

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Speculative Fiction
2	Module Credits	20
3	Module Level	6
4	Module Code	EGL6133

5	Module Overview
<p>What if a book was discovered that revealed an advanced alien civilisation? What if humans could merge with machines? What if the world were slowly crystallising around us? What if humanity had all but destroyed itself? The ‘what if’ in these questions signals a moment of hesitation, a gap that opens up between what is and what could be. This is speculation. Speculation is something we all do. It allows us to reimagine the past, recontextualise the present and consider new futures. It can be a liberating but also a destabilising activity because it asks us to question the ways in which we make sense of who we are and the world around us. In this module you will consider how literature can be a vehicle for speculation. You will be able to identify the formal literary techniques and devices used to enable speculation and then apply them to a series of texts from the late twentieth century and twenty-first century to consider how these can help us think about new pasts, new societies, new identities and new futures.</p> <p>You will develop the foundation of your knowledge through a series of lectures which are followed by workshops in which you will apply your understanding of the field through a range of practical activities. These might include: close readings of literary texts, analysis of the built environment, mini-presentations, forum posts, application of theoretical and contextual documents and/or field trips. Your formally taught sessions will be supported by pre-sessional learning activities delivered via Moodle and post-sessional reflection on the workshop’s learning aims. Your independent learning will be characterised by the development of your wider creative and critical knowledge of the field, which will be supported by the application and development of your research skills.</p>	

6	Indicative Content
<p>In this module you will consider how literature can be a vehicle for speculation. You will be able to identify the formal literary techniques and devices used to enable speculation and then apply them to a series of texts from the late twentieth century and twenty-first century to consider how these can help us think about new pasts, new societies, new identities and new futures.</p>	

7		Module Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:		
	1	Identify and evaluate the narrative techniques of speculative fiction.
	2	Examine how and to what effect speculative fiction engages with social/political/philosophical issues of late twentieth century and twenty-first century Western society.
	3	Appraise historical and theoretical perspectives relevant to these texts to provide a critical context to their reading.
	4.	Articulate ideas clearly and coherently in written form with due attention to scholarly conventions.

8		Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome				
		Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1, 2, 3, 4		x		

9		Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities
Learning Activities	Hours	
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	36	
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	124	
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	40	
Study Hours:	200	