

ENGL 444: Special Topic: Journalism and Literature

Trimester 1 2011

28 February to 2 July 2011

30 Points



TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 28 February to 3 June 2011

Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 1 May 2011

Study week: 6 to 10 June 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 10 June to 2 July 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

Staff: Dr Nikki Hessel

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Phone: 463 5233 extn 8877

Room: VZ 803

Office Hours: by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Tuesday 10am-1pm, VZ 802

COURSE DELIVERY

This course will be taught in the form of a seminar based around discussion of primary and secondary texts. Students are expected to have read all of the relevant material before coming to class in order to participate fully in the discussion.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be emailed to everyone in the class and posted on Blackboard.

COURSE CONTENT

This course examines the relationship between literature and journalism from the 18th to the 21st centuries, with particular attention to the themes of fact and fiction, literary aesthetics in non-fiction writing, and the role of the writer.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. Discuss (both orally and in writing) the major primary and secondary texts in the field of journalism and literature
2. Compare literary and journalistic renditions of various topics
3. Produce independent research on the relationship between journalism and literature, using primary and secondary texts
4. Effectively use the major print-based and electronic research resources available in the field.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

Honours courses typically involve less classroom time and more independent study than undergraduate courses. For this course, you should expect to spend around 15 hours per week throughout the trimester, including the exam period. As well as our weekly 3-hour class, you will need to be reading the primary and secondary texts, preparing your seminar and/or research proposal, researching and writing your final paper, and preparing for the exam.

READINGS

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011, 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 of the trimester all

undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 3 of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

Essential texts:

The following texts are required (in order of study):

- Henry Fielding, *Jonathan Wild* (Oxford World's Classics)
- Oliver Goldsmith, "The Deserted Village" and "The Revolution in Low Life" (available in the ENGL 444 Course Readings)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Fears in Solitude" and "Insensibility of the Public Temper" (available in the ENGL 444 Course Readings)
- Charles Dickens, *Hard Times* (Oxford World's Classics)
- Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood* (Penguin Classics)
- Joan Didion, *A Book of Common Prayer* (Vintage) and part one of "In El Salvador" (available in the ENGL 444 Course Readings)
- Helen Garner, *Joe Cinque's Consolation* (Pan Macmillan)

NB. Other editions of these texts are acceptable; however, students are strongly encouraged to purchase the Oxford World's Classics edition of *Jonathan Wild*, as it has an introduction and appendices that will prove useful when reading the text.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

There are four pieces of assessment for this course.

1. Seminar presentation and paper (10%)
2. Research proposal with annotated bibliography (20%)
3. Major research paper (40%)
4. Final exam (30%)

Seminar presentation: dates vary depending on topic (10%)

Each student will be required to lead a seminar discussion on one of the secondary readings in the Course Readings. This will involve giving a presentation of approximately 10 minutes summarising the article, discussing its strengths and weaknesses, and relating its argument to both the themes of the course and the primary texts. You are required to produce a written text of this presentation (a maximum of 5 double-spaced pages) which is to be handed in on the same day as you present. Once the presentation is completed, you will facilitate the discussion about the secondary reading; the length of time this takes will vary, but it should take at least 20-30 minutes.

Marks for the presentation will be awarded as follows:

- Up to 2 mark for the attempt
- Up to 4 marks for the presentation and facilitation of discussion
- Up to 4 marks for the written text.

Students will have the opportunity to choose a seminar reading and date during the first class of the trimester.

This assessment contributes to learning objective 1.

Research proposal with annotated bibliography: due Tuesday 5 April, 5pm (20%)

Each student will be required to submit a research proposal for the final paper, with an annotated bibliography attached. The research proposal should be 1-2 pages long (double-spaced), while the annotated bibliography should contain 5-10 entries.

Marks for the proposal will be awarded as follows:

- Up to 14 marks for a well-written proposal that identifies a worthwhile research topic in the field of journalism and literature and explains how it will be addressed in the final paper.
- Up to 6 marks for a bibliography that is prepared in the MLA style, includes relevant and important work in the field and is fully annotated.

This assessment contributes to learning objectives 1 and 4.

Major research paper: due Thursday 2 June, 5pm (5,000 – 6,000 words, 40%)

Each student will be required to complete a major research paper on a topic of their choice. This paper should demonstrate deep engagement with primary and secondary texts, and an awareness of the key issues in the field of journalism and literature. Independent research and the formulation of an original argument are essential.

This assessment contributes to learning objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Final exam: examination period 10 June – 2 July (3 hours, 30%)

Each student will be required to sit a three-hour exam at the conclusion of the course. The exam will consist of three essays (from a choice of ten topics). More information about the exam will be provided closer to the time.

This assessment contributes to learning objectives 1 and 2.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your course co-ordinator's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

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. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

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.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Attend all classes and actively participate
- Attempt all four pieces of assessment.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, 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 LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

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>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	1 March	Introduction
Week 2	8 March	Fielding, <i>Jonathan Wild</i> Underwood, "Journalism and the rise of the novel, 1700-1875"
Week 3	15 March	Fielding, <i>Jonathan Wild</i> McDowell, "Narrative Authority, Critical Complicity: The Case of <i>Jonathan Wild</i> "
Week 4	22 March	Goldsmith, "The Deserted Village" and "The Revolution in Low Life" Taylor, "The Politics of Goldsmith's Journalism"
Week 5	29 March	Coleridge, "Fears in Solitude" and "Insensibility of the Public Temper" Leader, "Coleridge and the Uses of Journalism"
Week 6	5 April	Dickens, <i>Hard Times</i> Butwin, " <i>Hard Times</i> : The News and the Novel" Research proposals due, 5pm
Week 7	12 April	Dickens, <i>Hard Times</i> Pulsford, "The Aesthetic and the Closed Shop: The Ideology of the Aesthetic in Dickens's <i>Hard Times</i> "
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 18 April– Sunday 1 May 2011		
Week 8	3 May	Capote, <i>In Cold Blood</i> Wolfe, "The New Journalism"
Week 9	10 May	Capote, <i>In Cold Blood</i> Heyne, "Toward a Theory of Literary Nonfiction"
Week 10	17 May	Didion, <i>A Book of Common Prayer</i> and "In El Salvador" (Part One) Hanley, "To El Salvador"
Week 11	24 May	Garner, <i>Joe Cinque's Consolation</i>

Eggs, "Real Stories: Ethics and Narrative in Helen Garner's *Joe Cinque's Consolation*"

Week 12 31 May Garner, *Joe Cinque's Consolation* / Conclusion
Kramer, "Breakable Rules for Literary Journalism"
Major research paper due, Thursday 2 June, 5pm

Study Week: Monday 6 June to Friday 10 June 2011

Examination Period: Friday 10 June – Saturday 2 July 2011