Module code: MOD007263	Version: 1 Date Amended: 23/Jan/2020

1. Module Title

Science Fiction

2a. Module Leader

Sarah Brown

2b. School

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty

Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level

5

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

In this module you will study the development of science fiction as a genre, concentrating on major texts from the postwar period. You are expected to acquire an understanding of the history of science fiction and an awareness of debates around its origins, as well as a critical understanding of the problems of defining it in relation to other forms of literature. The emphasis is on science fiction as a literature of ideas, and you will have the opportunity to explore and compare examples of several key science fiction tropes. These would typically include alien invasion, posthuman identity, utopias and dystopias, alternate history, time travel and post-apocalyptic science fiction. You would also be invited to consider changes in the representation of issues such as race, class and gender in science fiction. The main focus will be on science fiction as a literary form; however there will be opportunities to consider science fiction in other media – film, comics, TV and computer games – as well as engage with aspects of the history of science fiction publishing, such as book cover design and marketing.

6b. Outline Content

- The history of science fiction

- The definition of science fiction in relation to both mainstream literature and other forms of fantasy

- A range of science fiction short stories and novels from its origins to the present day

- Critical discussions of science fiction

- Key science fiction tropes and motifs

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 confident knowledge of the history and development of science fiction
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a critical understanding of debates over the parameters of science fiction
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate an informed understanding of some of science fiction's key tropes
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Construct a coherent critical argument and communicate it in clear written English

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers

Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2024/5	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	2 hour seminar a week
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Hours to include preparation for seminars and assessment
TOTAL:	150		

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 (%)

1000 word comparative analysis of two SF short stories based on the earlier history of the genre.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-4	70 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

2000 word essay on post-war science fiction.

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]