

# ENGL 428 Contemporary Fiction

## Trimester 2 2013

15 July to 17 November 2013

**30 Points**

### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	15 July to 18 October 2013
Mid-Trimester break:	26 August to 8 September 2013
Study week:	21 to 25 October 2013
Examination/Assessment period:	25 October to 16 November 2013

**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

Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Mon 2.10 - 5.00pm 12 Wai-te-ata Rd 203

### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Mark Williams	<a href="mailto:Mark.Williams@vuw.ac.nz">Mark.Williams@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 6810 (wk) 021 0690434 (cell)	vZ 911	Wed, 11.00am
Lydia Wevers	<a href="mailto:Lydia.Wevers@vuw.ac.nz">Lydia.Wevers@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 6434	Stout Research Centre	

### COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specific information about this course is available on Blackboard.

Additional information on changes will be conveyed to students 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.

## **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 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?

## **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)**

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.

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. consider the global and local contexts of contemporary literature
2. consider contemporary discourses about cities and nations
3. consider the critical contexts in which those texts have been interpreted and adopt their own critical stances towards the texts and towards existing criticism.
4. consider a range of contemporary fictional kinds

## **TEACHING FORMAT**

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

## **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- present one seminar
- complete two essays
- sit the examination (see note under assessment below).

As in all English Programme courses, 70% attendance is required.

## 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.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay (2500 words)	25%	1	17 August
2	Essay (2500 words)	25%	2	11 October
3	In-class seminar	10%	3	TBA
4	Exam (3 hours)	40%	4	TBA

Students will do two 2,500 word essays for 25% each. The first is due on 17 August, the second on 11 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 examination; 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 25 October to Saturday 16 November 2013.

**Please 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.

### **SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK**

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

Hard-copy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: von Zedlitz level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.

Assignments will be returned during lectures. At the end of trimester, uncollected assignments can be collected from the administration office: Von Zedlitz level 8.

### **PENALTIES**

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.

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.

### **SET TEXTS**

Margaret Atwood, *Alias Grace* (Virago, 1997);

Timothy Taylor, *Stanley Park* (Vintage, 2001);

Elizabeth Knox, *Dreamhunter* (4th Estate);

Kate Grenville, *The Secret River* (Canongate, 2006);

Alexis Wright, *Carpentaria* (Giramondo, 2006);

Meg Mundell, *Black Glass* (Scribe);

Patricia Grace, *Dogside Story* (Penguin, 1998);

Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water* (Bantam Books, 1994).

You can order textbooks 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).

## RECOMMENDED READING

You should read the introduction to Hedertoff and Hjort's, *The Post-National Self: Belonging and Identity* (Minneapolis: University of Minneapolis Press, 2002) by the first class. The text can be found on Blackboard.

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

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.

You may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

**Class Rep name and email address for this course:**

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)

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

- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

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**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Week 1	15 July	Introduction. You should read Hedertoff and Hjort ' <i>The Post-National Self</i> ', text on Blackboard
Week 2	22 July	Students to find one article each that speaks to the concerns of themes of the course and/or Hedetoft & Hjort
Week 3	29 July	<i>Black Glass</i> . Read the Text
Week 4	5 Aug	<i>Stanley Park</i> . You should read Travis Mason' "Placing Ekphrasis" via the Vic Library's online journal site
Week 5	12 Aug	<i>Dreamhunter</i> Read the Text
Week 6	19 Aug	<i>Dreamhunter</i>
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013		
Week 7	9 Sept	<i>Carpentaria</i> . You should read Alexis Wright's "Politics of Writing" via the Vic Library's online journal site.
Week 8	16 Sept	<i>Alias Grace</i> . You should read Stanley's "The Eroticism of Class" via the Vic Library's online journal site.
Week 9	23 Sept	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i> . You should read Fee and Flick's essay, "Coyote Pedagogy."
Week 10	30 Sept	Patricia Grace, <i>Dogside Story</i>
Week 11	7 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	14 Oct	Wrap-up. General discussion of the course, the texts and the issues raised
<b>Study Week:</b>	Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October 2013	
<b>Examination Period:</b>	Friday 25 October to Saturday 16 November 2013	