1. **Title of the module**

FREN8070 (FR807) – Postmodern French Detective Fiction

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

School of European Culture and Languages

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 7

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

30 Credits (15 ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn or Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

Optional for MA Modern French Studies

Optional for MA French and Comparative Literature; MA Comparative Literature

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

8.1 Engage critically with a variety of approaches to and uses of the tropes of detective fiction in French literary fiction from the post-war period to the present day;

8.2 Explore the ways in which aspects of crime fiction are deployed within French literary texts of the post-war period;

8.3 Appreciate the similarities and differences between the ways in which ‘nouveaux romans’, Oulipian novels, overtly postmodern novels and more recent auto-fictional texts adopt aspects of detective fiction in order to explore questions of epistemology and hermeneutics;

8.4 Explore the ways in which aspects of genre fiction and literary fiction interact;

8.5 Demonstrate the ability to analyse theoretical and literary works which employ elements of genre fiction in their exploration of epistemological and hermeneutic questions.

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

9.1 Demonstrate the ability to read and to evaluate information closely and critically;

9.2 Demonstrate the ability to participate in theoretical and literary debate;

9.3 Demonstrate refined written communication skills, including the structuring of an original and logically coherent argument;

9.4 Demonstrate the ability to engage in independent research and writing;

9.5 Demonstrate library and bibliographical research skills;

9.6 Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development;

9.7 Produce a piece of writing which is appropriately presented and referenced in accordance with professional standards.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module examines a selection of French novels from the second half of the twentieth century. Each of these novels employs the tropes of detective fiction as part of a wider literary project. The module invites students to analyse the ways in which the hermeneutic imperative of detective fiction is deployed within literary (and often experimental) fiction from this period. The nature of postmodern literature will be considered throughout the module. The corpus will include nouveaux romans, works by the Oulipo writer Georges Perec, the postmodern detective fictions of Pennac and Echenoz, and Amélie Nothomb’s autofiction. Students will be encouraged to explore questions of genre fiction, the productive interplay between genre fiction and literary fiction during this period, and the ways in which the tropes of detective fiction are used by these writers in order to explore questions of knowledge and truth.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Any edition:

Jean Echenoz, *Cherokee* [1983]

Sébastien Japrisot, *Un été meurtrier / One Deadly Summer* [1977]

Amélie Nothomb, *Hygiène de l’assassin* */ Hygiene and the Assassin* [1992]

Daniel Pennac, *Au bonheur des ogres / The Scapegoat* [1985]

Georges Perec, *La Disparition / A Void* [1969]

Alain Robbe-Grillet, *Les Gommes / The Erasers* [1953]

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total Contact Hours: 20

Private Study Hours: 280

Total Study Hours: 300

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

* Essay (5,000 words) – 100%
  1. Reassessment methods
* Reassessment Instrument: 100% Coursework

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

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| **Module learning outcome** | *8.1* | *8.2* | *8.3* | *8.4* | *8.5* | *9.1* | *9.2* | *9.3* | *9.4* | *9.5* | *9.6* | *9.7* |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Seminar | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Essay | **x** |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/ declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

This module, by its very nature, is international in scope: it focuses on texts written in French by French and Belgian authors, which may be studied either in English or in French. Its topic – postmodernism – is an international movement in thought and art. The content and assessment of this module is necessarily international in its focus.

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**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
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| Revised FSO Jan 2018 |