

ENGL 428 Contemporary Fiction

Trimester 2 2012

16 July to 17 November 2012

30 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	16 July to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Study week:	22 to 26 October 2012
Examination/Assessment period:	26 October to 17 November 2012

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	Email	Phone	Room
Mark Williams	mark.williams@vuw.ac.nz	463 6810 (wk) 021 0690434 (cell)	VZ 911
Lydia Wevers	lydia.wevers@vuw.ac.nz	463 6434 (wk) 027 563 6434 (cell)	Stout Research Centre

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Monday	2:10pm – 5:00pm	Stout Research Centre, room 203 12 Waiteata Road
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TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

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 recent New Zealand novels 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, 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, 2010);

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 9–27 July 2012, 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 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 nominated collection points at each campus. You 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

Students will do two 2,500 word essays for 25% each. The first is due on 17 August, the second on 12 October. There will be a final three-hour examination for 40%. 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 test; 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 26 October to Saturday 17 November 2012.

Note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Note also that honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

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. 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

- (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.

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).

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 428

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.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 428

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	16 July	Introduction. You should read Hedertoff and Hjort <i>'The Post-National Self'</i> , text on Blackboard
Week 2	23 July	Students to find one article each that speaks to the concerns of themes of the course and/or Hedetoft & Hjort
Week 3	30 July	<i>What We All Long For</i> . You should read Emily Johansen's "'Streets Are the Dwelling Place of the Collective'" via the Vic Library's online journal site.
Week 4	6 Aug	<i>Stanley Park</i> . You should read Travis Mason's "Placing Ekphrasis" via the Vic Library's online journal site
Week 5	13 Aug	<i>Black Glass</i> . Read the Text
Week 6	20 Aug	<i>Baby No-Eyes</i> . Read Chris Prentice's "From Visibility to Visuality" via the Vic Library's online journal site.
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 27 August to Sunday 9 September 2012		
Week 7	10 Sept	<i>Carpentaria</i> . You should read Alexis Wright's "Politics of Writing" via the Vic Library's online journal site.
Week 8	17 Sept	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i> . You should read Fee and Flick's essay, "Coyote Pedagogy."
Week 9	24 Sept	<i>The Broken Shore</i> . Read the text.
Week 10	1 Oct	<i>Alias Grace</i> . You should read Stanley's "The Eroticism of Class" via the Vic Library's online journal site.
Week 11	8 Oct	<i>The Secret River</i> . You should read Sue Kossew's "Voicing the 'Great Australian Silence'" via the Vic Library's online journal site.
Week 12	15 Oct	Wrap-up. General discussion of the course, the texts and the issues raised
Study Week: Monday 22 October to Friday 26 October 2012		
Examination Period: Friday 26 October to Saturday 17 November 2012		