

Unit outline for HSW160.8 Reading & Writing Genres:

Speculative & Romantic Fictions

Name of unit
Reading & Writing Genres: Speculative & Romantic Fictions (HSW160.8)

Unit description
This unit facilitates a critical appraisal of the art of storytelling through the lens of the popular genres of both Speculative Fiction (fantasy, sci-fi and gothic lit) and Romance. The defining characteristics of the genres studied are compared and contrasted, with an emphasis on identifying and explaining differences and commonalities in terms of historical and cultural influences, the craft of writing, and from marketing and publishing perspectives. Through close reading and text analysis, students develop an understanding of the defining elements of each genre and experiment with applying these techniques in their own compositions, with a view to publication.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION (CORE)

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards (for example, Bachelor, Diploma)	Duration (for example, one semester, full year)	Level (for example, introductory, intermediate, advanced level, 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year)	Unit coordinator
Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma Masters	1 Semester	Intermediate	Dr Pete Court

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a:

- core unit
- elective unit
- other (please specify below):

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points Example: 10 credit points	Total course credit points Example: 320 credit points
6	24 (Grad Cert) 48 (Grad Dip) 96 (Masters)

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week (1)	No. personal study hours per week (2)	Total workload hours per week (3)
3	6	9

(1) Total time spent per week at lectures, tutorials, clinical and other placements, etc.

(2) Total time students are expected to spend per week in studying, completing assignments, etc.

(3) Sum of (1) and (2) equals workload hours.

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: 0 hours per week

Are students required to have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

Yes No

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS (CORE)

Learning outcomes for the unit

On successful completion of this unit students will be able to:

1. Critically discuss the literary aspects of the speculative and romance genres in classic and contemporary contexts, and explain how they relate to their own approach to storytelling
2. Work independently and collaboratively to generate and critically appraise their own works of genre fiction with a view to publication
3. Critique the development and relevance of speculative and romantic fiction in historical and cultural context
4. Research and report on opportunities for publishing speculative and romance fiction as a basis for preparing and presenting their own work for publication

Topics included in the unit

Topics included in the unit

Introduction: What is genre fiction and why does it matter?

Writing Genre Fiction: Understanding Audiences and Markets

The Hero's Journey: Monomyth through the lens of Speculative and Romance Fiction

Defining Speculative Fiction: A History of Other Worlds

Speculative Science: Exploring Possible Futures

Characters in Crisis, Past and Present

Romance and the Seductive Art of Storytelling

Love in all its forms: What Makes a Good Romance?

Genre Fiction & Worldview: Themes and Interpretation

Genre Fiction and the Emerging Writer: Getting Published

Assessment tasks			
Type (1) (see examples noted below this table)	When assessed – year, session and week (for example, year 1, semester 1, week 1)	Weighting (% of total marks for unit)	Cross reference to learning outcomes
<p>Market Research Tutorial Approx. 1000 words</p> <p>Research possible publishing forums for your own genre fiction and choose two prospective publishing forums for the final assignment pieces. Present your findings in a short 15 min presentation, including a written submission letter/pitch together with a rationale for your chosen publishers.</p>	Weeks 7-12	15%	4
<p>Comparative Text Analysis 1500 words in total</p> <p>Compare and contrast 2 readings (one classic, one contemporary) from each of the genres studied, highlighting differences and similarities in terms of style, theme, structure etc.</p>	Week 10	35%	1 & 3
<p>Major Creative Composition and Critical Reflection 3000 words in total</p> <p>Write two short stories, one in each of the genres studied. Include a short critical reflection (500 words) explaining how you have incorporated and/or creatively adapted the defining elements of each genre into your work.</p>	Week 14	50%	2 & 4

(1) Examples of types of assessment tasks include: assignments; examinations; group projects; online quizzes/tests; presentations; work-based projects; and reflective journals. Ensure that details of the types of assessment tasks are included such as specific topics, duration/length/word limit of assessment and any specific formats.

2.1 Prescribed and recommended reading

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended reading for the unit.

Required Text

Milhorn, H.T. (2006). *Writing Genre Fiction: A Guide to the Craft*. Universal Publishers.

Recommended Reading

Athans, P. (2010). *The Guide to Writing Fantasy and Sci-Fi: 6 steps to writing & publishing your best seller*. Avon, MA: Adams Media.

Barron, N. (2004). *Anatomy of Wonder 4: A Critical Guide to Science Fiction*. (4th edition). New Providence, NJ: Libraries Unlimited.

Booker, C. (2006). *The Seven Basic Plots: Why We Tell Stories*. Continuum.

Bould, M. & Vint, S. (2011). *The Routledge Concise History of Science Fiction*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Bova, B (ed) (1996). *Aliens and Alien Societies*. Cincinnati, OH: Writer's Digest Books

Card, O. S. (2001). *How to Write Science Fiction & Fantasy*. Cincinnati, OH: Writer's Digest Books.

Dickerson, M. & O'Hara, D. (2007). *From Homer to Harry Potter*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Brazos Press.

Kilian, C. (2007). *Writing Science Fiction & Fantasy*. North Vancouver, BC: Self Counsel Pr.

Lewis, C. S. (2002). *Of Other Worlds: essays and stories*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt.

Lyon, E. (2008). *Manuscript Makeover: Teacher Pedigree*.

May, S. (1998). *Stardust and Ashes*. London, UK: SPCK Publishing

Michaels, L. (2007). *On Writing Romance: How to Craft a Novel that Sells*. Writers Digest Books.

Parv, V. (2010). *The Art of Romance Writing: Practical advice from an internationally bestselling romance writer*. Allen & Unwin.

Regis, P. (2007). *A Natural History of the Romance Novel*. Uni of Pennsylvania Press.

Tuttle, L. (2005). *Writing Fantasy & Science Fiction*. New York, NY: A & C Black.

Veith, G. (2013). *Reading Between the Lines: A Christian Guide to Literature*. Crossway

Worthing, M. (2016). *Narnia, Middle Earth & the Kingdom of God*. Northcote, Victoria: Stone Table Books.