

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Codex to Kindle: reading into the digital age
Status: Definitive
Code: **6042ENGLIS** (119268)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

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

Team	Leader
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Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 24 **Total Delivered Hours:** 60
Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 180

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	12
Online	16
Seminar	30
Tutorial	2

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Reflection	Assign 1		30	
Report	Assign 2		30	
Essay	Assign 3		40	

Aims

To introduce students to the material history of the book, from its early form to its

latest incarnation in the e-reader;

To situate the reading experience in a range of different contexts, by looking at real readers at different moments in time and at the fictional/cinematic representations of books and reading;

To develop a critical understanding what happens when we read, through studies of different theories of reading and the reader;

To become more reflective of our own reading habits.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Develop an awareness of the book as material objects; situate print culture, and reading habits in a historical context;
- 2 Generate ideas contributing to a reflective report on their own reading experiences;
- 3 Research, engage with articulate responses to key debates in the history and theorisation of reading.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Ref	2
Rpt	1
Essay	3

Outline Syllabus

1. Introduction - Reading the reader or reading for the plot?: Italo Calvino, If on a Winter's Night a Traveller

2. Books as objects: the impact of print culture.

3. Books as objects in fiction and film -Arturo Perez-Reverte The Dumas Club (1993)

4. Reading the world: Northanger Abbey (1817)

5. Readers and reading communities, social changes in reading habits and audiences:Albert Manguel A History of Reading; Robert Darnton;

6. Reading the signs: gendered readers: Susan Glaspell:' A Jury of Her Peers' (1916)

7. Reading and class: Jonathon Rose, excerpts from working-class diaries and autobiographies

8. Real readers (The Reading Experience Database)

9. Death of the author, birth of the reader? Theorising reading.

William James; Iser; Jauss; Barthes; Bourdieu; de Certeau;

10. Reading as consumption: reading and genre fiction: Laurie King, The Language of

Bees (2009)

11: Reading and reading 'The Reader': (2008)

Learning Activities

Keeping a Reading Diary/blog
Online searches of RED
Lectures
Seminars

Notes

This module looks at changes in the book as material object and thinks about changes in what we read, how we read and the ways in which we think about reading as an activity. From the development of bound books (the codex) to new digital cultures (Kindle), it examines the changing dynamics of our relationship with the printed word. It also considers the very different experiences of real readers at different moments in time and within these shifting print cultures through drawing on a range of resources, including recent online facilities such as the Reading Experience Database. Debates around the process of reading and the construction of the reader are addressed through looking at fictional and cinematic representations of books and reading but also different theoretical models of reading. The determining effects of gender, class, politics and genre on how we read is also considered through study of short stories and novels.