

# Cultural Encounters:

The Literature and Theatre  
of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific



Trimester 2, 2008  
School of English, Film, Theatre & Media Studies

ENGL112/ THEA112

# Cultural Encounters:

## The Literature and Theatre of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific.

### Class sessions

Lecture:                    Tuesday            10am   Cotton LT122  
                                  Thursday           10am   Maclaurin LT103  
                                  Friday             10am   New Kirk LT301

Restriction:                SEFT 101

Weekly tutorials:         Tutorials begin on 2<sup>nd</sup> week of trimester; tutorial lists will be posted on School noticeboard (foyer outside HM LT206) and on Blackboard.

Each student attends eleven tutorials. Attendance at eight or more is required. The tutorials are a very important part of your development in the subject, and you should prepare fully for them by reading and being ready to contribute to the discussion.

### Course Organisation

Co-conveners:             David O'Donnell  
                                  david.odonnell@vuw.ac.nz  
                                  463 6828            (internal: 6828)  
                                  office 301, 77 Fairlie Tce

Alice Te Punga Somerville.  
alice.tepungasomerville@vuw.ac.nz  
463 6818            (internal: 6818)  
office 208, 50 Kelburn Parade

Lecturers:                 David O'Donnell, Alice Te Punga Somerville, David Carnegie

Tutors:                     Information about tutors will be posted on the Blackboard site.

Guests:                    Renee  
                                  Makerita Urale  
                                  Ken Duncum  
                                  Miria George  
                                  Hone Kouka

## Blackboard

- Updated information about the course, and all handouts etc relating to the course, are posted on the Blackboard site for this course.
- Joining in the discussion about texts and issues on the class blackboard site is encouraged.
- Access to the blackboard site is available through <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/>

## Aims, Objectives, Content

Much of the literature and theatre from, or about, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific is concerned with the encounters occurring within and between the region's various cultures. In this course you will learn about the part that written, spoken, and performed narratives play in representing, and even shaping, such encounters.

The course is designed to expose you to a range of concepts relevant to more advanced students in literature and the theatre; it will equip you with an understanding of the cultural and historical contexts of the material you are studying; and it will foster your ability to respond critically to a range of literary and theatrical texts and present your findings in formal assessment tasks.

## Course Objectives

By the end of the course you should:

- be familiar with all of the texts studied in the course;
- have developed some sense of the comparative historical and cultural contexts of the range of texts studied;
- be able to read texts critically and discuss your findings in a formal academic essay;
- be responsive to the detail of selected passages of literature and drama and demonstrate your responsiveness in a variety of assessment tasks;
- be familiar with the literary, theatrical, social and political implications of the concept of 'cultural encounters.'

## Required texts (in order of teaching)

- Miria George. *And What Remains*. Wellington: Tawata, 2007.
- Tuwhare readings – in Student Notes
- Renee. *Jeannie Once*. Wellington: VUP, 1991.
- Short Fiction - in Student Notes
- Witi Ihimaera. *Bulibasha*. Auckland: Penguin, 1998.
- Hone Kouka. *Waiora*. Wellington: Huia, 2000.
- Makerita Urale. *Frangipani Perfume*. Wellington: Play Press, 2005.
- Karlo Mila. *Dream Fish Floating*. Wellington: Huia, 2005.
- Ken Duncum. *Cherish*. Wellington: VUP, 2005.

## Class sessions

This course starts with a recent and controversial play by a young playwright, Miria George. *And What Remains* brings together questions about what it means to be in this place and this gives us a great start for our course about ‘Cultural Encounters.’

After we have read that play and considered its reception, we will move backwards and sideways through the literature and theatre of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific, thinking through the themes raised by the play: Indigeneity, migration, colonialism, gender, national identity, globalisation, sexuality, the idea of home and so on.

Over the course of ENGL/THEA112 you will come into contact with a range of literary and theatrical genres, written and produced by people situated in very different ethnic, gender, economic, political and social locations. In each text, and between the texts, and between yourself and the texts, we challenge you to think carefully and deeply about the idea of ‘Cultural Encounters.’



week starting	Tuesday lecture	Thursday lecture	Friday lecture	tutorial topic
7 July	Intro	<i>And What Remains</i> (guest: Dr Nadine Attewell)	<i>And What Remains</i>	no tutorial
14 July	<i>And What Remains</i> (guest: Miria George)	<i>And What Remains</i>	<i>And What Remains</i> / Tuwhare	<i>And What Remains</i>
21 July	<i>Tuwhare</i>	<i>Tuwhare</i>	*Test*	Tuwhare
28 July	<i>Jeannie Once</i>	<i>Jeannie Once</i>	<i>Jeannie Once</i> (guest: Renee)	<i>Jeannie Once</i>
4 August	Short Fiction	Short Fiction	Short Fiction	writing focus: essay I
11 August	Short Fiction	Short Fiction/ Ihimaera	Ihimaera *essay I due*	Short Fiction
	<i>mid-trimester break</i>	<i>mid-trimester break</i>	<i>mid-trimester break</i>	<i>mid-trimester break</i>
1 Sept	Ihimaera	Ihimaera	Ihimaera/ <i>Waiora</i>	Ihimaera
8 Sept	<i>Waiora</i>	<i>Waiora</i>	<i>Waiora</i> (guest)	<i>Waiora</i>
15 Sept	<i>Frangipani Perfume</i>	<i>Frangipani Perfume</i>	<i>Frangipani Perfume</i> (guest: Makerita Urale)	<i>Frangipani Perfume</i>
22 Sept	<i>Frangipani Perfume</i> / Mila	Mila	Mila *essay II due*	Mila
29 Sept	Mila	<i>Cherish</i>	<i>Cherish</i>	<i>Cherish</i>
6 Oct	<i>Cherish</i> (guest: Ken Duncum)	debate	wrap up & exam prep	exam prep

## Assessment:

In order to pass this course, you need to hand in all pieces of written work. Additionally, according to the rules of the School, you also need to attend at least 8 of the *tutorials* in order to pass this course.

For a course at 100-level, it is recommended that you spend *on average* 12 hours per week including class contact hours. Therefore, you should spend about 8 hours of your own time on reading, research and preparation.

All written work must be in an appropriate academic format. *A Handbook for Students of English Literature* (available online through the SEFTMS website) details an acceptable minimum standard.

The deadlines for term work must be strictly observed. If you need an *extension* beyond the due date of any piece of work, you need to apply to your tutor before the due date, providing supporting documentation if possible. If an extension is granted, work will be marked in the usual way. If an extension is not applied for, or not granted, the final mark will be reduced by one 'step' of the grade (eg from A to A- or B- to C+).

Each of these assessments has been designed to focus on a different aspect of the overall objectives of the course.

Assessment	% of final mark	Due date
Test (close reading)	10	25 July (in class)
Essay #1 (theatre focus)	25	15 August (5pm)
Essay #2 (literature focus)	25	26 September (5pm)
Final exam	40	tba

### 10% Compulsory In-class Test

The test will be held on Friday 25 July, during lecture time. You must take the test at this time; make-up tests will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

### 25% Essay #1 (theatre focus)

Due by 5pm Monday 15 August: place in essay box, 8<sup>th</sup> floor Von Zedlitz.

Please note that this is the last day before the mid-trimester break. If you have a number of essays due on that day you are welcome to hand in your essay early 😊

Length: 1200-1500 words.

### 25% Essay #2 (literature focus)

Due by 5pm Friday 26 September: place in essay box, 8<sup>th</sup> floor Von Zedlitz.

Length: 1200-1500 words.

### 40% Final examination

The three-hour exam is made up of three sections: one has a theatre focus, one has a literature focus, and one is comparative.

## Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support