

## ENGL 489 Research Essay

**Trimester 1+2 2013**

4 March to 17 November 2013

**30 Points**

### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	4 March to 18 October 2013
Easter break 1/3:	28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break 1/3:	22 to 28 April 2013
Mid-year break:	4 to 14 July 2013
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	26 August to 8 September 2013

### WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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

### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Honours Coordinator: Dr Anna Jackson      Email: [anna.jackson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:anna.jackson@vuw.ac.nz)

Phone: 463 6840      Room: VZ 919

Office Hours: Tuesday, 3pm – 4pm, and Wednesday, 2pm -3pm, or by appointment.

Supervisors: tbc

### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

There are no classes for this course. Students are expected to meet with their supervisors six times during the course of study, at times to be arranged with the supervisor, and to have work completed in advance of these meetings as arranged. Some workshops will be offered providing some basic information and a chance for discussion about research methods and the writing process; times and room to be announced by blackboard and email.

### TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

Students will be assigned a supervisor for their research project and will work with this supervisor to program a suitable course of study. There will also be a number of workshops and seminars that will

provide students with advanced research skills and will give them the opportunity to discuss their project.

### **COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information will be posted 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**

This course gives students the opportunity to pursue an individual research project usually in the form of an extended essay, up to 10,000 words, with regular guidance and support from a supervisor. Practical and creative work may be included as part of a research project. A research project is a mandatory part of an Honours degree in English. Students wishing to enrol for the BA(Hons) degree may consult with academic staff to discuss their areas of interest and must contact the Honours Co-ordinator with a brief outline of their intended topic, at least two weeks prior to the final date for enrolment. Students wishing to include practical work will also need to discuss the resource implications before they enrol. Note: assessment for ENGL 489 research essays or projects may often be based wholly on the completed essay or project. Alternatively, individual supervisors may allocate a portion of the final grade for work to be completed at set milestones throughout the period of enrolment.

### **COURSE CONTENT**

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop a detailed academic project which addresses their own research question. The research that they undertake should be presented as extended essay and/ or creative/practical presentation. The project should be approximately 10,000 words in length. Students will meet with their supervisor on a regular basis to discuss the focus of their research question, the methodology or approach they take to their research, and the progress of their project through to final submission. Students should conduct extensive research into their chosen topic. They should also draw on academic sources, such as scholarly books, book chapters, and articles from refereed journals. This will enable them to develop an informed critical response to the topic based on their research, and use these results as the basis of a coherent, well-supported argument.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students who successfully complete and pass this course will acquire advanced research and argumentation skills. They will be able to suitably identify relevant research questions, and use them as the basis for developing an interesting and informed reading of one or more literary texts.

### **EXPECTED WORKLOAD**

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours.

## READINGS

Students will determine appropriate readings for their research project through their own research and through discussion with their supervisor.

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The essay will be assigned an examiner from within the English programme (or, in exceptional circumstances, from another programme) and may also be sent to an external examiner for moderation. Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification is made by the Honours programme examination committee.

**Due Date: Friday, October 11, 3pm**

**Length: 10,000 words**

### Assessment Criteria

- Identify a clearly defined research question that forms the focus of your project.
- Sustain a coherent and logical argument that incorporates a critical reading of primary and secondary sources.
- Demonstrate a proficiency at textual analysis at an advanced level.
- Demonstrate a good understanding of the theoretical concepts and methodologies that inform your research paper.
- Demonstrate a high standard of written expression.
- Include accurate and complete references for all relevant sources.

## SUBMISSION OF WORK

The Research Essay is submitted in two formats:

- Two hardcopies in the drop slot outside the Administration office: von Zedlitz level 8.  
Attach an assignment cover sheet to your essay, found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to [english@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:english@vuw.ac.nz)

## 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**

To gain a pass in this course you must: submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).

### **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.

### **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>

### **TURNITIN**

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

## 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar) (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).