

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Art and Social Sciences
Programme:	BA Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Literary Influences on Contemporary Writing
Course Code:	LIT 5200
Course Leader:	Dr Sara Chetin
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	15
Seminar / Tutorials:	30
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall, Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Generations, even centuries after their deaths, many literary figures continue to influence contemporary world writing. This influence extends into film and television, children's literature and graphic novels as well as poetry and fiction. Through a series of guest speakers and project work, students will explore works by several great writers, including Homer, Blake, Austen, Dickens and some of the Modernists, and consider their influences on both the literary canon and today's cultural imagination.

Prerequisites: ARW 4195

Aims and Objectives:

- To become familiar with the themes, styles and techniques of some great writers within their historical contexts
- To develop an understanding of how these writers continue to inspire writing today across a variety of media
- To encourage students to explore one writer in depth and respond both creatively and critically to his/her writings

Programme Outcomes:

5Ai ; 5Aii ; 5Bii ; 5Ci ; 5Cii ; 5Ciii ; 5Dii ; 5Diii ;

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:
<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of key ideas, writings and historical contexts prior to 1945 that have influenced contemporary writing
- Demonstrate how these writers have shaped contemporary writing across different media
- Demonstrate the ability to make historical connections between texts and evaluate a range of sources within their socio-cultural and historical contexts
- Demonstrate the ability to produce a project using a range of creative and critical approaches and research skills
- Exercise a degree of independent critical judgement and the ability to evaluate their own work

Indicative Content:

- Approaches and definitions of Intertextuality
- Homer (and Virgil and Ovid) – themes, tropes, archetypes
- Blake’s poetry, motifs, concept of zoamorphosis
- Austen’s novels, her themes, irony, etc. and influence on ‘chick lit’ and ‘chick flicks’
- Dickens’ creative engagement with the city, his themes, approaches, and seminal role in the emergence and development of cinema
- A selection of modernist writers and their themes, styles, techniques
- Some of selection is dependent on the availability of guest speakers and student interests.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Learning and Teaching Policy Committee found at:
<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-affairs/academic-standing.aspx>.

Teaching Methodology:

A series of guest speakers focussing on a specific writer will open up the discussions whereby the tutorial sessions will explore close readings of individual works. Then students will work in groups to consider these writers' influences and produce a project that reflects their engagement with the writer.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

- Bloom, Harold. *The Anxiety of Influence: A Theory of Poetry*. Oxford University Press, 1997
- Carson, Susannah, ed. (foreword by Harold Bloom). *A Truth Universally Acknowledged: 33 Great Writers on Why We Read Jane Austen*. Random House, 2009.
- Clark, Steve and J Whittaker, eds. *Blake, Modernity and Popular Culture*. Palgrave 2007
- Gardner, Hunter, *Odyssean Identities in Modern Cultures: The Journey Home*. Ohio State University Press, 2014
- Jordan, John O and N. Perera, *Global Dickens*. Ashgate, 2012.
- Smith, Grahame, *Dickens and the Dream of Cinema*. Manchester University Press, 2012
- Whitson, Roger and J Whittaker. *William Blake and the Digital Humanities: Collaboration, Participation and Social Media*. Routledge, 2015

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry