*English Programme*

*School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies*

*Te Kura Tānga Kōrero Ingarihi, Kiriata, Whakaari, Pāpāho*

*Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*

TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

# ENGL 489 Research Project

## Trimesters 1 and 2 2014

3 March to 2 July 2014

**30 Points**

## IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|---|---|
| Trimester dates: | 3 March to 16 November 2014 |
| Teaching dates: | 3 March to 17 October 2014 |
| Easter/Mid-Trimester break: | 18 April to 4 May 2014 |
| Mid-year break: | 3 to 13 July 2014 |
| Mid-trimester break 2/3: | 25 August to 7 September 2014 |
| Study week: | 20 to 24 October 2014 |
| Last assessment item due: | 17 October 2014 |
| 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

There are no classes for this course.  Students are expected to meet with their supervisors six times during the course of study, at times to be arranged with the supervisor, and to have work completed in advance of these meetings as arranged.  Some workshops will be offered providing some basic information and a chance for discussion about research methods and the writing process; times and room to be announced by blackboard and email.

## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

| Staff | Email | Phone | Room | Office Hours |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Geoff Miles | Geoff.Miles@vuw.ac.nz | 463 6809 | vZ 906 | tbc |

Supervisors: tbc

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be posted 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

This course gives students the opportunity to pursue an individual research project, with regular guidance and support from a supervisor. ENGL 489 is usually done in the form of an extended essay of 10,000 words, although the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre Editing Nineteenth-century Fiction Project is also an option. Students wishing to enrol in ENGL 489 must consult with the Honours Co-ordinator and may also consult with other academic staff to discuss their areas of interest; they must submit a formal outline of their intended topic (up to 2 A4 sides) at least two weeks prior to the final date for enrolment.

## COURSE CONTENT

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop a detailed academic project which addresses their own research question. The research that they undertake should be presented as extended essay and/ or creative/practical presentation. The project should be approximately 10,000 words in length. Students will meet with their supervisor on a regular basis to discuss the focus of their research question, the methodology or approach they take to their research, and the progress of their project through to final submission. Students should conduct extensive research into their chosen topic. They should also draw on academic sources, such as scholarly books, book chapters, and articles from refereed journals. This will enable them to develop an informed critical response to the topic based on their research, and use these results as the basis of a coherent, well-supported argument.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who successfully complete and pass this course will

1) acquire advanced research and argumentation skills.
2) be able to suitably identify relevant research questions, and use them as the basis for developing an interesting and informed reading of one or more literary texts.

## TEACHING FORMAT

Students will be assigned a supervisor for their research project and will work with this supervisor to plan a suitable course of study. There will also be a number of workshops and seminars that will provide students with advanced research skills and will give them the opportunity to discuss their project.

## MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must: submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).

## WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours.

## ASSESSMENT

The essay will be assigned an examiner from within the English programme (or, in exceptional circumstances, from another programme) and may also be sent to an external examiner for moderation. 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 is made by the Honours programme examination committee.

**Due Date: Friday 17 October, 3pm**

**Length: 10,000 words**

Assessment Criteria

- Identify a clearly defined research question that forms the focus of your project.

- Sustain a coherent and logical argument that incorporates a critical reading of primary and secondary sources.

- Demonstrate a proficiency at textual analysis at an advanced level.

- Demonstrate a good understanding of the theoretical concepts and methodologies that inform your research paper.

- Demonstrate a high standard of written expression.

- Include accurate and complete references for all relevant sources.

| Assessment items and workload per item | | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Essay of 10,000 words | 100 % | 1, 2 | 17 Oct |

**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

The Research Essay is submitted in two formats:

- Two hardcopies in the drop slot outside the Administration office: von Zedlitz level 8.

  Attach an assignment cover sheet to your essay, found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

- A MS Word file emailed to english@vuw.ac.nz

Your marked assignment can be picked up from the Programme Administrator at the conclusion of the examining period. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

## 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 with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 14 November 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.

## 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-progess (including restrictions and non-engagement)

- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates

- 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