



# ARTS3023

## Fiction Writing

Term Two // 2020

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

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### School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campus) people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands we are located on.

## Course Details

Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

This Level 3 course provides students with the opportunity to develop undertaking this course will examine the poetics of the contemporary technical aspects essential to fiction, such as narrative structure, character development of prose style. Students will read both novels and critical understanding of the composition of the novel. Comparative and historical development of student's own creative practice. Students will have experience in genres in Level 1 and 2 Creative Writing courses. As a Level 3 course skills by working on a sustained piece of prose fiction.

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Create a sustained piece of fiction
2. Identify and critically discuss formal and thematic features of the contemporary novel
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the key issues surrounding the development of student's own creative practice
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the practical decisions writers make in writing
5. Critically appraise your own work and the work of others
6. Demonstrate skills in literary analysis developed through a close reading of texts
7. Improved skills in drafting, revising and editing your own manuscript

### Teaching Strategies

Lecture aim: to impart knowledge of the genre and range formal devices of the novel, to draw attention to key critical concerns that contribute to an understanding of the elements of the novel and to provide an understanding of the craft of writing.

The seminar will provide an opportunity for students to analyse and discuss writing, gain peer group feedback on works in progress and to develop and redrafting.

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# Assessment

## Important Information About How this Course Works

### The function of the lectures

The lectures for this course will be divided into three sections: (1) Creative Process/Writing Practice (3) Vocational Pathways

In the first section, the lectures will focus on key critical elements of the contemporary novel. Four main areas will be considered: the role of truth in fiction, the function of images and the practice of image making, the contemporary novel. In this first series of lectures we will be looking at contemporary novels that deal with and address these issues. These lectures will provide models to inspire your own writing and will encourage a broad and deep engagement with the contemporary novel. All lectures will engage with practical issues of the contemporary novel and will encourage you to build creative and critical links between theory and practice as a writer. One of the most challenging aspects of creating a sustainable writing practice is revising and editing something which can be far more arduous than the initial act of writing. Reading widely and deeply, and thus honing your skills as critics, will help you with a critical eye over your own work. The lectures are designed with this in mind to help your understanding of the novel, quick-start your creative work and help you to critically appraise your own writing. Please be aware that this course is primarily based on a lot of group learning and relies on your active participation in both lectures and writing. Written and vocal responses are vital to the success of this course. It is essential to read the set texts before coming to the lecture.

In the second section of the lectures, the focus will shift towards your own writing. The lectures will be practice-based, others will ask that you think critically about the connections between the set texts and your own work in progress. Through the process of interrogating the stylistic and compositional elements of the contemporary novel, you will be able to do the following in particular:

- The compositional background of each novel: what we know about the novel's history and its place in the contemporary novel
- The governing formal and poetic qualities of the novel
- The relationship between form and content
- The relationship between a novel's philosophical foundation - what it says about the world that it most closely engages with - and its formal/technical elements

Poetic elements that we will be considering include:

- Use of the image, montage, symbol
- The life of objects and things
- The manipulation of time
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Such elements may be considered across different texts and in relation to the overall course emphasis on the novel, providing a comparable view of the poetics of contemporary fiction. We will explore how poetic elements work together, reflecting the overall course emphasis on the novel.

You are expected to read all of the set texts, and read them closely. The course will encourage you to build links between critical and creative practice, and to see these activities as mutually informative. Critical inquiry will be thus accompanied by creative practice. Some key questions that we will consider and discuss are: What are the sustaining poetic laws of the set texts? When do these become apparent? How do these devices change or develop over the course of the book? How do such elements shape your experience of a book? On a practical level in regards to your own work: How are these poetic elements instructive for your own creative writing? How do they challenge and inspire experimentation within your own projects? What can you learn from these works as models for your own writing? What does it mean to pay homage to a text? What can you borrow? What can you develop? What is the relationship, in your writing, between innovation and tradition?

In the final, vocational series of lectures we will look at the various potential careers that support creative practice. We will also engage with what it means to survive as a writer, looking at how to apply for grant funding and how to do degree study in the area of creative writing.

### The function of the seminar

Each seminar runs for 2 hours. In this time there will be three core activities:

- Discussion of that week's text and lecture in relation to critical theory
- Discussion of creative writing exercise based on lecture material, and reading with your writing practice.
- Discussion of work in progress and workshopping your own writing

Discussion will develop around the lecture material and your writing practice. We will use the material of the lectures to prompt your own creative practice and explore how it is relevant to your projects. Please be aware that there is the expectation that you will be expected to discuss this process throughout the semester.

### Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research Essay	25%	10/07/2020 11:00 PM	2,3,6
Major Creative Work	60%	10/08/2020 11:00 PM	1,4,5,7
Peer Feedback	15%	Not Applicable	2,4,5,6,7

### Assessment Details

## Assessment 1: Research Essay

Start date:

Details:

2000 words, Turnitin submission, feedback provided via Turnitin

Turnitin setting: assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students receive similarity reports.

## Assessment 2: Major Creative Work

Start date:

Details:

3000 words. Final Assessment. Turnitin submission, summative feedback

Additional details:

This assessment requires you to submit the opening chapters of a novel. It is expected that this piece of work will be a further development of the work done in class for group feedback.

You will be assessed on the following:

- Flow/reading coherence: transitions between sentences and paragraphs
- Presence and development of interiority
- Use of language: precision, experimentation, lyricism, vivacity

Start date: Not Applicable

Length:

## Resources

### Prescribed Resources

#### Required Texts:

Jennifer Egan, *A Visit from the Goon Squad* 2011

Deborah Levy, *Swimming Home*, Faber and Faber 2011

Rachel Cusk, *Tulip*, Faber and Faber 2017

### Recommended Resources

Please see Moodle

### Course Evaluation and Development

This course is routinely revised for improvement. Feedback is welcomed and acted on in the future development of the course.



## Submission of Assessment Tasks

### Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment, please contact External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [external@unsw.edu.au](mailto:external@unsw.edu.au). Support hours are 8:00am - 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am - 5:00pm on weekends. If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any screenshots) and include this as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone them, you will need to provide your details. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Moodle or Turnitin. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated in the assignment details. Alternative submission details will be provided where necessary.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/submit-assignment-moodle>

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own in various forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct  
UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the library
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a better understanding of related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW. For more information, visit <http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

## Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
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