

ENGL3302: Creative Writing: The Novel

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

This course offers advanced training in fiction writing for students aiming to write their first novel. Through a study of exemplars in different genres and the development of their own work and ideas, students will explore the narrative options available in the writing of a novel. They will learn how to edit, redraft and shape a larger work both collaboratively and independently.

Contact Hours

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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(02) 4921 8811
Consultation: By appointment

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

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SYLLABUS

Course Content This course lays the foundation for the development of a novel. Students will study larger issues like genre, reading audience, theme, structure, voice and style, besides working on basic features such as scene, plot and character. They will learn to shape their work through drafts and redrafts in collaborative workshops and through consultation with the lecturer.

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

1. Describe and analyse the technical decisions made by novelists writing in different genres.
2. Use a range of writing techniques common to prose fiction.
3. Edit and refine written language in terms of grammar and sentence construction.
4. Identify through independent research and class discussion, issues relating to the writing of novels such as genre, target audience and writing process.
5. Develop scenes and opening chapters that reflect the technical features of novelistic writing.

Course Materials **Required Texts:**

- Kent, Hannah. *Burial Rites*. 2013
- Simson, Graeme, C. *The Rosie Project*. 2013
- Jemisin, N. K. *The Fifth Season*. 2016
- Knausgaard, Karl Ove. *A Death in the Family*. (My Struggle Book 1.) 2013

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	17 Jul	INTRODUCTION: WRITING A FIRST NOVEL— CONSIDERATIONS AND CHALLENGES		
2	24 Jul	CHARACTER PART 1: COMPLEXITY AND CONFLICT.	<i>Burial Rites</i> by Hannah Kent	
3	31 Jul	CHARACTER PART 2: ACTION AND IMPLICATION	<i>Burial Rites</i> by Hannah Kent	
4	7 Aug	SCENE: BEATS, DRAMATIC HIGH POINTS, ENVIRONMENT, ACTION AND DIALOGUE	<i>Burial Rites</i> by Hannah Kent	Quiz 1: We strongly recommend that this quiz is completed at this stage, however, the quiz will remain open until 10 November. No further extensions will be available beyond this date under any circumstances.
5	14 Aug	WRITING PROCESS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE	See Course Notes	
6	21 Aug	FLESH ON THE BONES: STYLE, VOICE AND PERSPECTIVE	<i>The Rosie Project</i> by Graeme Simsion	Scene Writing Assignment (Short Creative) Due: Friday 25th August
7	28 Aug	PICTURING THE BIG PICTURE: NARRATIVE ARC, CHARACTER ARC, THREE ACT STRUCTURE, HERO'S JOURNEY, ESCALATION	<i>The Rosie Project</i> by Graeme Simsion	Quiz 2: We strongly recommend that this quiz is completed at this stage, however, the quiz will remain open until 10 November. No further extensions will be available beyond this date under any circumstances.
8	4 Sep	THE QUERY LETTER	See Course Notes	
9	11 Sep	THE CHAPTER AND WORLD BUILDING <i>The Fifth Season</i> by N.K. Jemisin	<i>The Fifth Season</i> by N. K. Jemisin	Assignment: Query Letter due 22 September
10	18 Sep	NARRATIVE MODE, TIME, COMPLEX STRUCTURES	<i>The Fifth Season</i> by N.K. Jemisin	Quiz 3: We strongly recommend that this quiz is completed at this stage, however, the quiz will remain open until 10 November. No further extensions will be available beyond this date under any circumstances.
Mid Term Break				
Mid Term Break				
11	9 Oct	ARRANGEMENT IS FICTION: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SELF AS FOCALISING CHARACTER,	<i>My Struggle Book One: A Death in the Family</i> by Karl Ove Knausgaard	

		CONNECTIVE STORY TISSUE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO SCENE		
12	16 Oct	SYMBOLISM, MOTIFS, PATTERNS: FINDING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND THEMATIC UNITY OF A NOVEL	<i>My Struggle Book One: A Death in the Family</i> by Karl Ove Knausgaard	Quiz 4: We strongly recommend that this quiz is completed at this stage, however, the quiz will remain open until 10 November. No further extensions will be available beyond this date under any circumstances.
13	23 Oct		No classes this week: your lecturer will be available for consultations	Assignment: First Chapter of a Novel (Long creative) due 27 th 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	25th August	Individual	25%	2, 3, 5
2	Long Creative Assignment	27 October	Individual	50%	2, 3, 5
3	Query letter	22 September	Individual	15%	4
4	Online quizzes	10th November	Individual	10%	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 (25%)

Assessment Type

Professional Task

Purpose

Writing a scene for your novel

Description

Write a single scene featuring a dramatic high point—that is, a significant change in some story value—that reflects one of the major themes with which your novel is concerned. This scene may be from any part of the book, except the opening chapter, as this will be covered by a different assignment! The scene must have a beginning and end. It must feature a dramatic high point, a clear sense of place, and an engaging conflict. Other features of writing that will be assessed in this assignment include: language, characterisation, imagery, and perspective. Please consult the rubric related to this assignment for further information—It summarises everything you need to know to turn an idea into a scene from a novel.

Weighting

25%

Length

1000 words (10 percent either way is fine)

Due Date

25th August

Submission Method

Online

Assessment Criteria

Please consult relevant rubric at the end of course notes

Return Method

Online

Feedback Provided

Online - .

Assessment 2 - Long Creative Assignment (50%)

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Purpose	Writing the first chapter or section of your novel
Description	Write the first chapter or section of your book. Your first chapter/section should establish a clear sense of the perspective, voice, and narrative mode you will be using, and include a conflict that evokes the themes with which your book is concerned. It should also effectively orient the reader in the time and initial setting of your novel. Please consult the rubric related to this assignment for further information.
Weighting	50%
Length	2500 words (10 percent either way is fine)
Due Date	27 October
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Please consult relevant rubric at the end of course notes
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - .

Assessment 3 - Query letter (15%)

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Purpose	Writing a query letter to a publisher or editor
Description	Write a query letter (450—500 words) addressed to an agent or publisher. Include a brief note (100 words) separate to the query but submitted as part of the assignment, indicating why you chose this agent and whether they had any specific requirements. This is a simulated WIL exercise, so you will not need to send this letter/email—a real query is usually sent after a solid draft of a novel has been written. In this query exercise, however, you will present and sell your novel as if it has been written. This will no doubt require you to come up with some plot details that you have not yet settled upon. The rubric for this assignment—as well as the course notes—will provide more information on how to complete this assignment.
Weighting	15%
Length	600 words
Due Date	22 September
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Please consult relevant rubric
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - .

Assessment 4 - Online quizzes (10%)

Assessment Type	Quiz
Description	These four short multiple-choice quizzes each consist of ten questions designed to test and consolidate the principles of writing underpinned by the readings. While they will all close by 10th June, we strongly recommend that they be completed by the end of each respective novel.
Weighting	10%
Length	ten questions each
Due Date	10th November
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	multiple choice
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - .

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge 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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