

ENGL3304: Creative Writing: Fiction, Medicine, Psychology

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



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 students the opportunity to develop their understanding of, and practical skills in, the writing of prose fiction. By taking narratives of medicine and psychology as the focus, this course enables a close consideration of strategies for representing the body, the mind, pain, and healing in fiction. The course contributes to students' future career potential – whether as creative or other kinds of professional writers – and provides them with a better understanding of how literary works are constructed. Students will develop a narrative-based understanding of experiences of illness and healing. Using the workshop model of creative writing, students will develop the tools to write creatively about traumatic or difficult topics in a sensitive and engaging way. Topics will be explored theoretically and with the aid of exemplars, but the main focus of both class work and independent study will be the practical application of creative and aesthetic principles. Students in this course will use the workshop model of critiquing to develop their own written work and that of others.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Contact Hours

Callaghan Seminar

Online

2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

Seminar

Face to Face On Campus

2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

Unit Weighting

10

Workload

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 Alexandra Lewis Alexandra.Lewis@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: By appointment
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences Social Sciences Building Callaghan HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content	This skills-based course is structured around wide-ranging and overlapping discussion areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• character;• setting and the senses;• point of view (voice, perspective, and degrees of knowing);• showing/telling;• plot and structure;• fact and fiction (life-writing, memory, and the use of scientific / medical / psychological detail).
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply a range of techniques and elements of writing craft in fiction, with particular emphasis on interactions between narrative, medicine, and psychology.2. Edit and refine written language in terms of grammar and sentence construction; voice and point of view; plot and structure; creative balance of nuance and detail.3. Critique their own written work and that of others.4. Develop original creative works that reflect their engagement with the fields of medicine and psychology.
Course Materials	Further details and learning materials will be provided on the Canvas website.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic for Seminar – see Canvas for weekly focal readings, extracts, discussion questions, and writing prompts	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to the course	
2	4 Mar	Beginnings (case studies). Taking observations. Finding the pulse.	
3	11 Mar	Interiority. Being patient. Character construction: illness. Revelations, concealments, and the inner life.	
4	18 Mar	Outside looking in. The caregiver; the medical professional. Writing empathy and distance.	
5	25 Mar	Short creative preparation: drafting and editing	Short Creative Assignment 5pm Friday 29th March
6	1 Apr	Words and objects	
7	8 Apr	Playing with perspective: child's eye view / spirit of the age	
Mid-Semester Recess			
Mid-Semester Recess			
8	29 Apr	Medicine, psychology, and the senses: Pain #1	
9	6 May	Writing mind and body: Pain #2	
10	13 May	Time and desire; trauma and memory	
11	20 May	Birth, death, and beyond: thresholds and loss	
12	27 May	Narrative and technology, past and future; slipstream fiction	
13	3 Jun	Revision week	
Examination Period			Long Creative Assignment 5pm Monday 10th June
Examination Period			Reflection 5pm Monday 10th June
Examination Period			

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Short Creative Assignment	5pm Friday 29th March	Individual	20%	1, 2, 4
2	Long Creative Assignment	5pm Monday 10th June	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Reflection	5pm Monday 10th June	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3

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

Assessment Type Description

Professional Task
Short Creative assignment. A short creative exercise that answers one of the creative prompts from any week. It may be (but does not have to be) a piece that you have workshopped in the seminar.

Weighting Length

20%
750 words

Due Date	5pm Friday 29th March
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	See information on Canvas course site
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - .

Assessment 2 - Long Creative Assignment

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Description	Long creative assignment. A long creative exercise that may answer one of the creative prompts from any week or may explore your own prompt/idea in relation to the focus of the course. It may be (but does not have to be) a piece that you have workshopped in the seminar.
Weighting	50%
Length	2000 words
Due Date	5pm Monday 10th June
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	See information on Canvas course site
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 3 - Reflection

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Description	Reflection. A reflection on your craft and influences in relation to the long creative assignment.
Weighting	30%
Length	1000 words
Due Date	5pm Monday 10th June
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	See information on Canvas course site
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:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

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/respect-at-uni/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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