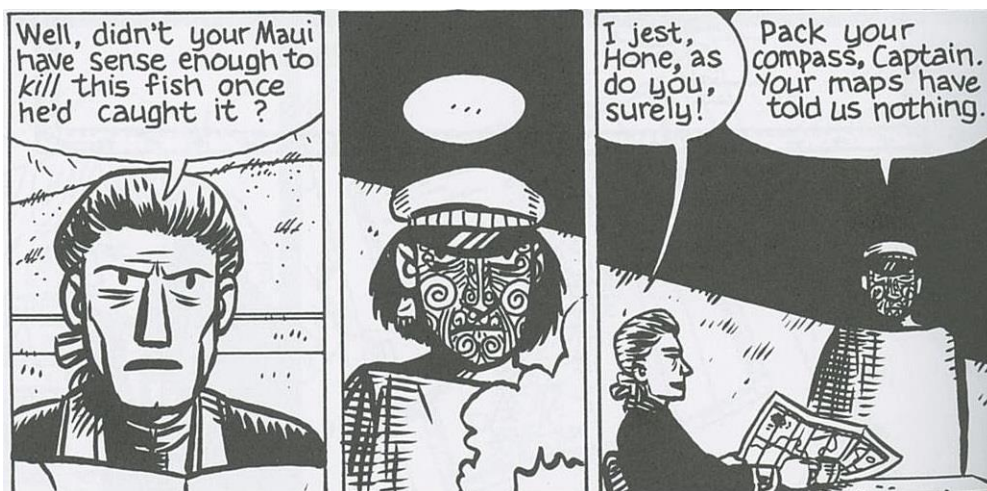


ENGL 428 Contemporary Fiction

Trimester 1 2015

2 March to 1 July 2015

30 Points



(Figure One: *Hicksville*, Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2010, p. 20)

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

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

Study period: 8 to 12 June 2015

Examination/Assessment period: 12 June to 1 July 2015

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to 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.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Tuesday	10.00 am-12.00 pm	Stout Research Centre
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NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff:	Email:	Phone:	Room:	Office Hours:
Mark Williams	mark.williams@vuw.ac.nz	463 6810 (wk) 021 0690434 (cell)	VZ 911	Wed, 11.00am
Lydia Wevers	lydia.wevers@vuw.ac.nz	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 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.

PRESCRIPTION

The Literatures of New Zealand, Australia and Canada are not as discrete as we might suppose. Connected to problems of belonging, they open out the complications and contradictions of national, postcolonial discourses and invite us to ask: what is the role of the past? What does it mean to have a "national" literature? Is the city the primary site of identity? What is an indigenous literature? Are we postnational? 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 globalising forces they cannot escape. 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:

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1. consider the global and local contexts of contemporary literature
2. consider contemporary literary discourses
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.

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).
- attend at least 9 out of 12 seminars

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay (2500 words)	25%	1 & 2	2 April
2	Essay (2500 words)	25%	1 & 2	29 May
3	In-class seminar	10%	3	TBA
4	Exam (3 hours)	40%	1, 2 & 3	TBA

Students will do two 2,500 word essays for 25% each. The first is due on 2 April, the second on 29 May. 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 12 June and 1 July.

Please note: 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 made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

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

Each assignment is submitted in two formats:

- A hardcopy in the drop slot outside the administration office: Von Zedlitz Level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to english@vuw.ac.nz

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your supervisor. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the administration office.

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

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. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Wednesday 1 July 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

Guy Vanderhaeghe, *The Englishman's Boy* (Grove, 1996);
Carol Shields, *Unless* (Fourth Estate, 2002);
Patricia Grace, *Dogside Story* (Penguin, 2001)
Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water* (Bantam Books, 1994);
C.K. Stead, *The Singing Whakapapa* (Penguin, 1994);
Alexis Wright, *Carpentaria* (Giramondo, 2006);
Helen Garner, *This House of Grief* (Text, 2014);
Kate Grenville, *The Secret River* (Canongate, 2006).

Optional Text: Nigel Cox, *Cowboy Dog* (VUP)

Please note that C.K. Stead's *The Singing Whakapapa* is out of print. The book is readily available in libraries and second-hand bookstores.

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.

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

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.

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
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: 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
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

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COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 Mar 3 Introduction. You should read Hedertoff and Hjort '*The Post-National Self*', text on Blackboard

Week 2 Mar 10 Students to find one article each that speaks to the concerns of themes of the course and/or Hedetoft & Hjort

Week 3 Mar 17 Helen Garner, *This House of Grief*. Read the text.

Week 4 Mar 24 Carol Shields, *Unless*. Read the text

Week 5 Mar 31 Guy Vanderhaeghe, *The Englishman's Boy*. Read the text

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

Week 6 Apr 21 Alexis Wright, *Carpentaria*. You should read Alexis Wright's "Politics of Writing" via the Vic Library's online journal site.

Week 7 Apr 28 Alexis Wright, *Carpentaria*.

Week 8 May 5 *Green Grass, Running Water*. You should read Fee and Flick's essay, "Coyote Pedagogy."

Week 9 May 12 *The Secret River*. You should read Sue Kossew's "Voicing the 'Great Australian Silence.'" *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, 42:2 (2007): 7-18

Week 10 May 19 Patricia Grace, *Dogside Story*. You should read Chris Prentice's 'From Visibility to Visuality', *Modern Fiction Studies*, 55:2 (Summer 2009): 321-34.

Week 11 May 26 C.K. Stead, *The Singing Whakapapa*. You should read Margery Fee's "Why C.K. Stead Didn't Like *the bone people*"

Week 12 Jun 2 Wrap-up. General discussion of the course, the texts and the issues raised

Study Period: Monday 8 to Friday 12 June 2015

Examination Period: Friday 12 June to Wednesday 1 July 2015