1980s to the present and consider them within debates about the innovation in modern fiction.
- To investigate some of the theoretical, philosophical and critical concepts that inform contemporary fiction and explore the relationship between them.
- To introduce and encourage reflective use of diverse theoretical perspectives, critical approaches and the associated terminology.
- To examine and critically analyze a selection of contemporary literature in the light of these theories and debates.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Interpret and critically analyse the key features of contemporary fiction.
2	Critically analyse some of the theoretical and philosophical concepts which underpin contemporary fiction
3	Evaluate and apply theoretical ideas which contribute to an understanding of the texts.
4	Critically analyse and interpret specific novels and the issues they raise, demonstrating awareness of what makes them 'contemporary'

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

In Assessment one student will be required to undertake a critical analysis of the work of one chosen text in relation to theories, themes and issues covered in the module.

Assessment two will be a critical analysis of a different text responding to a question chosen from a range of questions designed to demonstrate understanding of ideas and issues covered in the module.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1,2,3,4	Written Assignment	50
2	1,2,3,4	Written Assignment	50

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Following introductory lectures which will provide students with information regarding theoretical and aesthetic ideas which underpin the contemporary novel, texts will be taught in two session blocks and will consist of a lecture in the first and a seminar in the second. The lecture will provide information about context, theoretical approaches and critical interpretations of the text. The second session will be a tutor-led discussion, for which students will be expected to prepare, about the text and the ideas and issues it raises.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Trends in the contemporary novel such as:

- The retro-Victorian novel
- Representations of the future
- Its questioning stance towards identity and truth

Specific texts may vary from year to year but texts may include:

A S Byatt, *Possession* (1990)

Margaret Atwood, *Alias Grace* (1996) David Mitchell, *Cloud Atlas* (2004)

Michel Faber, *The Crimson Petal and the White* (2002) Michel Faber, *Under the Skin* (2000)

Kazuo Ishiguru, *Never Let me Go* (2005)

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Set texts

Other indicative reading

Gasiorek, Andrzej, *Post-War British Fiction: Realism and After* (London & New York: Edward Arnold, 1995)

Sarup, Madan, *An Introductory Guide to Post-Structuralism and Postmodernism* (Hemel Hempstead: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1993)

Waugh, Patricia, *Metafiction: The Theory and Practice of Self-Conscious Fiction* (London and New York: Routledge, 1984)

Connor, Steven, *The English Novel in History* (London & New York: Routledge, 1996)

Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Glyndŵr Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Glyndŵr having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

Core Attributes

Engaged
Enterprising
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Digital Fluency
Organisation
Leadership and Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication