



ARTS2040

The Contemporary Classic: Writing the World

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Associate Professor Fiona Morrison	f.morrison@unsw.edu.au	Tuesday 2:30-3:30	Webster 209	93855275

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

When we read contemporary literature, how do we know what is valuable, good or lasting? Do we decide about literary value based on timelessness and complexity or daring and beauty? How important is taste or personal preference? In reading a set of major works from the last twenty years, this course investigates how and why "classic" texts emerge in the present.

The group of contemporary literary works that we might call "classic" is an intensely global one. While this course will focus on key literary elements of major works such as style and genre, we will also discuss the significance of global circulation and visual adaptation. This course will provide you with practical critical resources for reading, writing, reviewing and teaching global/contemporary novels, poems and plays. This course is designed for those of you who love to read contemporary literature or who want to discover more about great worldly writing. If you are completing a program in Education Studies, you will be offered the option of pursuing your study of Australian Literature through a pedagogical rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain a number of theoretical issues in global and transnational writing and analyse literary and film texts to locate the significance and operation of these issues
2. Analyse a range of ways in which questions of literary value and literary form emerge in the context of global literatures across a range of genres.
3. Employ a critical and theoretically informed approach to texts under discussion, appropriately supported by scholarly resources.
4. Construct lucid written arguments based upon close analysis of literary language, ethical use of scholarly resources, and the key theoretical concepts structuring the course.

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught through lectures and tutorials. Lectures provide contextual information, outlines of critical responses to the texts and some close discussion. Tutorials require students to engage actively with the lecture and reading material and develop their own critical responses.

Assessment

I have set two assessments. The log assessment will support some reading in theories of world literature, and form a scaffold for the major essay due at the beginning of Week 11.

The first assessment also has an option for education students: you may submit a detailed lesson plan in accordance with instructions about length, critical reading and your study of Contemporary Literature. The course description specifies Australian Literature and this is a typo.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research task	40%	11/03/2020 05:00 PM	2, 3
Major Essay	60%	07/05/2020 05:00 PM	1, 2, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research task

Length: 1500

Details:

Individual

1500 words

Students undertake research and a reflection on the question of literary value

Percentage: 40

Feedback via LMS

Additional details:

This research tasks comprises 4 annotated bibliographic entries in total, including two readings on questions of literary value and two readings on contemporary world literature.

Assessment 2: Major Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2000-2500

Details:

Individual

2,500 words

Students will respond to a set question that requires a comparative analysis of two texts. One text must come from the first four weeks of the course.

Percentage: 60

Feedback via LMS

MS.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Lecture	Introduction: Contemporary literature, world literature and literary value
	Tutorial	Introduction: Part 1 - personal introductions and overview of course structure, texts and assessment. Part 2 - Discussion of close reading and focussed work on a choice of short texts (to be provided)
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Lecture	Marilynne Robinson, <i>Gilead</i>
	Tutorial	Marilynne Robinson, <i>Gilead</i>
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Lecture	The Global Short Story Olympics
	Tutorial	The Global Short Story - a collection of famous exponents of the 'world' short story will be discussed.
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Lecture	Jez Butterworth, <i>The Ferryman</i>
	Tutorial	Jez Butterworth, <i>The Ferryman</i>
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Lecture	Alice Oswald, <i>Dart</i>
	Tutorial	Alice Oswald, <i>Dart</i>
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Reading	FLEX WEEK
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Lecture	Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>Never Let Me Go</i>
	Tutorial	Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>Never Let Me Go</i>
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Lecture	The Global Novel and Kiran Desai's <i>The Inheritance of Loss</i>
	Tutorial	The Global Novel and Kiran Desai's <i>The Inheritance of Loss</i>
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Lecture	First Nations writing, Global Literature and the Australian Indigenous classic on a classic Leah Purcell's <i>The Drover's Wife</i>
	Tutorial	Leah Purcell's <i>The Drover's Wife</i>
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Lecture	Return to ideas of contemporary global writing and literary value, general overview of the Margaret Atwood case study (<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , 1985 and <i>The Testaments</i> , 2020) and some provocations about what the idea of an 'experimental' classic (including some consideration of graphic novels, performance poetry and recommendations from

	students).
Tutorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Workshop ideas of literary value, general discussion of the Margaret Atwood case study (The Handmaid's Tale, 1985 and The Testaments, 2020) Discussion of the idea of the 'experimental' classic (including some consideration of graphic novels, performance poetry and recommendations from students). •Best in show - voting for the 'classic' classic and review of what else could be included in the lists of the 'contemporary classics' •Preview major essay and discussion of effective writing strategies

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Books can be found in the UNSW bookshop and from reputable retailers

Moodle will provide other resources

Recommended Resources

Not available

Course Evaluation and Development

Course feedback will be sought informally in seminars and formally through MyExperience surveys. I will comment on the important role of feedback in ARTS2040 in Lecture 1.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.