



## ENGL 348 Awkward Books

**Trimester 1 2015**

2 March to 1 July 2015

**20 Points**

### IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-Trimester break: 3 to 19 April 2015

Last assessment item due: 5 June 2015

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

#### Lectures

Tue, Wed 9.00 – 9.50 am KKLT 301

#### Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the ENGL117 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorial Sign Up” and then follow the instructions under the “S-Cubed Log In” link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the noticeboard in the Level 3 corridor of the Hugh Mackenzie Building.

### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff:	Email:	Phone:	Room:	Office Hours:
James Meffan	<a href="mailto:James.Meffan@vuw.ac.nz">James.Meffan@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463 6807	vZ903	By appointment

### COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All changes or additional information will be conveyed to students via 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

What leads people to ban, burn, censor, censure or generally revile works of literature? This course will investigate the relationship between literary fiction and ethics by reading a series of controversial novels written in the last hundred years against the context of their production and reception.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should:

- 1) Be familiar with the distinctive form and content of all texts studied;
- 2) Be familiar with the historical and cultural context of all texts studied;
- 3) Be conversant with relevant critical concerns.
- 4) Be able to read texts critically, paying close attention to detail;
- 5) Think about texts comparatively and contextually;
- 6) Synthesise a range of ideas and approaches into a coherent argument;
- 7) Demonstrate familiarity with the conventions of academic writing and ethics;
- 8) Develop appropriate modes of self-expression.

## TEACHING FORMAT

The course will be delivered through two lectures and one tutorial each week. In addition to set novels, required reading includes selected non-fictional writing, in the form of historical information and critical commentary on the novels. Students will be expected to prepare for and actively participate in tutorial discussions.

## MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- Submit the essays and assignments, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend at least 8 tutorials

## WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20-point course is 200 hours over the trimester or 13 hours per teaching week.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment is 100% internal, consisting of:

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	600-word report	10%	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8	20/03/15

2	600-word report	10%	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8	03/04/15
3	2,000-word essay	35%	1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	24/04/15
4	600-word report	10%	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8	08/05/15
5	2,000-word essay	35%	1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	05/06/15

### SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section of Blackboard.

Electronic assignments are submitted as a MS Word file through Blackboard. How to name your file and step-by-step instructions can be found on Blackboard in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section.

Your marked assignment will be found on Blackboard in the same section.

### EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

#### Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 19 June 2015.**

#### 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.

### SET TEXTS

Albert Camus, *The Outsider* (Penguin);

Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita* (Penguin);

Brett Easton Ellis, *American Psycho* (Macmillan);

J. M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (Vintage)

Phoebe Gloeckner, *Diary of a Teenage Girl* (Random)

Lionel Shriver, *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (Penguin)

Texts are listed in the order they are studied. Note that our first fictional text is the section from James Joyce's *Ulysses* generally known as "Nausicaa". You need not purchase the novel; it will be sufficient to read the online version available at Project Gutenberg ([www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)). The section begins "The summer evening had begun to fold the world in its mysterious embrace" and ends "*Cuckoo. Cuckoo. Cuckoo*".

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).

### CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

### STUDENT FEEDBACK

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/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/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)

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- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- 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/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

## COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1      3 Mar      Introduction  
                 4 Mar      Literature and Ethics

Week 2      10 Mar     Criticism and Ethics  
                 11 Mar     *Ulysses*

Week 3      17 Mar     *Ulysses*  
                 18 Mar     Existentialism  
**Critical Exercise 1 due Friday 20 March**

Week 4      24 Mar     *The Outsider*  
                 25 Mar     *The Outsider*

Week 5      31 Mar     Desire and Taboo  
                 1 Apr      *Lolita*  
**Critical Exercise 2 due Friday 3 April**

**Easter/Mid Trimester Break:**    Friday 3 to Sunday 19 April 2015

Week 6      21 Apr     *Lolita*  
                 22 Apr     Representation and Endorsement  
**Essay 1 due Friday 24 April**

Week 7      28 Apr     *American Psycho*  
                 29 Apr     *American Psycho*

Week 8      5 May      Ethics vs Politics  
                 6 May      *Disgrace*  
**Critical Exercise 3 due Friday 8 May**

Week 9      12 May     *Disgrace*  
                 13 May     Gaphic Images

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Week 10    19 May    *Diary of a Teenage Girl*

              20 May    *Diary of a Teenage Girl*

Week 11    26 May    Cause and culpability

              27 May    *We Need to Talk About Kevin*

Week 12    2 June    *We Need to Talk About Kevin*

              3 June    The Ends of Literature

**Essay 2 due 5 Friday June**