

ENGL 234: New Zealand Literature

Trimester 1, 2009
School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies

This course looks at New Zealand literature from the late colonial period to the present. The story we seek to tell is not the conventional one of increasing self-knowledge as our literature gains a greater sense of the reality of place. Rather we are interested in the myths and inventions that New Zealand writers have deployed—not always consciously—to figure experience here and experience generally. We are interested, then, in the *inventions* of New Zealand by our writers, or even the ways in which some writers move beyond national definitions to create purely invented worlds.

Course Organisation

Convener: Mark Williams Mark.williams@vuw.ac.nz, Ph 6810; VZ911
Lecturers: Mark Williams (MW)
Peter Whiteford (PW) Peter.whiteford@vuw.ac.nz Ph 6820; VZ 801
Kathryn Walls (KW) Kathryn.walls@vuw.ac.nz Ph 6898; VZ916
Jane Stafford (JS) Jane.stafford@vuw.ac.nz Ph 6816; VZ905
Lydia Wevers (LW) Lydia.wevers@vuw.ac.nz Ph 6334; Stout Centre

Lectures

Monday 10-11 Kirk LT303; Tuesday, Wednesday 10-11 Easterfield LT 006.
The first trimester of 2009 begins on 2 March and ends on 5 June. The study/examination period is from 8 June to 1 July.

Tutorials

The tutorials are a very important part of your development in the subject, and you should prepare fully for them. Times and rooms are arranged during the first week and posted on the English Section notice-board and on Blackboard by Friday 6 March. Each student attends one tutorial per week. You must attend a minimum of 70%, i.e. at least 8 out of 11 tutorials. You are strongly advised (and, indeed, expected) to plan to attend all tutorials. However, from time to time there may be unusual circumstances, such as illness, which prevent your attendance. In ENGL 234, we regard the mandatory requirement of only 70% attendance as making provision for such circumstances.

Additional Information

This course uses Blackboard for all important information and announcements, as well as running a discussion board, and encourages you to check it regularly. Information about the course will be posted from time to time on the English Section's notice-board on the third floor of the Hugh Mackenzie building, outside Hugh Mackenzie LT206, as well as announced in lectures and posted on Blackboard. If you

have a question or problem, consult your tutor or the course convener. Draft and final examination timetables will be posted on the HM notice-board and on Blackboard.

Learning Objectives

The course is designed as an introduction to New Zealand literature from the colonial period to the present. ENGL 234 will introduce you to major New Zealand writers and equip you with an understanding of the cultural and historical contexts of the material you are studying. It will foster your ability to respond critically to a range of literary texts and present your findings in formal assessment tasks.

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 demonstrate your responsiveness in a variety of assessment tasks

Required texts

A course reader containing poetry and short stories, available from Student Notes; Janet Frame, *Faces in the Water* (Random House, \$32.95); Keri Hulme, *the bone people* (Macmillan \$27.95); Margaret Mahy, *The Changeover* (HarperCollins, \$14.99); Elizabeth Knox *The Vintner's Luck* (VUP, \$24.95)

Assessment

Internal assessment 1: Take home exercise: length 1200 words; given out on 30 March; due on 6 April (worth 20%) This assessment tests the skills of close reading. You will be asked to write a close critical analysis of a poem.

Internal assessment 2: Essay: *the bone people* (This text will not be included in the exam.) Length 2000 words. Due 22 May (worth 30%). This assessment tests the ability to construct and support an argument. Tutorials will concentrate on this in preceding weeks and give students the opportunity to discuss essay topics and planning.

Exam (worth 50%) The examination will be three hours and will not be open book. Students whose examination grade is better than their combined 50/50 result will receive the exam grade as their assessment for the course. Information concerning the exam will be made available during the course.

Presentation of Written Work

All written work must be in an acceptable academic format. Guidelines for presentation of written work are set out at the end of this handout. The deadlines for term work must be strictly observed. If you need an extension beyond the due date for any piece of work, you should apply to the course convener before the due date, providing supporting documentation if possible. Work submitted with an extension will be graded in the normal way.

Late work submitted without an extension will be counted, as long as it is received before 5 June. You will, however, be penalised by a grade reduction (i.e. A to A-, C+ to C) and there will be no comments on your assignment. Make sure you plan your work in advance to deal with competing deadlines.

The University does not permit us to accept work after the end of the examination period and students who cannot complete their work by this date for medical or similar reasons should consult the aegrotat provisions in the Calendar.

Workload

For a 22-point course at 200-level, it is recommended that you spend on average 14 hours per week including class contact hours. Therefore, you should spend about 10 hours of your own time in reading and preparation. Please note that this is a rough guideline only. Some students might have to put in more time, others less. The time commitment is likely to be greatest in the week during the take home exercise and immediately prior to the essay submission date.

Mandatory Requirements

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied include completion of all in-term assessment pieces by 5 June at the very latest, sitting the final examination, and preparing for and attending at least 70% of tutorials (i.e. 8 out of 11). Failure to satisfy any of these course requirements will leave you with a fail grade.

Students with Disabilities at Victoria

The contact for students with disabilities enrolled in English courses is the programme director Charles Ferrall, VZ904, ex 6804.

Please check Blackboard for a statement on academic integrity and plagiarism and general university statutes and policies.

Lecture Programme

week starting	lecture	lecture	lecture	tutorial topic
2 March	Introduction (omnes)	Maoriland (JS)	'The Woman at the Store' (LW)	no tutorial
9 March	Hyde (LW)	Bethell (PW)	Duggan (PW)	Hyde/Bethell/Duggan
16 March	Cultural Nationalism (MW)	Sargeson (MW)	Sargeson (MW)	Sargeson
23 March	Glover (PW)	Curnow (PW)	Curnow (PW)	Glover/Curnow
30 March	Frame, <i>Faces in the Water</i> (MW)	Frame, <i>Faces in the Water</i> (MW)	Frame, <i>Faces in the Water</i> and autobiography (MW)	Frame <u>Take home exercise given out 30 March</u>
6 April	Film 'The Road to Jerusalem'	Baxter (MW)	Baxter (MW)	Baxter <u>Take home exercise due 6 April</u>
13-24 April	<i>mid-trimester break</i>	<i>mid-trimester break</i>	<i>mid-trimester break</i>	<i>mid-trimester break</i>

27 April	The Maori Renaissance (JS)	Hulme, <i>the bone people</i> (JS)	Hulme, <i>the bone people</i> (JS)	Hulme
4 May	Hulme, <i>the bone people</i> (JS)	Tuwhare (PW)	Mahy, <i>The Changeover</i> (KW)	Tuwhare
11 May	Mahy, <i>The Changeover</i> (KW)	Mahy, <i>The Changeover</i> (KW)	Edmond (PW)	Mahy
18 May	Manhire (MW)	Manhire (MW)	Bornholdt (JS)	Manhire/Bornholdt <u>Essay due 22 May</u>
25 May	Knox, <i>The Vintner's Luck</i> (JS)	Knox, <i>The Vintner's Luck</i> (JS)	Knox, <i>The Vintner's Luck</i> (JS)	Knox
1 June	<i>Queen's birthday</i>	The Flight of the Conchords (MW)	What was NZ literature? (panel)	Exam preparation

Essay: *the bone people* (This text will not be included in the exam.)

Length 2000 words. Due 22 May (worth 30%).

1. Know'st thou an Island on the misty ocean,
Green, green with fern and many an ancient tree
Whose waving tops, with soft perpetual motion
Repeat the same primeval melody?

Lady Wilson, 1889

Discuss the ways in which the presence, actual and mythologised, of the New Zealand landscape is used in *the bone people*. You may if you wish use the poetry we have discussed in the course to frame your argument.

2. A critic has written of modernity as a situation in which we find ourselves 'off-centre among scattered traditions'. Is this a useful way of describing the problems that the characters in *the bone people* face? How does the novel suggest this might be remedied?

3. Discuss the use of and attitude to either violence or disability in *the bone people*.

You should set out your essay in accordance with the SEFTMS style guide which can be found on Blackboard.

Bibliography

Note: Listed below are some general critical works on New Zealand literature. There is as well a substantial list of critical articles on Keri Hulme because Hulme is the subject of the essay. A few articles that will be of particular use on other authors are also listed, but for detailed information students are expected to consult the New Zealand Literature File on University of Auckland Library webpage <<http://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/subjects/nzp/nzlit2/hulme.htm>> for full listings of criticism of the authors on this course.

Further bibliographical information is to be found in John Thomson's comprehensive, annotated bibliography in Terry Sturm's *Oxford History of New Zealand Literature in English*, 2nd ed. (1998). The period from 1972-1990 is covered in Mark Williams's *Post-colonial Literatures in English: Southeast Asia, New Zealand and the Pacific* (New York: Gale, 1996). Reader-friendly introductions to the authors, their lives, works and criticism may be found in Robinson and Wattie's *Oxford Companion to New Zealand Literature*. For recent works consult the annual bibliographies of New Zealand literature in the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*.

General:

- During, Simon. 'Postmodernism or Postcolonialism.' *Landfall* 39 (1985): 366-380.
- Evans, Patrick. *The Penguin History of New Zealand Literature*. Auckland: Penguin, 1990.
- Evans, Patrick. *The Long Forgetting: Post-colonial Literary Culture in New Zealand*. Christchurch: Canterbury University Press, 2007.
- Jensen, Kai. *Whole Men*. Auckland: Auckland University Press, 1996.
- Jones, Lawrence. *Barbed Wire & Mirrors: Essays on New Zealand Prose*. Dunedin: University of Otago Press, 1987.
- Jones, Lawrence. *Picking up the Traces: the Making of a New Zealand Literary Culture, 1932-1945*. Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2003.
- Robinson, Roger and Nelson Wattie. Eds. *The Oxford Companion to New Zealand Literature*. Melbourne and Auckland: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Stafford, Jane and Mark Williams. *Maoriland: New Zealand Literature 1872-1914*. Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2006.
- Sturm, Terry. Ed. *The Oxford History of New Zealand Literature in English*, 2nd ed., Auckland: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Williams, Mark and Michele Leggott. Eds. *Opening the Book: New Essays on New Zealand Writing*. Auckland: Auckland University Press, 1995.
- Williams, Mark. *Leaving the Highway: Six Contemporary New Zealand Novelists*. Auckland: Auckland University Press, 1990.

Robin Hyde and Eileen Duggan

- Leggott, Michele. 'Opening the Archive: Robin Hyde, Eileen Duggan and the Persistence of Record.' In *Opening the Book: New Essays on New Zealand Writing*. Auckland: Auckland University Press, 1995: 266-93.

Frank Sargeson

- During, Simon. 'Towards a revision of Local Critical Habits.' *AND*, 1 (August 1983): 75-92.
- Jensen, Kai. 'Holes, Wholeness and Holiness in Frank Sargeson's Writing.' *Landfall* 44(1) March 1990: 32-44.

Simpson, Peter. 'Three readings of Sargeson's 'The Hole that Jack Dug'.' *Span* 22 April (1986): 73-92.

Allen Curnow

Simpson, Peter. 'The Trick of Standing Upright: Allen Curnow and James K. Baxter.' *WLWE*, 26 no 2 (1986): 369-78.

James K. Baxter:

Journal of New Zealand Literature, 13 (1995). [This is a special issue of articles on Baxter. See especially the articles by Brown and Hawes]

Katherine Mansfield:

Frank Sargeson. 'Katherine Mansfield.' In *Conversation on a Train and Other Critical Writings*. Ed. Kevin Cunningham. Auckland: Auckland University Press/Oxford University Press, 1983: 28-33.

Lydia Wevers. 'How Kathleen Beauchamp Was Kidnapped,' *Women's Studies Journal* 4 no. 2 (December 1988): 5-17.

Keri Hulme:

Stead, C.K. 'Bookered: Keri Hulme's *the bone people*,' *Ariel*, October 1985; reprinted in *Answering to the Language: Essays on Modern Writers* (Auckland University Press, 1989): 178-182.

Fee, Margery. 'Why C.K. Stead didn't like *the bone people*: Who Can Write as Other.' *ANZSC* 1 (1989); reprinted *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader* ed Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin (Routledge, 1995):242-245.

Williams, Mark. 'Keri Hulme and Negative Capability.' In *Leaving the Highway: Six Contemporary New Zealand Novelists*. Auckland University Press, 1990, pp 84-109.

Dale, Judith. '*the bone people*: (Not) Having It Both Ways.' *Landfall* 39(4), December 1985: 413-427.

Heim, Otto. *Writing Along Broken Lines: Violence and Ethnicity in Contemporary Maori Fiction*. Auckland University Press, 1998.

Orr, Bridget. 'The Maori House of Fiction', *Cultural Institutions of the Novel*. Eds. Deidre Lynch and William B Warner. Duke University Press, 1996: 73-95.

Armstrong, Philip. 'Good-Eating: Ethics and Biculturalism in Reading *the bone people*.' *Ariel* 32(2) Apr 2001: 7-27

Barker, Clare. 'From Narrative Prosthesis to Disability Counternarrative: Reading the Politics of Difference in *Potiki* and *the bone people*.' *JNZL* 2006; 24 (1): 130-47.

Fox, Stephen D. 'Keri Hulme's *the bone people*: the Problem of Beneficial Child Abuse.' *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology*, 24, 1-2 (2003): 40-54. [on line via library]

Rauwerda, Antje M. 'The White Whipping Boy: Simon in *Keri Hulme's The bone people*.' *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, 40(2) June 2005: 23-42.

Shieff, Sarah. '*the bone people*: Context and Reception', 1984-2004. In Sheila Collingwood-Whittick. *The Pain of Unbelonging: Alienation and Identity in Australasian Literature*. Amsterdam, Netherlands: Rodopi, 2007: 143-63

Shieff, Sarah. '*the bone people*: Myths of Belonging.' *New Literatures Review*, 41 (Apr 2004): 47-63

Margaret Mahy:

See the essays by Waller, Smith and Scally in Elizabeth Hale and Sarah Fiona Winters, eds, *Marvellous Codes: The Fiction of Margaret Mahy* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2005).

