

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

Academic School/Department:	General Education
Programme:	Combined Studies
Level:	3
Course Title:	Myth, Magic and Science
Course Code:	FYS 3115
Course Leader:	Sara Chetin
Student Engagement Hours:	160
Lectures:	30
Seminar / Tutorials:	30
Independent / Guided Learning :	100
Semester:	Fall or Spring
Credits:	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course examines the Science (or lack of it!) behind many of our familiar and not so familiar myths and legends which have been passed down through generations across many different cultures. We examine alchemy, astrology, magic and witchcraft. What about mythical creatures-so beloved of Hollywood! Why do some people in Central Europe still hang garlic around their windows? What are ghosts? Are they just a product of an overactive imagination or is there real evidence that they exist? We use today's advanced science to examine how the scholars and scientists of the 14th Century perceived and interpreted their world, given their limited resources. With the backdrop of 'Olde London Town', with its numerous museums, students can actually retrace the steps of the early scientists and philosophers who helped shape our thinking today.

Prerequisites: none

Aims and Objectives:

- To enable student to understand basic ideas related to science and myths in the Middle Ages
- To provide students with the ability to conceptually understand what life was like in a completely different historical time
- To use London as a resource for retracing key scientific and philosophical

influences

- To introduce students to the means by which they can monitor, build and reflect upon their personal development.

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

3A(i); 3B(i); 3C(i); 3D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic science of astrology and the controversy surrounding it
- Critically assess the scientific basis for alchemy, its important during the Middle Ages and its relation to modern day chemistry
- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate the information gained by scientists and philosophers and relate this to our understanding of science, technology and medicine today
- Present scientific evidence for and against the existence of certain myths and legends and explain their cultural and historical contexts
- Demonstrate a reflection of their own academic and social skills and be able to plan for their personal, educational and career development.

Indicative Content:

Alchemy
Astrology
Extraordinary Phenomena and human senses
Witchcraft
Astronomy
Mythical Creatures; Legends and Diseases
PDP

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

Course meetings consist of interactive lectures on assigned readings, film viewings, small group discussions and reflection activities. Student work is assessed through a variety of ways using both formative and summative approaches. Feedback is intended to help improved student approach to learning and achieve better results.

