

ENGL 428 Contemporary Fiction

Trimester 1 2014

3 March to 2 July 2014

30 Points

- Public holidays/non-teaching days this trimester: Friday 18 April (Good Friday)
Monday 2 June (Queen's Birthday)
- The Assessment Handbook can be found at: www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf.

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-Trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Study week: 9 to 13 June 2014

Examination/Assessment period: 13 June to 2 July 2014

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal Dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Seminars

Wednesday 10.00am – 12.50pm 12 Wai-te-ata Rd 203

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Mark Williams	Mark.Williams@vuw.ac.nz	463 6810 (wk) 021 0690434 (cell)	vZ 911	Tues 11.00

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specific information about this course is available on Blackboard.

Additional information on changes will be conveyed to students on Blackboard.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

Contemporary New Zealand fiction is usually read in its New Zealand contexts. What happens when we consider recent New Zealand novels alongside a selection of novels from another settler society? This course encourages students to consider the limits of nationalism, the claims of the local and the meanings of culture. Students will study a range of recent novels from New Zealand, Australia and Canada and elsewhere in the English-speaking world where appropriate.

COURSE CONTENT

This course looks at recent novels from Australia, Canada and New Zealand in terms of three related thematic categories: the city, history, and the indigenous. As novels from settler societies redefining their colonial identities in terms of the postcolonial and multicultural present, they both discover a distinct sense of place and community and reflect the globalizing forces they cannot escape. The renegotiation of outmoded communal narratives is registered through activities as various as cooking, travelling, making art or ethnicity. The fiction itself reworks traditional forms such as the Victorian novel in new historical and urban circumstances. How do we see ourselves reflected in these mirrors of the way we live now, and what differences do we observe?

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

This is a seminar course in which students are expected to present to the class their researches into a selection of fiction from Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. analyse the global and local contexts of contemporary literature
2. respond critically to contemporary discourses about cities and nations
3. evaluate the critical contexts in which those texts have been interpreted and adopt their own critical stances towards the texts and towards existing criticism.
4. consider a range of contemporary fictional kinds

TEACHING FORMAT

Students will be expected to deliver one seminar each on a novel in this course.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- present one seminar
- complete two essays
- sit the examination (see note under assessment below).
- As in all English Programme courses, 70% attendance is required.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Essay (2500 words)	25%	1	17 April
2 Essay (2500 words)	25%	2	6 June
3 In-class seminar	10%	3	TBA
4 Exam (3 hours)	40%	3, 4	TBA

Students will do two 2,500 word essays for 25% each. The first is due on 17 April, the second on 6 June. There will be a final three-hour examination for 40%. Students should note that they will be expected to deliver one in-class seminar for 10%. Students will be expected to write essays, answer test questions or deliver seminar presentations on at least **four** texts during the course. Students will not be allowed to take books into the examination, but will be allowed to take in one A4 sheet with notes on both sides. Please note: copies of all marked essays and seminar presentations should be retained by students and must be given to the lecturer by the date of the final examination; all grades are provisional; all written work must be handed in by Wednesday 25 June.

Final Examination:

Students are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period, i.e. between Friday 13 June and 2 July 2014.

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

Hard-copy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: von Zedlitz level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.

Assignments will be returned during classes, between two and three weeks after the due date. At the end of trimester, uncollected assignments can be collected from the administration office: Von Zedlitz level 8.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment without an extension will be accepted after Wednesday 25 June 2014. The Course Coordinator will not give an extension beyond Wednesday 2 July 2014.**

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

Guy Vanderhaeghe, *The Englishman's Boy* (Abacus, 1996);

Timothy Taylor, *Stanley Park* (Vintage, 2001);

Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water* (Bantam Books, 1994);

C.K. Stead, *The Singing Whakapapa* (Penguin, 1994);

Paula Morris, *Hibiscus Coast* (Penguin, 2005);

Patricia Grace, *Dogside Story* (Penguin, 1998);

Alexis Wright, *Carpentaria* (Giramondo, 2006);

Meg Mundell, *Black Glass* (Scribe);

Kate Grenville, *The Secret River* (Canongate, 2006).

You can order [textbooks and student notes](#) online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Note that Stead's *The Singing Whakapapa* is no longer in print. It is, however, easily available in libraries and second-hand bookshops. If you have any difficulties obtaining a copy, let Mark or Lydia know.

RECOMMENDED READING

You should read the introduction to Hedertoff and Hjort's, *The Post-National Self: Belonging and Identity* (Minneapolis: University of Minneapolis Press, 2002) by the first class. The text can be found on Blackboard. A full bibliography of recommended secondary texts will be made available on Blackboard.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 428

- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

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COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	Mar 5	Introduction. You should read Hedertoff and Hjort ' <i>The Post-National Self</i> ', text on Blackboard
Week 2	Mar 12	Students to find one article each that challenges or elucidates the themes of the course and/or Hedetoft & Hjort
Week 3	Mar 19	<i>Black Glass</i> . Read the Text
Week 4	Mar 26	<i>Stanley Park</i> . You should read Travis Mason' "Placing Ekphrasis" via the Vic Library's online journal site. Full details of this article and those cited below are in the course bibliography, on Blackboard
Week 5	Apr 2	<i>Hibiscus Coast</i> . Read the Text
Week 6	Apr 9	<i>Dogside Story</i> . Read Prentice's "From Visibility to Visuality: Patricia Grace's <i>Baby No-Eyes</i> and the Cultural Politics of Decolonization"
Week 7	Apr 16	<i>Carpentaria</i> . You should read Alexis Wright's "Politics of Writing" via the Vic Library's online journal site.
Mid Trimester Break: Friday 18 April to Sunday 4 May 2014		
Week 8	May 7	<i>The Singing Whakapapa</i> . Read Stephen Turner, "Being Colonial/Colonial Being."
Week 9	May 14	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i> . You should read Fee and Flick's essay, "Coyote Pedagogy."
Week 10	May 21	<i>The Englishman's Boy</i> . Read Reinhold Kramer's 'Nationalism, the West, and <i>The Englishman's Boy</i> '"
Week 11	May 28	<i>The Secret River</i> . You should read Sue Kossew's "Voicing the 'Great Australian Silence'" via the Vic Library's online journal site.
Week 12	Jun 4	Wrap-up. General discussion of the course, the texts and the issues raised
Study Week: Monday 9 to Friday 13 June 2014		
Examination Period: Friday 13 June to Wednesday 2 July 2014		