

# Conceiving Fantasy: Interdisciplinary Research and Methods

21:525:101

Spring 2023

Laura Troiano  
Email: [LTroiano11@gmail.com](mailto:LTroiano11@gmail.com)  
Phone: 973-353-3905  
Classroom: ENG 201

Monday and Wednesday: 10:00-11:20am  
Office Hours: By Appointment Only  
Office: ENG 219

---

## Course Description:

In this course we will be putting theory into practice by exploring the numerous processes and options for engaging in research and the varied methodologies we can use to produce a scholarly project. Using fantasy as our frame, we will explore how shaping fantasy spaces allows for a unique insight into American culture and provides us with ways to employ interdisciplinary research, methods, and production.

## Readings:

All readings are posted on Canvas.

You are required to read EVERYTHING that is listed on the schedule BEFORE you attend class.

It is essential that you have each day's readings with you during class.

## Grading and Assignments:

The percentage breakdown for the course will be as follows:

Assignment #1:	15%
Assignment #2:	20%
Assignment #3:	20%
Assignment #4:	30%
Class Participation:	15%

## **Class Participation and Attendance:**

Attending class is not optional. Class lectures not only include discussions on your assigned readings, but the material presented is what you will be writing about. In-class participation is essential to this discussion driven course. Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

## **Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Cheating**

*As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>*

**All students are required to sign the Rutgers Academic Integrity Pledge and the Rutgers Honor Pledge on all assignments.**

“On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment.

---

## Semester Schedule

**January 18:** *What is Fantasy? What is a Theme Park?*

**January 23:** *World's Columbian Exposition – 1893*

**January 25:** *Coney Island's "Freakshows" and New Jersey Amusements*

**January 30:** *New York World's Fairs 1939 & 1964*

**February 1:** *Malls: A Consumers' Republic*

**February 6:** *Disneyland/Disneyworld: Part I*

**February 8:** *Disneyland/Disneyworld: Part II*

**February 13:** *Disney's Frontierland*

**February 15:** *Maps: Northeast Heading Southwest*

**February 20:** *Disney's Tomorrowland*

**February 22:** *International Theme Parks*

**February 27:** *Religious Theme Parks*

**March 1:** *Group Project Overview via Mary Douglas' Taboo*

**March 6:** *Rides & Rollercoasters*

**March 8:** *Immersive Theater & Escape Rooms*

**March 13 & March 15 – Spring Break**

**March 20:** *DWB*

**March 22:** *Trauma & Memory*

**March 27:** *Concept Maps*

**March 29:** *Boardgames*

**April 3:** *Video Games: Part I*

**April 5:** *Video Games: Part II*

**April 10:** **In-Class Group Project Work**

**April 12:** **Sawyer Seminar:** *The Pandemic and the City: Art, Medicine, Migration*

**April 17:** *Theory of Everything*

**April 19:** *Presentations 1 & 2*

**April 24:** *Presentations 3 & 4*

**April 26:** *Presentations 5 & 6*

**May 5:** **Final Paper Due at 5:00pm**

---

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](https://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ods@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or [DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu).

- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>.
- **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.
- **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu). To submit an incident report: [tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm](http://tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm). To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **NOT** have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu).

### **Learning Resources:**

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)  
Room 140, Bradley Hall  
(973) 353-5608  
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center>
- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)  
Room 126, Conklin Hall  
(973) 353-5847  
[nwc@rutgers.edu](mailto:nwc@rutgers.edu)  
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>