

# EN3F5-30 Introduction to Alternative Lifeworlds Fiction (Science Fiction, Fantasy and the Weird)

**26/27**

**Department**

English and Comparative Literary Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Graeme Macdonald

**Credit value**

30

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This module aims to orient students within the field of alternative lifeworld literature, film, and culture, providing them with a working knowledge of the entwined history and development of the related genres of sf, science fiction, fantasy and the weird. In addition to gaining a broad overview, the module will introduce students to the genres' relation to specific social, political and intellectual issues such as Labour, Technology, the Environment, Rationality, Utopia, Apocalypse, and Futurity.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

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## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Term 1: Shapiro

Week 1 - Introduction

Week 2: HG Wells, *The Island of Dr Moreau*

Week 3 - "The Poetics and Politics of Exhibiting Other Cultures" in *Representation*. Please read from I Introduction to the end of section 4.6 Summary. You can bypass the selected readings in the text. Think about how our texts can function museumologically and technographically.

Octavia Butler, *Dawn* [1st book in the *Xenogenesis/ Lilith's Brood* trilogy]. All three can be purchased here.

Week 4: tentatively - "Spectacle of the Other" in *Representation*

Week 5: Nalo Hopkinson, *Midnight Robber*

Reading Week

Week 7: Joe Haldeman, *The Forever War*

Week 8: *Westworld*, Season 1 (2016); "Genre and Gender: The Case of Soap Opera" in *Representation*

Week 9: Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles*

Week 10: E. L. Konigsberg, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*  
Macdonald

Week 1 - Strugatsky Brothers, *Roadside Picnic*

Week 2 - Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

Week 3 - China Miéville, *The City and the City*

Week 4 - Stanislaw Lem, *Solaris*

Week 5 - SF Short Films: Chris Marker's *La Jetée* and others (shown in class with discussion).

Reading Week

Week 7 - Michel Faber, *Under the Skin* Under the Skin Handout

Week 8 - Nnedi Okorafor, *Lagoon*

Week 9 - Margaret Atwood, *Oryx and Crake* Oryx and Crake critical excerpts

Week 10 - Jeff VanderMeer, *Annihilation* (*The Southern Reach Trilogy* Vol. 1)

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Acquire knowledge of key theoretical and literary concepts and cultural and critical contexts within which to situate the set texts;
- Formulate analytical and critical skills through close reading/viewing of the set texts;
- Adjust to scholarly standards and protocols of presentation;
- Employ a main method for reading texts within the context of alternative lifeworld cultures;
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of selected texts and concepts relating to alternative lifeworld cultural production;
- Indicate a broad understanding of critical, analytic, and creative approaches to produce knowledge;

- Exhibit an effective command of written English together with a wide-ranging and accurate vocabulary;
- Display textual analysis and critical argument;
- Conduct independent research through self-formulated questions.

## Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

## Subject specific skills

Demonstrate coherent and detailed knowledge of selected texts and concepts relating to the U.S. horror/gothic cultures

Display an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity, and contradictions within alternative lifeworld cultural productions

## Transferable skills

Deploy advanced analytical and critical skills through close reading/viewing of the set texts

Demonstrate a conceptual understanding that enables the development and sustaining of a critical argument

Describe and comment on recent research and/or scholarship in subject

Make appropriate use of scholarly reviews and primary sources

Exhibit an advanced command of written English together with a wide-ranging and accurate vocabulary

Apply confident textual analysis and fluent critical argument to initiate and carry out an extended essay

Conduct independent research through self-formulated questions

Produce work that displays the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making, along with collective engagement

Deploy the expression and communication of ideas across media forms.

## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour 30 minutes (100%)
Total	27 hours

## Private study description

Reading & research.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
<b>Assessment component</b>			
Assessed Essay 1 4,000 words	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
<b>Assessment component</b>			
Assessed Essay 2 4,000 words	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
<b>Assessment component</b>			
Group Video Project Group Video Essay Podcast Discussion/ Critical Review	20%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

### Feedback on assessment

Written comments; opportunity for further oral feedback in office hours

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UENA-Q300 Undergraduate English Literature
- Year 3 of UENA-QP36 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing
- Year 4 of UENA-QP37 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UENA-Q301 Undergraduate English Literature with Intercalated Year
- Year 3 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 4 of UENA-VQ33 Undergraduate English and History (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UENA-QW35 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW26 Undergraduate Film and Literature (with Study Abroad)

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 4 of UCXA-QQ38 Undergraduate Classics and English (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UCXA-QQ37 Undergraduate Classics and English
- Year 3 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year