

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Writing the Real: Contemporary Non-Fiction  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **6041ENGLIS** (118123)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Joe Moran	Y
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**Academic Level:** FHEQ6      **Credit Value:** 24      **Total Delivered Hours:** 57  
**Total Learning Hours:** 240      **Private Study:** 183

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	13
Online	16
Seminar	26
Tutorial	2

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	essay	critical analysis	25	
Essay	essay	essay	75	

### Aims

1. To analyse a wide variety of writing encompassing the genre of contemporary non-fiction;
2. To problematise questions of genre by exploring works that combine different modes and registers, including autobiography, travel writing, nature writing,

*philosophy and cultural theory;*

*3. To consider how these works particularly engage with the nature of contemporary culture, identity, politics and reality.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically review key issues and debates around the study of contemporary non-fiction;
- 2 Critically evaluate and contextualize these debate, integrating new concepts in readings of contemporary cultural politics and cultural and critical theory;
- 3 Transfer and apply creative skills in order to interpret productively a variety of non-fiction texts in relation to some of these key issues, debates and theories.

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

critical analysis	3	
essay	1	2

## **Outline Syllabus**

*Outline Syllabus:*

*The key texts studied will vary from year to year and will be subject to availability and the expertise of staff teaching on the module, but an example of a syllabus of core texts would be:*

*WG Sebald, *The Rings of Saturn* (1998); Iain Sinclair, *London Orbital* (2002); David Shields, *Reality Hunger: A Manifesto* (2010); Simon Armitage, *Killing Time* (1999); Lorna Sage, *Bad Blood* (2000); Jenny Diski, *Skating to Antarctica* (1997); Eva Hoffman, *Lost in Translation* (1989).*

*Supplementary texts for background/further reading and research by students could include:*

*Tim Lott, *The Scent of Dried Roses* (1997); David Foster Wallace, *Consider the Lobster And Other Essays* (2007); Charles Sprawson, *Haunts of the Black Masseur: The Swimmer as Hero* (1993); Barry Lopez, *Arctic Dreams* (1986); Mark Cocker, *Crow Country* (2007); Andrew Smith, *Moondust* (2005); Richard Mabey, *Nature Cure* (2005); Alain de Botton, *The Art of Travel* (2002); Diana Athill, *Somewhere Towards the End* (2008); Alice Oswald, *Dart* (2002); Geoff Dyer, *The Missing of the Somme* (1994); J.M. Coetzee, *Youth* (2002); Roger Deakin, *Waterlog* (1996); Adam Phillips, *Monogamy* (1996); Marc Auge, *In the Metro* (2002); Jean Baudrillard, *Cool Memories* (1990); Francis Spufford, *The Child that Books Built* (2002); William Fiennes, *The Snow Geese* (2002); Robert Macfarlane, *The Wild Places* (2007); Joan*

*Didion, The Year of Magical Thinking (2005); J.G. Ballard, Miracles of Life (2008); Paul Auster, The Invention of Solitude (1988).*

## **Learning Activities**

Lectures, seminars, Blackboard activity, independent study.

## **Notes**

Writing the Real will explore the genre of contemporary non-fiction, by examining a number of works published from the mid-1980s to the present day. It will cover a wide variety of writing encompassing the description of 'non-fiction' – autobiography, memoir, reportage, travel writing, research and scholarship, poetry, the 'new nature writing' and lyrical works of cultural theory and philosophy – and will be particularly interested in hybrid works that combine these different modes. It will investigate how the genre of contemporary non-fiction is particularly able to explore questions about, for example, the nature of memory, the self, the environment, the human landscape and contemporary reality itself.