

COURSE DETAIL

OXFORD AND THE RISE OF FANTASY LITERATURE

Country

United Kingdom - England

Host Institution

Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford

Program(s)

Summer in Oxford, Lady Margaret Hall

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

English Comparative Literature

UCEAP Course Number

118

UCEAP Course Suffix

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UCEAP Official Title

OXFORD AND THE RISE OF FANTASY LITERATURE

UCEAP Transcript Title

HIST OF FANTASY LIT

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

The course traces a history of the fantasy genre's formation and crystallization, from its medieval beginnings to the present. It looks at the story-telling and world-building literary devices used by Geoffrey of Monmouth, who wrote his medieval bestseller about King Arthur in Oxford Castle, and the authors of Renaissance Romance fantasies. It also explores Margaret Cavendish's *The Blazing World*, a forerunner of science fiction, and 18th-century Gothic fantasies which paved the way for Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. The course follows Oxford's own Lewis Carroll, Scottish fantasy author George Macdonald, and the pre-Raphaelite William Morris through to Tolkien and Lewis and beyond. It also considers recent critical approaches to the fantasy genre as well as discusses whether these pre-21st century texts lend themselves with ease to the modern media of cinema, TV serialization, or computer games, and which adjustments have been made or are still to be made to make them relevant to our own times.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

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OXFORD AND THE RISE OF FANTASY LITERATURE

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/oxford-and-rise-fantasy-literature>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2026-2027

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