



Introduction to writing fantasy

Start date 10th July 2021

Time 10:00 – 16:45

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Ms Natasha Pulley

Course code 2021NDX235

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact The Creative Writing Team
creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk | 01223 761 278

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* (Bloomsbury) 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	Finding a fantasy idea
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Fantasy language and languages
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Fantastical characters
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Kinds of fantasy
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- to introduce students to fantasy as a genre
- to provide students with basic tools to write fantasy independently

Content:

Session 1 — This session will explore just what fantasy fiction is, how it developed as a genre, and how far back in history its roots go. We will start to talk about how to start imagining a whole fantasy universe, from a single small, manageable image.

Session 2 — Fantasy fiction is infamous for having a particular style. This session will explore where that style comes from, its strengths and weaknesses, and ways to respond to it. We will also look at the use of imaginary languages, from which real-world languages they lean on, to their function in a novel.

Session 3 — An introduction to some of the key archetypes of fantasy, and how using them can enrich an imaginary world.

Session 4 — Fantasy is a huge genre. This session will look at its different subgenres, from historical fantasy like *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell*, to whole-world high fantasies like *Lord of Rings*.

Presentation of the course:

Class discussion, with lectures and some writing exercises.

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

- understand some of the origins of fantasy fiction
- produce some early ideas that could lead to longer stories
- understand some different styles and techniques with which they might approach fantastical ideas in their own writing

Reading and resources list

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

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
Arden, Katherine	<i>The Bear and the Nightingale</i>	Ebury Digital, 2017
Clarke, Susanna	<i>Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell</i>	Bloomsbury, 2009
Gilbert, Zoe	<i>Folk</i>	Bloomsbury, 2017
Hearn, Lian	<i>Across the Nightingale Floor</i>	Picador, 2008
Hobb, Robin	<i>Shaman's Crossing</i>	HarperVoyager, 2008
Ishiguro, Kazuo	<i>The Buried Giant</i>	Faber&Faber, 2015
Kingsnorth, Paul	<i>The Wake</i>	Unbound, 2015
Moore, Thomas	<i>Utopia</i>	Penguin, 2012
Perry, Sarah	<i>Melmoth</i>	Serpent's Tail, 2018

Pratchett, Terry	<i>The Truth</i>	Transworld, 2010
Pulley, Natasha	<i>The Bedlam Stacks</i>	Bloomsbury, 2016
Shannon, Samantha	<i>The Priory of the Orange Tree</i>	Bloomsbury, 2019
Swift, Jonathan	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	Harper Perennial, 2018

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: 11/22/19