Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre

EPHUMA 173: Creative Writing and Reading
Online
Semester 1 - 2024

The Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre recognises and respects the unique history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education. The Centre is committed to providing a culturally safe and inclusive environment for all.

OVERVIEW

Course Description
Through a close reading and discussion of texts, students are familiarised with the techniques and strategies used by creative writers and trained to apply these techniques to produce a range of creative written forms. The work of Australian and international writers, as well as the original writing of students, will be used to analyse and critique literary form.

Academic Progress Requirements
Nil

Contact Hours

Self-Directed Learning
Self-Directed
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1
Self-Directed learning is equivalent to face-to-face contact hours. It involves engagement with course materials that are delivered at a time that suits you via short videos, course notes, podcasts, readings and other activities.

Tutorial
Online
1 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

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	**Dr Ryan O'Neill** Ryan.Oneill@newcastle.edu.au 02 49216681 Consultation: Please email to schedule an appointment.
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office	**Callaghan** Ground Floor, General Purpose Building (GP) Ph: 02 4921 5558 enabling@newcastle.edu.au	**Ourimbah** HO 168, Humanities Building Ph: 02 4348 4076 enabling@newcastle.edu.au

SYLLABUS

Course Content	This course is an introduction to creative writing, offering a structured program that guides students through key exemplars in poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction. Through lectures and classroom discussion of these exemplars and guided conversation around creative works in progress, students will develop the foundational creative writing skills required to complete their chosen creative projects.
Course Learning Outcomes	**On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:** 1. Identify a range of writing techniques in poetry, creative nonfiction and fiction. 2. Apply the conventions of editing and refining written language in terms of grammar and sentence construction. 3. Develop and practice skills in critiquing other people's work and through this, develop the ability to recognise issues within their own writing. 4. Create projects that reflect an understanding of the literary conventions and techniques of creative writing in its relevant form.
Course Materials	All course materials will be provided on the course Canvas site. Students are not required to purchase a textbook.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to the course	- Discussion of "Sticks" by George Saunders, "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost, "Pizza Rolls" by Kathryn O'Day - Workshopping example	Note: Feedback on other student work is required in 10 out of 12 weeks of the course. Each feedback is worth 1%. Workshopping begins in Week 2
2	4 Mar	Beginnings	- Discussion of several creative extracts and "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson - Workshopping of students' creative work	Quiz on "The Lottery" (2%) due Sunday, 11:59pm
3	11 Mar	Setting	- Discussion of several creative extracts and "To Build a Fire" by Jack London - Workshopping of students' creative work	Quiz on "To Build a Fire" (2%) due Sunday, 11:59pm
4	18 Mar	Plot	- Discussion of several creative extracts and "The Chain" by Tobias Wolff - Workshopping of students' creative work	Quiz on "The Chain" (2%) due Sunday, 11:59pm
5	25 Mar	Point of View	- Discussion of several creative extracts and "Game" by Donald Barthelme - Workshopping of students' creative work	Quiz on "Game" (2%) due Sunday, 11:59pm
6	1 Apr	Editing and Revising	- Discussion of several creative extracts and "The Secret Miracle" by Jorge Luis Borges - Workshopping of students' creative work	Quiz on "The Secret Miracle" (2%) due Sunday, 11:59pm **Short Creative Work** (20%) due Sunday 7th April, 11:59pm.
7	8 Apr	Characterisation	- Discussion of several creative extracts and "Cold Snap" by Cate Kennedy - Workshopping of students' creative work	Quiz on "Cold Snap" (2%) due Sunday, 11:59pm
		Recess		
		Recess		
8	29 Apr	Dialogue	- Discussion of several creative extracts and "Hills Like White Elephants" by Ernest Hemingway - Workshopping of students' creative work	Quiz on "Hills Like White Elephants" (2%) due Sunday 11:59pm
9	6 May	Creative Nonfiction	- Discussion of several nonfiction extracts and "My Mother's Tongue" by Zavi Kang Engles - Workshopping of students' creative work	Quiz on "My Mother's Tongue" (2%) due Sunday 11:59pm
10	13 May	Poetry 1	- Discussion of several poems in traditional forms - Workshopping of students' creative work	
11	20 May	Poetry 2	- Discussion of several contemporary poems - Workshopping of students' creative work	Quiz on Poetry and poetic techniques" (2%) due Sunday 11:59pm
12	27 May	Experimentation	- Discussion of "Girl" by Jamaica Kincaid and "Great Rock and Roll Pauses" by Jennifer Egan - Workshopping of students' creative work	Quiz on "Great Rock and Roll Pauses" (2%) due Sunday 11:59pm
13	3 Jun		No tutorial	**Major Creative Work** (35%) and **Reflection** Task (15%) due Sunday 9th June 11:59pm
		Examination Period		
		Examination Period		

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 5 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Quizzes	Sundays 11:59pm Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12	Individual	20%	1, 2
2	Workshopping as Feedback	Due in 10 of 12 weeks, before tutorial	Individual	10%	1, 2
3	Short Creative Work	Sunday 7th April 11:59pm	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Major Creative Work	Sunday 9th June 11:59pm	Individual	35%	1, 2, 3, 4
5	Reflective Task	Sunday 9th June 11:59pm	Individual	15%	1, 2, 4

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 5% 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 - Quizzes

Assessment Type Quiz
Description A ten-minute multiple-choice quiz on the main reading for that week. The quizzes are to be completed before the weekly lecture. Each quiz is worth 2% of the final mark. **Important: Chat GPT or any other AI text generating software must not be used in this, or any other assignment in the course.**
Weighting 20%
Due Date Sundays 11:59pm
Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12
Submission Method Online
Assessment Criteria Correct answers
Return Method Online
Feedback Provided Feedback is not provided

Assessment 2 - Workshopping as Feedback

Assessment Type Written Assignment
Description To ensure students engage with giving feedback on their peers' work, which is a vital part of the creative writing learning process, in 10 out of 12 weeks of the course, students will give constructive written feedback on the work of their peers, identifying literary elements that worked well, and elements that could be improved. **Important: Chat GPT or any other AI text generating software must not be used in this, or any other assignment in the course.**
Weighting 10%
Due Date Due before the tutorial in 10 out of 12 weeks
Submission Method Online via discussion boards in Canvas
Assessment Criteria Rubric provided in Canvas
Return Method Not returned
Feedback Provided Feedback is not provided

Assessment 3 - Short Creative Work

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	The short creative piece (500 words) assesses the students' engagement with the elements of creative writing taught on the course, and provides feedback that can be used for the major creative work, due at the end of Week 13. The short creative exercise should be a self-contained piece of prose writing which answers one of the weekly writing prompts (except for Weeks 9 to 11), and should be submitted in Turnitin. It may assist you with this assessment if you volunteer to workshop this exercise in-class; however, it is not essential that you submit a piece that has been previously workshopped in class. The rubric for this task is available on Canvas and should be consulted before completing this assignment. **Important: Chat GPT or any other AI text generating software <u>must not be used</u> in this, or any other assignment in the course.**
Weighting	20%
Due Date	Sunday 7th April 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided in Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 4 - Major Creative Work

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	The major creative work (1500-2000 words) may consist of a single sustained work or multiple self-contained works of prose and/or poetry. (Remember—particularly if you decide to submit both poetry and prose in your portfolio—that a one page poem is equivalent to a one page piece of prose.) While this assignment does not have to answer a creative prompt, it must have been written while you were enrolled in EPHUMA173 and cannot have been submitted anywhere else for an assignment—although you may have workshopped part of it in class. Remember too that the major creative work may not be found passable if it shows little or no engagement with the writing techniques studied in the course. The rubric for this task is available in Canvas and should be consulted before completing this assignment. **Important: Chat GPT or any other AI text generating software <u>must not be used</u> in this, or any other assignment in the course.**
Weighting	35%
Due Date	Sunday 9th June 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided in Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 5 - Reflective Task

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	The reflection task (600 words) requires students to reflect on their creative process, and how this creative process was influenced by the techniques and authors studied in the course. This involves answering the following question: In two paragraphs, discuss two literary techniques (setting, POV, characterisation etc.) used in two of the main weekly readings that have influenced the major creative work you have submitted for this course. You should focus on your major creative work in combination with two texts from the course main weekly readings—and you can submit this at any time before the due date. Your reflection task is both an engagement with the course readings and a critical reflection on your creative work. Refer back to the weekly topics for ideas about specific techniques used by authors in terms of beginnings, plot, narrative, setting, point of view, and character etc. A rubric for the reflection task is available on Canvas and should be consulted before completing this assignment. Note: only the main weekly readings (those specifically named in the Weekly Schedule above) should be used for this task. Extracts from other work discussed in lectures and tutorials may not be used. **Important: Chat GPT or any other AI text generating software <u>must not be used</u> in this, or any other assignment in the course.**
Weighting	15%
Due Date	Sunday 9th June 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided in Canvas
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.

Communication Methods

Email is the principal form of communication at the university and within this course. Always use your student email (NUmail), rather than a private email address, and check this regularly. As Course Coordinator I will try to respond to your email within three (3) working days. I will not normally respond to emails over the weekends. Please be courteous in your email communication and in the online space.

Canvas is used to distribute course material, announcements and other information. It is also used for online quizzes and to allow students to track their individual progressive assessment results throughout the semester via Grades.

Discussions forums in Canvas can be used to ask questions about minor issues. Students are strongly encouraged to use these to communicate with each other, discuss issues relating to the course, and solve minor problems.

Attendance and Engagement

In addition to face-to-face hours in class, out-of-class study and related work will require an additional commitment of up to 10 hours per week of reading, preparation, and study time over the semester. Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact hours including assessment) per semester per 10 unit course.

To maximise your learning opportunities, you should read all relevant material prior to attending class.

It is strongly recommended that you attend your classes every week. Our data shows that you will get better results if you attend class with your peers. If you do have to miss a class, you should catch up on any missed work by accessing lecture recordings if you are enrolled face-to-face. While online tutorials are recorded, on-campus tutorials are not, so you should view other resources available on your Canvas site and contact your course coordinator if you would like advice on how to best catch up on any material that was missed. **If you are unable to attend classes regularly you should reach out to your course coordinator as soon as possible to discuss ways that you can continue to engage with the learning material.**

A plan of regular revision throughout the semester is also strongly recommended to help you manage your time, consolidate information and retain that knowledge for the duration of the

course and beyond.

Assessment items have been designed to reinforce and revise the course material, and ensure you are up to date with course content. You are required to submit all assessable items by the due dates unless prior arrangements have been made.

Additional Contact Details

If you have any questions about your course, please speak with your course coordinator, lecturer or tutor first. For general enquiries, please contact the Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre Office or your Student Liaison Officer. Contact details for both the office and Student Liaison Officers can be found here.

Yapug students can also contact your Indigenous Enabling Learning Advisor Hannah Pipe or your Program Convenor Dan Collins.

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 Adverse Circumstances must be lodged via the online Adverse Circumstances system for all individual assessment items worth 30% or greater **by 11:00pm on the day the assessment is due**. For assessment items less than 30%, you will need to contact your Course Coordinator by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure and the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Policy.

Please note that students must submit their adverse circumstances application via the online Adverse Circumstances system by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item, even if you are using a Reasonable Adjustment Plan (RAP) as your supporting documentation.

Written Assessment Word Limits

If this course includes written assessments, the word limit listed will include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. You will not receive a penalty for exceeding the word limit (there is a tolerance of up to 10%), but any work after the maximum word limit may not be included within the allocation of marks.

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. Please refer to the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

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.

Workplace Health and Safety Requirements

There are no specific WH&S requirements for this course.

Software

Free Microsoft Office software is available to enrolled students here and includes 5 TB of free cloud storage with OneDrive.

Timetable

Your timetable for this course is available via the myUni Student Portal and can also be found here.

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.

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 that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.