

## ENGL 428 Contemporary Fiction

**Trimester 2 2011**

11 July to 12 November 2011

**30 Points**

### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	11 July to 14 October 2011
Mid-trimester break:	22 August to 4 September 2011
Study week:	17 to 21 October 2011
Examination/Assessment period:	21 October to 12 November 2011

**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

Mark Williams	mark.williams@vuw.ac.nz	463 6810	VZ 911
Lydia Wevers	lydia.wevers@vuw.ac.nz	463 6434	Stout Research Centre, room 202

(The Stout Research Centre is at 12 Waiteata Road. If you can't find it phone Lydia or Mark.)

### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Monday	1.10 pm – 4.00 pm	Stout Research Centre, room 203
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### COURSE DELIVERY

Students will be expected to deliver one seminar each on a novel in this course.

### COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specific information about this course is available on Blackboard.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

## **COURSE PRESCRIPTION**

Contemporary New Zealand fiction is usually read in its New Zealand contexts. What happens when we consider a recent New Zealand novel alongside a selection of novels from another settler society? This course encourages students to consider the limits of nationalism, the claims of the local and the meanings of culture. Students will study a range of recent novels from New Zealand, Australia and Canada and elsewhere in the English-speaking world where appropriate.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

This course looks at recent novels from Australia, Canada and New Zealand in terms of three related thematic categories: the city, history, and the indigenous. As novels from settler societies redefining their colonial identities in terms of the postcolonial and multicultural present, they both discover a distinct sense of place and community and reflect the globalizing forces they cannot escape. The renegotiation of outmoded communal narratives is registered through activities as various as cooking, travelling, making art or ethnicity. The fiction itself reworks traditional forms such as the crime novel or the Victorian novel in new historical and urban circumstances. How do we see ourselves reflected in these mirrors of the way we live now, and what differences do we observe?

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This is a seminar course in which students are expected to present to the class their researches into a selection of fiction from Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In the course of the year students will be encouraged to:

- consider a range of fictional kinds including historical fiction, the crime novel, a short story sequence, the neo-Victorian novel
- consider the global and local contexts of contemporary literature
- consider how cities with colonial histories define their modern identities in opposition to their colonial pasts
- consider the critical contexts in which those texts have been interpreted and adopt their own critical stances towards the texts and towards existing criticism.

## **EXPECTED WORKLOAD**

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and breaks, or 20 hours per teaching week.

## READINGS

### Essential texts:

Margaret Atwood, *Alias Grace* (Virago, 1997);  
Timothy Taylor, *Stanley Park* (Vintage, 2001);  
Kate Grenville, *The Secret River* (Canongate, 2006);  
Dionne Brand *What We All Long For* (Griffin, 2005);  
Alexis Wright, *Carpentaria* (Giramondo, 2006);  
Peter Temple, *The Broken Shore* (Quercus, 2006);  
Meg Mundell, *Black Glass* (Scribe, 2011);  
Patricia Grace, *Baby No-Eyes* (Penguin, 1998);  
Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water* (Bantam Books, 1994).

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 4 to 22 July 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 4 of the Student Union Building.

You can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. You will be contacted when they are available.

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Students will do two 2,500 word essays for 25 marks each. The first is due on 19 August, the second on 14 October. There will be a final three-hour examination for 40 marks. Students should note that they will be expected to deliver one in-class seminar for 10%. Students will be expected to write essays, answer test questions or deliver seminar presentations on at least **four** texts during the course. Students will not be allowed to take books into the examination, but will be allowed to take in one A4 sheet with notes on both sides. Please note: copies of all marked essays and seminar presentations should be retained by students and must be given to the lecturer by the date of the final exam; all grades are provisional; all written work must be handed in by the last day of the trimester.

### Final Examination:

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, i.e. between Friday 21 October to Saturday 12 November 2011.

## **ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS**

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

## **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. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. 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**

- (i) As in all English Programme courses, 70% attendance is required.
- (ii) Students will be required to present one seminar.
- (iii) Students will complete two essays
- (iv) Students will sit an examination (see note under assessment below).

## **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. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this 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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).

## COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	11 July	<i>Introduction. You should read the essay by Hedertoff and Hjort, 'The Post-National Self' which will placed on BB</i>
Week 2	18 July	<i>Black Glass. Read the text.</i>
Week 3	25 July	<i>What We All Long For. You should read Emily Johansen's "'Streets Are the Dwelling Place of the Collective' via the Vic Library's online journal site.</i>
Week 4	1 Aug	<i>Stanley Park. You should read Travis Mason' "Placing Ekphrasis" via the Vic Library's online journal site.</i>
Week 5	8 Aug	<i>Baby No-Eyes. Read Chris Prentice's "From Visibility to Visuality" via the Vic Library's online journal site.</i>
Week 6	15 Aug	<i>Green Grass, Running Water. You should read Fee and Flick's essay, "Coyote Pedagogy."</i>
Mid Trimester Break:	<b>Monday 22 August to Sunday 4 September 2011</b>	
Week 7	5 Sept	<i>Carpentaria. You should read Alexis Wright's "Politics of Writing" via the Vic Library's online journal site.</i>
Week 8	12 Sept	<i>Carpentaria/ The Secret River. You should read Sue Kossew's "Voicing the 'Great Australian Silence'" via the Vic Library's online journal site.</i>
Week 9	19 Sept	<i>The Secret River.</i>
Week 10	26 Sept	<i>Alias Grace. You should read Stanley's "The Eroticism of Class" via the Vic Library's online journal site.</i>
Week 11	3 Oct	<i>Alias Grace.</i>
Week 12	10 Oct	<i>The Broken Shore. Read the text.</i>
<b>Study Week:</b>	Monday 17 October to Friday 21 October 2011	
<b>Examination Period:</b>	Friday 21 October to Saturday 12 November 2011	