

ENGL 335 Contemporary Fiction

Trimester 2 2015

13 July to 15 November 2015

20 Points

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	13 July to 16 October 2015
Mid-trimester break:	24 August to 6 September 2015
Study period:	19 to 23 October 2015
Examination/Assessment period:	23 October to 14 November 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

Tue, Wed	1.10 – 2.00pm	Hugh Mackenzie HMLT002
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Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the ENGL 335 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorial Instructions” and follow the instructions carefully. Remember to record your tutorial time, day and room for future reference.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course coordinator	Charles Ferrall.	charles.ferrall@vuw.ac.nz .	VZ 904,	463 6804
Lecturers:	Dougal McNeill.	dougal.mcneill@vuw.ac.nz .	VZ 903,	463. 6807

Appointments with lecturers should be made by email.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be conveyed to students by 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

This course will familiarise students with some of the most critically acclaimed novels in English published within the last ten years. Issues examined will include the marketing and critical reception of these novels; their narrative strategies in a media-saturated cultural context; and the ways in which they relate to historical forms of realism and anti-realism and with the intersecting ideas of nation, history and cultural identity.

COURSE CONTENT

Students will be expected to read all seven of the prescribed novels and all relevant reviews, interviews, and discussions on the Internet, as well any extra discussion made available on Blackboard.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1 display familiarity with all set texts;
- 2 demonstrate an understanding of the cultural context and reception of contemporary fiction;
- 3 discuss and analyse the central issues involved in contemporary fiction with critical awareness and sophistication.

TEACHING FORMAT

The course is taught by two lectures and one tutorial per week.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- Achieve at least 40% for the internal assessment
- Sit the final examination
- Attend at least 8 tutorials out of 11.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of these mandatory course requirements because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

WORKLOAD

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

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One 2,000 word essay	25%		19 Aug.
2	One 2,000 word essay	25%		23 Sept.
4	Exam 3 hours (23 October to 14 November 2015)	50%		

There will be two 2,000 word essays set during the course worth 25% each and a final 3-hour examination worth 50%.

The first essay is due on **19 August**, the second on **23 September**. Essay topics will be available by the second week of term. Essays must be handed in by 5.00 pm on the due date to the English Programme Office, VZ 8th floor.

Students will be expected to write exam questions on at least four of the writers on whom they have **not** written in-term essays. The exam is closed-book.

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.

Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: von Zedlitz Level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your tutor in tutorials or during their office hours. 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 Administration office: von Zedlitz level 8. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

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 Wednesday 13 November 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

Juno Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*;

Ali Smith, *Boy Meets Girl*;

Jennifer Egan, *A Visit from Good Squad*;

Julian Barnes, *The Sense of an Ending*;

Max Schaefer, *Children of the Sun*;

Alice Munro, *Dear Life*;

Elizabeth Strout, *The Burgess Boys*.

You can order textbooks online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

RECOMMENDED READING

Because all the novels have been recently published there have been few if any scholarly articles and books written about them. However students are expected to read book reviews and interviews online. James Woods' *How Fiction Works* is recommended and parts of it will be available 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

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

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 14 Jul Introduction (CF)

15 Jul Diaz (CF)

Week 2 21 Jul Diaz (CF)

22 Jul Diaz (CF)

Week 3 28 Jul Strout (CF)

29 Jul Strout (CF)

Week 4 4 Aug Strout (CF)

5 Aug Egan (CF)

Week 5 11 Aug Egan (CF))

12 Aug Egan (CF)

Week 6 18 Aug Barnes (CF)

19 Aug Barnes (CF) (*First Essay Due*)

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 24 August to Sunday 6 September 2015

Week 7 8 Sep Barnes (CF)

9 Sep Smith (DM)

Week 8 15 Sep Smith (DM)

16 Sep Smith (DM)

Week 9 22 Sep Munro

23 Sep Munro (CF) (*Second Essay Due*)

Week 10 29 Sep Munro (CF)

30 Sep Schaefer (DM)

Week 11 6 Oct Schaefer (DM)

7 Oct Schaefer (DM)

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ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 335

Week 12	13 Oct	Exam Revision
	14 Oct	No lecture

Study Period: Monday 19 October to Friday 23 October 2015

Examination Period: Friday 23 October to Saturday 14 November 2015