FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

COURSE CHANGE REQUEST
Undergraduate Programs

Department English

College Arts and Letters

UUPC Approval 3-30-26
UFS Approval _____
SCNS Submittal _____
Confirmed _____
Banner Posted _____
Catalog _____

***Current* Course Prefix and Number**	LIT 3312	***Current* Course Title**	Fantasy Literature

*Syllabus must be attached for **ANY** changes to current course details. See Template. Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.*

Change title to:

Change prefix

From: **To:**

Change course number

From: **To:**

Change credits*

From: **To:**

Change grading

From: **To:**

Change WAC/Gordon Rule status**

Add ☐ **Remove** ☐

Change General Education Requirements***

Add ☐ **Remove** ☐

*See Definition of a Credit Hour.

**WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.

***GE criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

Change description to:

Selected readings in 19th- through 21st-century fantasy, drawn from authors such as J.R.R. Tolkien, Robert E. Howard, C.L. Moore, Peter S. Beagle, Ursula K. Le Guin, Sofia Samatar, China Miéville, Nalo Hopkinson, Victor LaValle, and Silvia Moreno-Garcia.

Change prerequisites/minimum grades to:

Change corequisites to:

Change registration controls to:

Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).

Effective Term/Year for Changes:	Fall 2026	**Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:**	

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Regis M. Fox mannr@fau.edu

Approved by		***Date***
Department Chair	Olivia Smith	03/12/2026
College Curriculum Chair	Robin Larson	03/16/2026
College Dean		03/16/2026
UUPC Chair	Korey Sorge	3-30-26
Undergraduate Studies Dean	Dan Meeroff	3-30-26
UFS President		
Provost		

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

LIT 3312-001 14598

Fantasy Literature

Date: Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM
Building: Arts and Letters Boca **Room:** 345
3 Credit(s)
Fall 2026 - 1 Full Term

Instructor Information

Timothy Miller
Email: millert@fau.edu
Office: CU 341
Office Hours: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. T/Th
Phone: n/a

Course Description

Fantasy Literature
Selected readings in 19th- through 21st-century fantasy, drawn from authors such as J.R.R. Tolkien, Robert E. Howard, C.L. Moore, Peter S. Beagle, Ursula K. Le Guin, Sofia Samatar, China Miéville, Nalo Hopkinson, Victor LaValle, and Silvia Moreno-Garcia.

"Blessed are the legend-makers with their rhyme of things not found within recorded time."

--J. R. R. Tolkien, "Mythopoeia"

"To pretend that this addictive cabbage is anything more than the worst sort of pulp historical romance or western is, however, a depressing sign of our intellectual decline and our free-falling academic standards."

--Michael Moorcock on mass market fantasy literature

Elves, dragons, and unicorns -- oh my! Readers of The Lord of the Rings or viewers of Game of Thrones may feel that they have a sense of the common characteristics of fantasy literature and what we are likely to encounter as visitors to a fantasy world. But how should we define the genre more specifically, and how should we understand its history? Is fantasy "the oldest mode of storytelling," dating back to Homer and Gilgamesh and ancient Egypt? Or is it a marketing category specific to the 20th century and later? A byproduct of the Enlightenment? Secularization? Did J.R.R. Tolkien write fantasy himself, or did he write before there was any such thing? Or had fantasy already been long established, and therefore we should view Tolkien as an imitator of a genre that earlier writers such as George MacDonald and Lord Dunsany created? What, also, does fantasy have to do with neighboring or even perhaps overlapping categories such as magical realism, surrealism, science fiction, horror, the fairytale, or the so-called "weird fiction" pioneered by H.P Lovecraft and others? This course aims to introduce you to some of the major authors of fantasy literature from the past century, as well as familiarize you with the current state of the field. We will also be discussing various critical theories of the fantastic and fantasy writing, and investigate how, for example, women and writers of color such as Ursula K. Le Guin and Nnedi Okorafor have found fantasy a unique vehicle for expressing their experiences despite the previously limited access of such people to the field. At various points in the semester, we will also be discussing the fantastic in other media including film and the visual arts. In terms of structure, the course will proceed through three units, and, at the end of each, you will write a critical essay about one or more of the texts read and discussed during that unit.

Instructional Method

In-Person
Traditional concept of in person. Mandatory attendance is at the discretion of the instructor.

Required Texts/Materials

Last Unicorn
ISBN: 9780451450524
Publisher: New American Library

Hobbit
ISBN: 9780618260300
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company Trade & Reference Division

Wizard of Earthsea
ISBN: 9780547722023
Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers

Piranesi
ISBN: 9781635575644
Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing UK
Edition: 1st

Brown Girl in the Ring
ISBN: 9780446674331
Publisher: Warner Books, Incorporated

The Hobbit
ISBN: 9780547951973
Publisher: HarperCollins

A Wizard of Earthsea
ISBN: 9780544084377
Publisher: HarperCollins

Who Fears Death
ISBN: 9780756417109
Publisher: Penguin Random House LLC

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

Elves, dragons, and unicorns -- oh my! Readers of The Lord of the Rings or viewers of Game of Thrones may feel that they have a sense of the common characteristics of fantasy literature and what we are likely to encounter as visitors to a fantasy world. But how should we define the genre more specifically, and how should we understand its history? Is fantasy "the oldest mode of storytelling," dating back to Homer and Gilgamesh and ancient Egypt? Or is it a marketing category specific to the 20th century and later? A byproduct of the Enlightenment? Secularization? Did J.R.R. Tolkien write fantasy himself, or did he write before there was any such thing? Or had fantasy already been long established, and therefore we should view Tolkien as an imitator of a genre that earlier writers such as George MacDonald and Lord Dunsany created? What, also, does fantasy have to do with neighboring or even perhaps overlapping categories such as magical realism, surrealism, science fiction, horror, the fairytale, or the so-called

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Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

Florida Atlantic University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative to:

• Establish and implement academic standards.

• Establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class.

• Recommend disciplinary action for students whose behavior may be judged as disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct University Regulation 4.007.

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Course Evaluation Method

Your assignments during the semester will consist of the following, and represent the according portion of your final grade:

30%: Lively class participation and regular attendance

-Each unexcused absence from class beyond the second will result in grade reduction in this category

-As a part of class participation, submitting quotation discussion questions will be a

standing assignment: by 9:30 a.m. every day that class meets beyond the first week, each

student will have submitted at least one discussion question about the reading(s) to be

discussed that day in class on our Canvas page; each discussion question must be tied to a particular passage from the text you quote and wish to examine and analyze at greater length. These questions are intended to help stimulate and focus conversation in class

meetings around your collective interests and insights. You do not need to respond to

anyone else's question in the online space: they are intended for class use.

-There are approximately 25 class meetings for which discussion questions can be

submitted: a student will need to submit questions on 20 days in order to receive full

credit, meaning that you can miss one here and there without a grade reduction

20% -- Practice Critical Essay: 4-6 pages in length

-As with all of the essays to follow this semester, you may write on any topic of your

choice related to the reading thus far in the course, and a list of sample topics / prompts

will be provided in advance; your argument must be driven by analysis of direct

quotations from the texts

20% -- Longer Critical Essay: 5-6 pages in length, citing at least one secondary source

30% -- Researched Critical Essay: 6-8 pages in length, citing at least two secondary sources

required

-This assignment effectively replaces the final exam for the course, and is due when our

final exam would normally take place

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

Attendance Policy Statement

Students are expected to attend all their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Religious Accommodation Policy Statement

In accordance with the rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs regarding admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. University Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances, sets forth this policy for FAU and may be accessed on the FAU website at www.fau.edu/regulations.

Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the executive director of The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. Any such

grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University's established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination.

Time Commitment Per Credit Hour

For traditionally delivered courses, not less than one (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction each week for fifteen (15) weeks per Fall or Spring semester, and a minimum of two (2) hours of out-of-class student work for each credit hour. Equivalent time and effort are required for Summer Semesters, which usually have a shortened timeframe. Fully Online courses, hybrid, shortened, intensive format courses, and other non-traditional modes of delivery will demonstrate equivalent time and effort.

Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Letter Grade
A	94 - 100%
A-	90 - 93%
B+	87 - 89%
B	83 - 86%
B-	80 - 82%
C+	77 - 79%
C	73 - 76%
C-	70 - 72%
D+	67 - 69%
D	63 - 66%
D-	60 - 62%
F	Below 60

Grade Appeal Process

You may request a review of the final course grade when you believe that one of the following conditions apply:

• There was a computational or recording error in the grading.

• The grading process used non-academic criteria.

• There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.

University Regulation 4.002 of the University Regulations contains information on the grade appeals process

Policy on Make-up Tests, Late work, and Incompletes

Consult the instructor to request an extension.

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

Artificial Intelligence Preamble

FAU recognizes the value of generative AI in facilitating learning. However, output generated by artificial intelligence (AI), such as written words, computations, code, artwork, images, music, etc., for example, is drawn from previously published materials and is not your own original work.

FAU students are not permitted to use AI for any course work unless explicitly allowed to do so by the instructor of the class for a specific assignment. **[Policy 12.16 Artificial Intelligence]**

Class policies related to AI use are decided by the individual faculty. Some faculty may permit the use of AI in some assignments but not others, and some faculty may prohibit the use of AI in their course entirely. In the case that an instructor permits the use of AI for some assignments, the assignment instructions will indicate when and how the use of AI is permitted in that specific assignment. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the instructor's expectations for each assignment in each course. When AI is authorized, the student is also responsible and accountable for the content of the work. AI may

generate inaccurate, false, or exaggerated information. Users should approach any generated content with skepticism and review any information generated by AI before using generated content as-is.

If you are unclear about whether or not the use of AI is permitted, ask your instructor before starting the assignment.

Failure to comply with the requirements related to the use of AI may constitute a violation of the **Florida Atlantic Code of Academic Integrity, Regulation 4.001.**

Proper Citation: If the use of AI is permitted for a specific assignment, then use of the AI tool must be properly documented and cited. For more information on how to properly cite the use of AI tools, visit **https://fau.edu/ai/citation**

AI Language Specific To This Course

- AI Prohibited: The use of AI to assist in any work assigned in this specific course is prohibited.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (**CAPS**) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to http://www.fau.edu/counseling/

Student Support Services and Online Resources

- Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS)
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- FAU Libraries
- Math Learning Center
- Office of Information Technology Helpdesk
- Center for Global Engagement
- Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI)
- Science Learning Center

- Speaking Center
- Student Accessibility Services
- Student Athlete Success Center (SASC)
- Testing and Certification
- Test Preparation
- University Academic Advising Services
- University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW)
- Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)

Course Topical Outline

Course Calendar:

The many short readings marked with a single asterisk (*) are accessible online via the hyperlink provided. The others you are responsible for obtaining access to.

Unit 1: Revisiting "Classic" Fantasy

Week 1 -- What Is Fantasy?

Tues.

->We will discuss the history and definition(s) of "fantasy"

Thurs.

*Charles Perrault’s “Bluebeard” (1697), via Andrew Lang’s The Blue Fairy Book (1889):

https://www.pitt.edu/~dash/perrault03.html

*Angela Carter, “The Bloody Chamber” (1979):
https://www.angelfire.com/falcon/rote/CARTER.html#the_bloody_chamber

*Nalo Hopkinson, “The Glass Bottle Trick” (2000): https://psychopomp.com/fantasy/oct-2014-issue-58-women-destroy-fantasy-special-issue/the-glass-bottle-trick/

Week 2 -- Defining and Defending Fantasy

Tues.

-J. R. R. Tolkien, The Hobbit (1937), Chapters 1-5

*George MacDonald, “The Fantastic Imagination” (1893): https://www.worksofmacdonald.com/the-fantastic-imagination

Thurs.

-J. R. R. Tolkien, The Hobbit (1937), Chapters 6-10

*J. R. R. Tolkien, excerpt from “On Fairy-stories”: read only pages 27-36 of this document, the section titled "Recovery, Escape, Consolation" to the end of the main text: https://coolcalvary.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/on-fairy-stories1.pdf

Week 3 -- Tolkien and Other Versions of the Fantastic

Tues.

-J. R. R. Tolkien, The Hobbit (1937), Chapters 11-15

*Rebecca Brackmann, “Dwarves are Not Heroes”: Antisemitism and the Dwarves in J. R. R. Tolkien’s Writing” (2010): https://dc.swosu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1172&context=mythlore

Thurs.

*Excerpt from Tolkien's posthumously published "legendarium" The Silmarillion (1977), "Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age" (skip to near the end of the book to locate it): https://s3.us-west-1.wasabisys.com/luminist/EB/T/Tolkein%20-%20The%20Silmarillion.pdf

*Gabriel García Márquez, "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" (1968, trans. 1971): http://www.thesainttimothyschool.org/s/Marquez_A-Very-Old-Man-With-Enormous-Wings.pdf

Week 4 -- Going to Wizard School Before Harry Potter

Tues.

-Ursula Le Guin, A Wizard of Earthsea (1968), Ch. 1-4

Thurs.

-Ursula Le Guin, A Wizard of Earthsea (1968), Ch. 4-7

Week 5 -- Fantasy and Metafantasy

Tues.

-Ursula Le Guin, A Wizard of Earthsea (1968), Ch. 8-end

*Ursula K. Le Guin, "The Critics, the Monsters, and the Fantasists" (2007): https://romantic-circles.org/sites/default/files/imported/reference/wcircle/leguin.pdf

Thurs.

-Peter S. Beagle, The Last Unicorn (1968), Chapters 1-5

->PRACTICE CRITICAL ESSAY DUE (4-6 pgs.) to Canvas by 11:59 PM<-

Week 6 -- Fairytales Live Forever

Tues.

-Peter S. Beagle, The Last Unicorn (1968), Chapters 6-10

Thurs.

-Peter S. Beagle, The Last Unicorn (1968), Chapters 11-end

Week 7 -- From Fairytale to Fantasy, and Back Again

Tues.

*VIEW Guillermo del Toro's film Pan's Labyrinth (2006) for discussion today:

https://digitalcampus.swankmp.net/fau287697/watch/D7AEE2D8D3B8F0E5

**Using Google Image Search or another search engine, browse through some of the fantastical illustrations of artists such as Gustave Doré, Francisco Goya, Arthur Rackham, and Brian Froud

Thurs.

*Ursula Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (1973): http://harelbarzilai.org/words/omelas.txt

*Sofia Samatar, “Selkie Stories Are for Losers” (2013): http://strangehorizons.com/fiction/selkie-stories-are-for-losers/

Week 8 -- New Mythologies in the Pulp Magazines

Tues.

*H. P. Lovecraft, "The Doom That Came to Sarnath" (1919): http://www.hplovecraft.com/writings/texts/fiction/ds.aspx

*C. L. Moore, "The Black God's Kiss" (1934): https://archive.org/details/WeirdTalesV24N04193410saspages4856Damaged/page/n3/mode/2up

*Robert E. Howard, "The Phoenix on the Sword" (1932):

http://www.hyborien.nu/original-stories/The%20Phoenix%20on%20the%20Sword.pdf

Thurs.

*WATCH Alice, dir. Jan Švankmajer (1988): https://fau.kanopy.com/video/alice

Week 9 -- Fantasy Freed from Tolkien: Other Traditions of the Fantastic

Tues.

-Nalo Hopkinson, Brown Girl in the Ring (1998), Prologue-Chapter Four

(1-82)

Thurs.

-Nalo Hopkinson, Brown Girl in the Ring (1998), Chapter Five-Eight (83-166)

->LONGER CRITICAL ESSAY DUE (5-6 pgs.) to Canvas before 11:59 PM<-

Week 10 -- Tradition and the Future

Tues.

-Nalo Hopkinson, Brown Girl in the Ring (1998), Chapter Nine-End (167-end)

Thurs.

-Nnedi Okorafor, Who Fears Death (2010), Chapters 1-9 [CW: sexual violence]

Week 11 – Fantasy and “Africanjujuism”

Tues.

-Nnedi Okorafor, Who Fears Death (2010), Chapters 10-25

Thurs., Apr. 2

-Nnedi Okorafor, Who Fears Death (2010), Chapters 26-39

Week 12 -- Fantasy in the Present and the Future

Tues.

-Nnedi Okorafor, Who Fears Death (2010), Chapters 40-51

Thurs.

-Nnedi Okorafor, Who Fears Death (2010), Chapters 52-end

Week 13 -- Inverting Portal Fantasy

Tues.

Susanna Clarke, Piranesi (2010), Parts One and Two

Thurs.

Susanna Clarke, Piranesi (2010), Parts Three and Four

Week 14 -- Looking Back and Looking Forward

Tues.

Susanna Clarke, Piranesi (2010), Part Five to End

Thurs.

*Julio Cortázar, "Axolotl" (1956, trans. 1967):

https://ambystoma.uky.edu/teachers_materials/axolitbook/AxolotlByJulioCortazar.html

->We will also conclude with a retrospective discussion of the course as a whole.

->UNIT 3 CRITICAL ESSAY DUE (6-8 pgs.) to Canvas by the end of what would be our regularly assigned exam period<-

Remember that there is no final examination in this course: put as much effort into crafting a well-argued final essay as you would into preparing for an exam in one of your other courses.

Note: This course calendar remains subject to change at the instructor's discretion; as Torquato Tasso puts it, "So fickle and changing is this world, we find that to be constant we must change our mind" (Gerusalemme Liberata, Canto V, trans. Anthony Esolen).

Title IX Statement

In any case involving allegations of sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report the matter to the University Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX (OCR9). If University faculty become aware of an allegation of sexual misconduct, they are expected to report it to OCR9. If a report is made, someone from OCR9 and/or Campus Victim Services will contact you to make you aware of available resources including support services, supportive measures, and the University's grievance procedures. More information, including contact information for OCR9, is available at **https://www.fau.edu/ocr9/title-ix/**. You may also contact Victim Services at **victimservices@fau.edu** or 561-297-0500 (ask to speak to an Advocate) or schedule an appointment with a counselor at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) by calling 561-297-CAPS.