

Module code: MOD005874	Version: 3 Date Amended: 30/Oct/2023
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1. Module Title
Renaissance Magic

2a. Module Leader
Bethan Davies

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

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

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

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

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Within the module you will have the opportunity to specialise in an exciting period of literary history – the English Renaissance – and to pursue a thematic interest: the early modern literary fascination with magic. ‘Renaissance Magic’ explores the intersections between imaginative literature, science, religion and the occult, through the close study of various literary forms (from journal entries and essays, to epic poetry and drama) both canonical (including the works of Shakespeare, Jonson and Spenser) and more marginal (including seventeenth-century women’s writing, and anonymous alchemical poetry.) You will be introduced to various aspects of magic/occult culture of the early modern period: attitudes toward angelology and demonology; the learned figure of the ‘Renaissance magus’; alchemy; the fascination with and persecution of witches; and early science fiction. The variety of different texts is designed to challenge perceptions of the ‘canon’, and to broaden views of what constituted ‘literature’ in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

6b. Outline Content

- English literary history of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries
- Literary and historical exploration of the diverse ways in which a fascination with magic and the occult permeated early modern culture
- Particular focus on early modern angelology and demonology; the ambivalent figure of the Renaissance magician; alchemy; theories of witchcraft; early science fiction
- Opportunity to re-examine canonical texts in greater depth, and to discover lesser-known ones
- Broader consideration of what constituted ‘literature’ in Renaissance England
- Close study of set texts in relation to their historical and cultural contexts

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 detailed knowledge of a range of early modern texts and demonstrate ability to read these texts in their historical, social and political contexts
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the diversity of early modern culture, and the variety of literary forms and genres that constituted 'literature' during the period
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate critical knowledge of appropriate secondary material and show independence of thought
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate the above knowledge, understanding and skills in coherent written and spoken English

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	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	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-4	Seminar 2 hr x 12 weeks
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Reading and writing activities, independent and as directed by tutor
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1,2 & 4	20 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Practical critical exercise (1000 words equivalent)					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-4	80 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Coursework 2000 words					

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]