

**University of Roehampton
International Summer School**

Department: Humanities

Module: Magic, Murder & Mystery in London Literature

Module Code: ENG020N261H

Convener: Lucas Townsend (townsenl@roehampton.ac.uk)

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this module will:

- Foster a curiosity about London as a setting for texts using magic, murder, and mystery as core themes.
- Have a secure knowledge of a range of London-based texts from the Victorian period to the present day.
- Develop historical, literary and psychogeographical knowledge of key locations for texts
- Express themselves using differing pedagogical forms, including a class presentation and research-based academic essay.

Assessments

Assessment for this module will consist of two assignments:

1. **Individual class presentation** on one aspect of the module, to be chosen and arranged in class. Can also cover material from other excursions and your own relevant material. (8-10 minutes – 30% of grade)
2. **Research essay** on any aspect of the module which covers at least one of the class texts in detail, and incorporates secondary critical sources. (Note: this format is subject to change to an in-class, written exam paper format on the final day of class should the instructor find it necessary.) (7-8 pages/2000 words – 70% of grade)

Excursions

There will be two or three “excursions” into London proper as part of the course. During these trips, we will visit, explore, and interact with parts of the city relevant to the course texts and their surrounding issues. The specific times, dates, and activities of these excursions will be decided closer to the running dates of the course, but please bring an Oyster card, as well as additional spending money for food/drink/souvenirs (or pack your own).

Reading List

Please read the following two novels in full by the class that said text will be covered. A limited number of these books will be made available at the Roehampton Library in E-book form (please see the Moodle for the requisite links), but please purchase a physical copy of the book for your own use if you would prefer. There will also be additional short texts that will be required to read, but will be provided as handouts and/or on the Moodle. Research assistance and supplementary critical materials will also be made available.

- Fleming, Ian. *Moonraker*. 1955.
- Greene, Graham. *Brighton Rock*. 1938.

Class Schedule (the three excursion dates are subject to change)

Week 1

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- 10 June:** Introduction to class; important critical theory
11 June: *The Waste Land* by T. S. Eliot (in-class reading, Moodle)
12 June: Excursion 1.
13 June: *Last Night in Soho* by Krysty Wilson-Cairns and Edgar Wright
(in-class film) **3 class presentations**

Week 2

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- 17 June:** *Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene (Parts 1-4) **3 class presentations**
18 June: *Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene (Parts 5-end) **3 class presentations**
19 June: *Moonraker* by Ian Fleming (Chapters 1-7) **3 class presentations**
20 June: Excursion 2.

Week 3

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- 24 June:** *Moonraker* by Ian Fleming (Chapters 8-end); special guest on James Bond.
25 June: “Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans” by Arthur Conan Doyle and “A Study in Emerald” by Neil Gaiman (Moodle).
3 class presentations
26 June: Essay help/office hours/tutorials
27 June: Excursion 3

Essays will be due approximately a week or so after final class period (TBD)