

ENGL2101: Creative Writing: Short Fiction

Callaghan

Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others.

The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Short fiction is often the first challenge in the creative writer's career and has become a vital component of major writing programs across the world. This course offers a practice-led approach to understanding and applying the techniques used to create short stories. Both the work of Australian and international writers, as well as the original writing of students, will be used to explore this foundational literary form.

Contact Hours

Callaghan Seminar *

Face to Face On Campus
2 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks

Unit Weighting Workload

* This contact type has a compulsory requirement.
10

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator **Callaghan**
Dr Michael Sala
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Consultation:

Teaching Staff Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

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SYLLABUS

Course Content The course will cover the key aspects of short fiction including:

- different narrative modes
- concept development
- characterisation
- perspective
- plot and story structure
- line and structural editing
- genre

Course Learning Outcomes **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Identify key writing elements used in short fiction.
2. Explain the techniques used by fiction writers.
3. Apply editorial processes to the development of written work.
4. Create works of short fiction that reflect an understanding of writing craft.

Course Materials **Required Reading:**

- Required readings for the course are available under the course readings tab via canvas.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	17 Jul		Structure 1—Structural fundamentals of the short story. 'Geometry Can Fail Us'—Leigh Alison Wilson, 'The Paring Knife'—Michael Oppenheimer, 'Oliver's Evolution'—John Updike, 'Bullhead'—Barbara Jacksha	
2	24 Jul		Structure 2—Foreground and background Haruki Murakami. 'The Second Bakery Attack'	
3	31 Jul		Structure 3: Transitions—Transitions through time and space Peter Dickison. 'Eye into Eye'	Quiz 1. We strongly recommend that you complete all module quizzes directly after completing the relevant module, but the quizzes will remain open until November 10th. No extensions are available beyond this date for any reason.
4	7 Aug		Third Person 1—Objective third person Robert Penn Warren. 'Christmas Gift'	
5	14 Aug		Third Person 2—Subjective: One vantage point A.S. Patric. 'Beckett & Son.'	
6	21 Aug		Third Person 3—Subjective: Multiple vantage points Lawrence Sargent Hall. 'The Ledge.'	Quiz 2. We strongly recommend that you complete all module quizzes directly after completing the relevant module, but the quizzes will remain open until November 10th. No extensions are available beyond this date for any reason.
7	28 Aug		First Person 1—Unreliable narration. Ellen Van Neerven. 'Sound'	Short Creative Assignment due Friday 8th September.
8	4 Sep		First person 2—Intimacy Denis Johnson. 'Two Men'	
9	11 Sep		First Person 3—Voice and style Gish Jen. 'Who's Irish'	Quiz 3. We strongly recommend that you complete all module quizzes directly after completing the relevant module, but the quizzes will remain open until November 10th. No extensions are available beyond this date for any reason.
10	18 Sep		A Sense of Play 1—The	

			metafictional story Ryan O'Neill. '17 Rules for a Short Story'	
Mid Term Break				
Mid Term Break				
11	9 Oct		A Sense of Play 2—Third person omniscient Tobias Wolf. 'Bullet in the Brain.'	
12	16 Oct		A Sense of Play 3—Second person Ilse Aichinger. 'Story in a mirror.'	Quiz 4. We strongly recommend that you complete all module quizzes directly after completing the relevant module, but the quizzes will remain open until November 10th. No extensions are available beyond this date for any reason.
13	23 Oct		No classes this week. Lecturers available for consultation by email appointment.	Reflective essay and Long Creative Assignment both due Friday 27th October.
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Short Creative Assignment	Friday 8th September	Individual	20%	2, 3, 4
2	Long Creative Assignment	Friday 27th October	Individual	50%	2, 3, 4
3	Quizzes	We strongly recommend that you complete all module quizzes directly after completing the relevant module, but the quizzes will remain open until November 10th . No extensions are available beyond this date for any reason.	Individual	10%	1, 3
4	Reflective Essay	Friday 27th October	Individual	20%	1

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Short Creative Assignment (20%)

Assessment Type Description

Professional Task

Write a single short story that demonstrates your growing understanding of the form. Try to capture some aspect of change, whether it occurs within a character or within the reader's understanding of that character.

Weighting Length

20%

1000 words (up to ten percent either way is fine)

Due Date	Friday 8th September
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Please consult rubric
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - .

Assessment 2 - Long Creative Assignment (50%)

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Description	Write a single short story that demonstrates your growing understanding of the form. This story may be the development of one of the creative prompts you wrote as part of the course—but it must not have been submitted as an assignment previously. (For example in Assessment 1). This story can also be an entirely new work.
Weighting	50%
Length	2000 words (up to ten percent either way is fine.)
Due Date	Friday 27th October
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Please consult rubric
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - .

Assessment 3 - Quizzes (10%)

Assessment Type	Quiz
Description	Four online quizzes
Weighting	10%
Length	N/A
Due Date	We strongly recommend that you complete all module quizzes directly after completing the relevant module, but the quizzes will remain open until November 10th . No extensions are available beyond this date for any reason.
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	multiple choice
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - .

Assessment 4 - Reflective Essay (20%)

Assessment Type	Essay
Description	Choose one element of writing craft that has particularly challenged you in this course, for example a particular narrative mode, the idea of foreground and background narratives, transitions, the unreliable narrator. Find an insight (quote) from one of the recommended secondary texts about writing (see end of course notes) that is relevant to your chosen element of craft to strengthen your argument. Provide a close reading that explores how this aspect of writing has been used in ONE story (apart from the flash fiction in week 1) from the weekly readings in this course, and then show how you have attempted to apply this understanding to developing your final creative work . Be sure to discuss theme both in terms of your work and the piece that has influenced you.
Weighting	20%
Length	1000 words (I do not recommend going under the word limit but 10 percent over is fine.)
Due Date	Friday 27th October
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Please consult rubric and scaffold essay
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - .

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge

	Distinction (HD)	and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

Important Policy Information

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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