

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Real and Imagined Journeys: Italy, Epic and the Self</b>
<b>Course Code:</b>	LIT 5805
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Monica Giovanini
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	<i>Fall/Spring/Summer</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

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### **Course Description**

ITALIAN STUDY CENTRES ONLY. This course explores the concept of the journey in its archetypal, metaphysical, and aesthetic dimensions, reflecting on the subtle interplay of reality and imagination. Students discover Italian shores with Homer's Ulysses and visit the underworld with Virgil's Aeneas; they encounter Dante's Satan and God, travel to the Far-East with the Venetian merchant Marco Polo, and join Columbus on his discovery of the New World. The perception of 'otherness' through invented geography, fantastic animals, monstrous races or religious difference mingles with the spirit of adventure, the desire to cross borders, and to conquer the unknown in a fascinating search for the self.

**Prerequisites:** GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

### **Aims and Objectives:**

The course aims to:

- Explore the broad concept of the journey, considered from different points of view

- Highlight the importance of the Italian journey as a form of personal and cultural development
- Compare the famous imaginary journeys of classical and Christian literature with the chronicles of real journeys and explorations.
- Analyse the importance of Italy as a cultural space, and its historical significance in mapping the globe and shaping the global literary and cultural imagination.

**Programme Outcomes:**

A5i, A5ii, B5ii; C5ii, C5iii, D5ii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:  
<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

- demonstrate a critical understanding of the key concept of the journey in the major works of Homer, Virgil and Dante
- demonstrate a critical understanding of the socio-cultural contexts and themes that have shaped the study of Mediterranean cultures and world literature
- deliver work that demonstrates both critical and creative engagement with the real and imaginary journeys studied

**Indicative Content:**

- Site visits and lessons
- The symbolism of the journey
- The journey as a quest: The *Odyssey* as archetypal journey
- The journey as divine lesson: Virgil's *Aeneid* and Virgil's underworld
- Sea adventures; Dido.
- Dante's *Divine Comedy*: Christian culture, the spiritual journey, the pilgrim and the guide.
- Sinners, cannibals, monsters. Ulysses.
- Mapping Medieval, Hellish Florence
- Carlo Lorenzini's *Pinocchio*: the life journey and Comencini's *Pinocchio*
- Realism and the stereotypes of imagination in the illustrations to Marco Polo's *Millione*
- Columbus' journey to India. Amerigo Vespucci

**Assessment:**


