

ENGL 420: Modern Fiction: New Zealand Fiction for Children

Trimester 2 2010

Monday 12 July to Saturday 13 November 2010

30 Points



TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: Monday 12 July 2010 to Friday 15 October 2010

Mid-trimester break: Monday 23 August to Sunday 5 September 2010

Study week: Monday 18 October to Friday 22 October 2010

Examination/Assessment period: Friday 22 October to Saturday 13 November 2010

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

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Anna Jackson	anna.jackson@vuw.ac.nz	463 6840	VZ 919
Geoff Miles	geoff.miles@vuw.ac.nz	463 6809	VZ 915
Harry Ricketts	harry.ricketts@vuw.ac.nz	463 6814	VZ 906

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Tatjana Schaefer	Tatjana.schaefer@vuw.ac.nz	463 6802	VZ 917
Kathryn Walls	kathryn.walls@vuw.ac.nz	463 6898	VZ 916

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Seminars

Tuesdays 10.00-12.30am VZ 802

COURSE DELIVERY

We shall proceed by group discussion of topics suggested in advance by students and (on occasion) staff participants.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information and notices will be made available on Blackboard, so please do check the Blackboard site regularly.

COURSE CONTENT

A study of young adult fiction by New Zealand authors. For the purposes of discussion, the texts will be grouped into the following categories: historical realist, other world fantastical, domestic realist, psychological fantastical, and gothic.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students passing the course should be familiar with the set texts. They should be capable of considering them in their national, historical, ideological and aesthetic aspects. In particular, they should be capable of considering them comparatively.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

For a 30 point course, you are expected to contribute approximately 300 hours of your time (around 25 hours per week)—in preparation (i. e., reading), attendance at classes, and essay and examination preparation.

READINGS

Essential texts:

In approximate teaching order:

(i) Literary texts:

Maurice Gee, *The Fire Raiser*; *The Champion*; Bernard Beckett, *Home Boys*; Sheryl Jordan, *Rocco*; Jack Lasenby, *The Conjuror*; Maurice Gee, *O Trilogy*; Bernard Beckett, *Genesis*; Margaret Mahy, *Catalogue of*

the Universe, Memory; Kate de Goldi, *The Ten PM Question*; Elizabeth Knox, *The High Jump*; Margaret Mahy, *Dangerous Spaces*; Elizabeth Knox, *Dreamhunter Duet*, Margaret Mahy, *The Haunting, The Tricksters*; Patricia Grace, *Mutuwhenua*.

(ii) Reference work: Michael King, *Penguin History of New Zealand*.

Important note: Not all set texts are currently in print. Please check second-hand bookshops, Trade Me etc for copies of *The Conjuror, The Haunting, Tricksters* and *Dangerous Spaces*—and of course for any other set texts that turn out to be unavailable in VicBooks. Copies of these titles will also be held on Closed Reserve in the Library. Many, if not all, will be in the Public Library (and its suburban branches). We have also managed to purchase spare second-hand copies of some of the out-of-print titles, and we shall make these available for purchase by students at cost.

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of Vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from Vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. Customers may order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered, or they may be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The course will be assessed on the basis of two 3000-word essays submitted during the course (50%) and an examination (50%).

Essays

(i) due Monday September 6 (25%)

For this first essay you will need to formulate your own topic in consultation with Tatjana Schaefer and/or Kathryn Walls. It should focus on some of the texts discussed in the section of the course before the mid-term break.

(ii) due Friday October 16 (25%)

For this second essay you will need to formulate your own topic in consultation with Geoff Miles and/or Harry Ricketts. It should focus on some of the texts discussed between the mid-term break and September 27.

These essays will test your ability to write an original academic essay demonstrating an awareness of some of the dimensions of the set texts isolated under “Learning Objectives,” above.

Examination

Three hours, open book. By “open book,” we mean that you may bring copies of the set texts with you into the examination room. These may be heavily annotated. No other texts or papers will be permitted. The examination will include a compulsory question on the novels not part of the essays component. Further details about the examination will be provided by the end of September.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your teachers’ names. For essay (i), these will be Tatjana Schaefer and Kathryn Walls, and for essay (ii), Geoff Miles and Harry Ricketts.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. Documentation may be required. Work that is submitted late without an extension is subject to penalties: If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and minimal comments are offered.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course, you must (in addition to achieving a passing grade on the basis of your written work):

Prepare for and attend a minimum of 8 seminars.

Students who have not read the set texts in advance of the relevant seminar should not attend.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the second seminar, and that person’s name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON FORMAL PRESENTATION

Please follow the Guidelines available on Blackboard. It is of course essential that your written work be legible.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic,

intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

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

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

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You 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 or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	July 13	Introduction, <i>Fire Raiser</i>
Week 2	July 20	<i>The Champion, Home Boys</i>
Week 3	July 27	<i>Rocco, The Conjuror</i>

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Week 4	Aug 3	<i>O Trilogy</i>
Week 5	Aug 10	<i>Genesis</i>
Week 6	Aug 17	<i>Catalogue of the Universe, 10 PM Question</i>
Mid Trimester Break:	Monday 23 August to Sunday 5 September 2010	
Week 7	Sept 7	<i>High Jump</i>
Week 8	Sept 14	<i>Dangerous Spaces, O Trilogy (revisited)</i>
Week 9	Sept 21	<i>Dreamhunter Duet,</i>
Week 10	Sept 28	<i>The Haunting, Tricksters</i>
Week 11	Oct 5	<i>Mutuwhenua, Fire Raiser (revisited)</i>
Week 12	Oct 12	Conclusion
Study Week:	Monday 18 October to Friday 22 October 2010	
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