



Fantastic Landscapes

Start date Saturday 27th April

End date Saturday 27th April

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Ms Natasha Pulley

Course code 1819NDX201

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact

Head of Academic Centre Administration
Katherine Roddwell

katherine.roddwell@ice.cam.ac.uk | 01223 746204

To book see: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Natasha Pulley graduated from the University of Oxford with a bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature, and then from the University of East Anglia with a master's degree in Creative Writing. Her first novel, *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street*, was an international bestseller. She works as an associate lecturer at Bath Spa University, and a panel tutor at ICE.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Sense of Place and Fantasy Forests
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Strangeness in the Arctic
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Deserts
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	How to do World-building
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- 1) To give students the opportunity to explore lots of different ways to establish sense of place in their writing, irrespective of genre
- 2) To help students experiment with sense of place in a way that especially suits the fantasy genre
- 3) To give students the opportunity to develop and show their understanding of sense of place, in a friendly class environment with lots of room for questions and feedback

Content:

Session 1: We will discuss sense of place generally, covering a variety of genres and examples where the place informs the story very strongly. We will then focus on fantasy, and how its landscapes can be particular to the genre. We will explore forest settings, and how these tend to function in fantasy stories. There will be a woodland writing exercise.

Session 2: This session will focus on Arctic settings. We will explore why these seem to crop up so much in English writing, even though England has no Arctic areas; we will also discuss cultural bias in fantasy, which cultures English fantasy fiction tends to draw from, and whether this can be problematic. We will also look at Carl Jung's theories of unconscious landscape, and Edmund Burke's ideas about the sublime.

Session 3: The desert. We will look at 'The Star Child', a short story by Oscar Wilde; *A Thousand and One Nights*; and George R. R. Martin's *The Song of Ice and Fire*. We will discuss the cultural hooks on which fantasy tends to hang, and explore how to go about finding unexpected ones through landscape.

Session 4: This session will focus on the nuts and bolts of fantasy world-building, and how a small feature of landscape can unroll a whole narrative. We'll read a section of HP Lovecraft's *In The Mountains of Madness*, followed by a world-building exercise.

Presentation of the course:

The course will include short lectures, class discussions and reading and writing exercises.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Show a good understanding of fantasy world-building, and various ways to approach it
- Demonstrate the ability (through written exercises) to experiment with different settings
- Link landscape with fantastical/magical ideas

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Brogden, James	<i>Hekla's Children</i>	Titan Books, 2017
Du Maurier, Daphne	<i>Rebecca</i>	Virago, 2012
Carter, Angela	<i>The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories</i>	Vintage Digital, 2012
Euripides	<i>Bacchae and Other Plays</i>	Penguin, 2005
Grimm, Jakob and Wilhelm	<i>Household Tales</i>	Kindle, 2012
Hobb, Robin	<i>The Fool's Fate</i>	HarperVoyager, 2011
Holdstock, Robert	<i>Mythago Wood</i>	Gateway, 2012
Jung, CG	<i>Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious</i>	Princeton, 1968
Lovecraft, HP	<i>At The Mountains of Madness</i>	Penguin, 2018
Paver, Michelle	<i>Dark Matter</i>	Orion, 2010
	<i>Thin Air</i>	Orion, 2016
Simmons, Dan	<i>The Terror</i>	Transworld, 2010
Shikibu, Murasaki	<i>The Tale of Genji</i> ('The Reed House')	Penguin, 2002
Tolkien, JRR	<i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	HarperCollins, 2009
	<i>The Monsters and the Critics</i>	HarperCollins, 2013

There is no essential reading. Extracts of relevant work will be provided on the day.

Website addresses

Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious: <https://archive.org/details/collectedworksof91cgju>

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on

ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 07/12/2018