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ARTS2020

Creative Writing

Term Three // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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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

Subject Area: *Creative Writing*

This course can also be studied in the following specialisation: *English*

The aim of this course is to familiarise you with a wide range of contemporary literature and to encourage you to experiment with a variety of different styles and genres in your own writing. By undertaking this course you will acquire a practical understanding of how literature works by developing your critical reading skills, and will have the opportunity to gain feedback on your own writing in a supportive workshop environment. You will also develop the craft skills necessary to generate, revise and edit your own work.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge of movements, styles and genres in contemporary literature
2. Identify formal elements of literature and how they operate in specific genres
3. Understand the practical decisions writers make in relation to the craft of writing
4. Appreciate the importance of the critical faculty to the creative process
5. Critically appraise their own work and the work of others
6. Draft, revise and edit their own manuscripts

Teaching Strategies

Rationale for the inclusion of content and teaching approach

There is no 'canon' in Creative Writing pedagogy so the material in the course reader is an inevitable reflection of the individual tastes of the course convenor and the lecturers. Nonetheless, these readings have been selected to give you a feel for the range of contemporary literature, for what is being written now. Without understanding the current state of the art it is hard to be innovative or fresh with your own writing. The readings have also been selected as exemplars of the various formal devices discussed in lectures, and as examples of good writing. They will hopefully provide you with models, with standards to aspire to, with inspiration to write. You are encouraged to be rigorous with your reading, to really focus at the level of the sentence, or the poetic line, on how literary effects are achieved by writers. You are encouraged to experiment with forms and styles you are not familiar with, and, above all, to be ambitious.

Teaching strategies

- lectures to impart knowledge of the range of genres and formal devices evident in contemporary literature; to provide an understanding of the craft of writing; and to share with you the great joys of literature
- writing exercises to encourage practical experimentation with these genres and devices, and to generate material for the creative folio
- a minor exercise in "reading as a writer" to further develop the critical reading skills which are essential

to the creative process

- workshopping of your manuscripts to gain peer group feedback on works in progress and to develop skills of critical appraisal, editing and redrafting

Assessment

1) Minor Assignment: "Reading as a Writer"

- 750-1000 word practical criticism of a sample of writing in the course reader
- The model for this essay should be the critical practice of 'reading as a writer' conducted in lectures. When analysing your chosen piece the following questions should guide you:
 - **What are the most striking formal elements of this piece?** Choose one or two which are most important to its success, and analyse how they operate, ie.: plot structure, narrative voice, point of view, dialogue, description, etc for fiction; line breaks, stanzaic structure, metaphor, layout or metrical form, etc for poetry.
 - **How does the writer's use of these elements inform the aesthetic, thematic or political effects of the piece?** For instance, how is irony generated by a particular narrative voice; how does point of view create or exclude sympathy for specific characters; how do certain metaphors establish a critical or otherwise tone; how is everyday language semantically reoriented when included in a poem; how does a line break shift or multiply the meaning of a sentence?
 - **How does this piece fit into a broader critical context?** Does it draw upon recognisable generic conventions? Is it part of a particular movement or literary style? What is its relationship to other similar works (of fiction or non-fiction), to a moment in history, to public debate?
- 30% of overall mark

2) Major Assignment: Creative folio

- 3000-3500 words of prose (12-14 double-spaced pages) or 300 lines of poetry (approx. 15 pages – max 20 lines per page). Some of you will hand in a combination of these genres, in which case your total folio should not exceed twenty pages
- The folio will be comprised of redrafts of material workshopped during the semester
- All pieces must be complete; no fragments or work in progress (unless you are handing in part of a longer piece and have cleared this with your tutor)
- All submissions must meet professional standards of presentation: double-spaced, page-numbered, twelve-point font with wide margins on left and right-hand sides (poetry can have 1.5 spacing). Manuscripts must be proof-read for spelling, grammar, punctuation, syntax, etc.
- 60% of overall mark

3) tutorial preparation

- All students must submit a draft manuscript of their Creative Folio for formal workshopping in class.
- Students are expected to attempt the writing exercises for each week of the semester, even when formal workshopping has commenced. To ensure that this requirement is meant, students will be asked at random throughout the duration of the semester to submit their exercises to the class tutor.
- Students are expected to provide written commentary on all manuscripts submitted for workshopping by their peers. This commentary should be uploaded onto Moodle for each submission. Alternatively, students may provide written feedback on hard copies, or annotations

- via track changes on soft copies (the tutor will need to see evidence of this feedback).
- 10% of overall mark

To pass this course students must:

- attend at least 80% of lectures and tutorials (a roll will be taken)
- satisfactorily complete each mode of assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Final Folio	60%	Not Applicable	3,4,5,6
Reading as a Writer	30%	Not Applicable	1,2,3,4
Workshopping and Feedback	10%	Not Applicable	2,3,4,5,6

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Final Folio

Start date:

Details: 3000 words. This is the final assessment task. Students will receive written feedback from their tutor.

Assessment 2: Reading as a Writer

Start date:

Details: 1000 words. Students will receive written feedback from their tutor.

Assessment 3: Workshopping and Feedback

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Students must attempt the weekly creative writing exercises set in tutorials, and retain copies. Students are also required to provide written, constructive feedback each week to students presenting their work in class. Students will be assessed on their portfolio of exercises and feedback, and will receive a marking rubric and numerical grade at the end of the term.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

weekly readings will be available on Moodle

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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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