

Module code: MOD000409	Version: 5 Date Amended: 18/Aug/2020
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1. Module Title
Writing Short Fiction

2a. Module Leader
Colette Paul

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

In this module you'll learn the tools of effective short fiction writing, beginning with the literary short story and moving on to explore short fiction for younger readers and some areas of genre fiction. You will understand the scope and the conventions of short fiction in English through analysis of a diverse range of classic and contemporary examples. You'll look at the creative process from the collection of ideas at the notebook stage to the production and editing of a finished narrative, and you will engage in this process by maintaining a reading journal and writer's notebook where responses to literature that is read, and created, are recorded.

6b. Outline Content

- the history of the literary short story
- analysis of classic works of short fiction
- forms and outlets for contemporary short fiction
- the opportunities, techniques and limitations of short fiction as opposed to other forms of imaginative writing
- effective techniques for opening, developing and concluding short stories
- use of observation and creation of convincing settings, action, characters and dialogue
- the creative and practical processes of effective fiction writing
- reading as a writer
- giving and receiving constructive criticism
- techniques for engaging readers of short fiction
- the special techniques of writing and researching short fiction for younger readers
- opportunities within genre fiction

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the techniques and conventions of short fiction writing
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Appreciate the range of writing produced within the short story genre
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Enrich their own writing through attentive reading, maintaining a reading journal
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop their own short fiction writing through notebooks, research, workshop criticism and redrafting
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Act as editors and critics for work produced by their peers
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically evaluate their own short fiction and writing processes

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	None	None
Other teacher managed learning	48	1-6	2hr session per week seminars and workshops.
Student managed learning	252	1-6	Reading and writing several times a week. See module tutor during office hours as often as possible
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
A short story of 2000 words.					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-6	70 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
A short story & accompanying critical commentary: 4000 words in total. The Short Story should be no more than 2500 words and will comprise 75% of the overall mark. The Critical Commentary should be no more than 1500 words and will comprise 25% of the overall mark. PDP is embedded here.					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*). In addition, students are required to: (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above (b) pass any pass/fail elements [* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]					
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