



LIT 834

Jane Austen and her World

S2 Evening 2014

English

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Geoffrey Payne

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MA

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit will explore the literary culture of Regency England, placing the iconic texts written by Jane Austen at the centre of an investigation of the contexts of the literary, social and political milieus that surrounded their production. Students will closely study Austen's novels, juvenilia and letters, and will be encouraged to research connections between her writings and prominent movements and debates that characterised the literary culture of her time.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. To critically engage with texts written by Jane Austen and by others who form part of the cultural and intellectual milieu that surrounded their production and reception.
2. To analyse a variety of current critical approaches to the study of literature within the academy, demonstrating an ability to apply them to the texts under scrutiny on the course.
3. To develop skills in conducting research, demonstrating an ability to apply critical methodologies to texts in a focused and creative manner.
4. To effectively communicate learning and research to peers and teachers (using oral

and written forms).

5. To actively participate in the production of a scholarly community of learners that investigates issues pertaining to the intellectual parameters of the course.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Class Participation</u>	10%	Ongoing
<u>Presentation and Report</u>	15%	As described below
<u>Critical Essay</u>	30%	21/09/14
<u>Research Essay</u>	45%	16/11/14

Class Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

Seminar attendance, preparation and participation in class activities.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. To critically engage with texts written by Jane Austen and by others who form part of the cultural and intellectual milieu that surrounded their production and reception.
- 4. To effectively communicate learning and research to peers and teachers (using oral and written forms).
- 5. To actively participate in the production of a scholarly community of learners that investigates issues pertaining to the intellectual parameters of the course.

Presentation and Report

Due: **As described below**

Weighting: **15%**

Students will report on one of the unit's set weekly topics and deliver a 6-10 minute presentation to the class in the appropriate week of semester. Following in-class feedback, the presentation will then be revised as a 750 word report, which will be submitted by the time of class in the week following the initial presentation. For further details of this task, see the unit handbook (available via the unit's iLearn site).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. To critically engage with texts written by Jane Austen and by others who form part of

the cultural and intellectual milieu that surrounded their production and reception.

- 2. To analyse a variety of current critical approaches to the study of literature within the academy, demonstrating an ability to apply them to the texts under scrutiny on the course.
- 3. To develop skills in conducting research, demonstrating an ability to apply critical methodologies to texts in a focused and creative manner.
- 4. To effectively communicate learning and research to peers and teachers (using oral and written forms).
- 5. To actively participate in the production of a scholarly community of learners that investigates issues pertaining to the intellectual parameters of the course.

Critical Essay

Due: **21/09/14**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will write an essay of between 1500 and 2000 words in length dealing with one of the set topics for this task. Details of topics and task are available in the unit handbook (available via the unit's iLearn site).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. To critically engage with texts written by Jane Austen and by others who form part of the cultural and intellectual milieu that surrounded their production and reception.
- 2. To analyse a variety of current critical approaches to the study of literature within the academy, demonstrating an ability to apply them to the texts under scrutiny on the course.
- 4. To effectively communicate learning and research to peers and teachers (using oral and written forms).

Research Essay

Due: **16/11/14**

Weighting: **45%**

Final Research essay (2500-3000 words). Students will write a research essay responding to a set topic or upon a topic devised in collaboration with unit teaching staff. Details of topics and tasks are available in the unit handbook (available via the unit's iLearn site).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. To critically engage with texts written by Jane Austen and by others who form part of the cultural and intellectual milieu that surrounded their production and reception.

- 3. To develop skills in conducting research, demonstrating an ability to apply critical methodologies to texts in a focused and creative manner.
- 4. To effectively communicate learning and research to peers and teachers (using oral and written forms).

Delivery and Resources

Classes

Weekly Seminars: 2 hours.

For lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable website: <http://www.timetable.s.mq.edu.au>. This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and classroom locations.

Required and Recommended Texts and Materials.

Required Texts (in order of study):

Jane Austen. *Pride and Prejudice*. Ed. Donald Gray. Norton Critical Edition. 3rd ed. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Co., 2001.

Frances Burney. *Evelina*. Ed. Stewart J. Cooke. Norton Critical Edition. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Co., 1998.

Jane Austen. *Lady Susan*. Eds. Christine Alexander and David Owen. Sydney: Juvenilia Press, 2005.

Jane Austen. *Northanger Abbey*. Ed. Susan Fraiman. Norton Critical Edition. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Co., 2004.

Jane Austen. *Sense and Sensibility*. Ed. Claudia L. Johnson. Norton Critical Edition. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Co., 2002.

Jane Austen. *Mansfield Park*. Ed. Claudia L. Johnson. Norton Critical Edition. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Co., 1998.

Walter Scott. *Waverley*. Jane Austen. *Emma*. Ed. George Justice. Norton Critical Edition. 4th ed. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Co., 2011.

Jane Austen. *Persuasion*. Ed. Patricia Meyer Spacks. Norton Critical Edition. 2nd ed. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Co., 2013.

In addition to those texts, students will be asked to read one biography dealing with Austen's life and to supply their own favourite instance(s) of Austen's use in modern contexts. Students will also be supplied with selections of other texts from Austen's oeuvre and from other contemporaneous writers (including letters, poems, travel-writings, conduct manuals, moral essays). These texts will be supplied via the unit's iLearn site and are detailed in the unit

handbook.

A selection of secondary readings will be available via e-Reserve at the Macquarie University Library.

Unit Schedule

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic	Texts	Assessment
1	What shall we do with Jane? The dilemmas of approaching Jane Austen and the scholarship of Regency Literature	Jane Austen. <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Class participation.
2	Influences and Contexts: Novelists, poets, moralists.	Frances Burney. <i>Evelina</i> .	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated).
3	Jane's Juvenilia: Investigating a Writer's Development.	Jane Austen. <i>Lady Susan</i> .	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated).
4.	Genre and Mode: The Gothic and the Satirical.	Jane Austen. <i>Northanger Abbey</i> .	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated).
5.	What's Biography got to do with It?	Selection of letters; biographical excerpts.	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated).
6.	Jane's World: Geography, Travel, Spaces, Ecology	Jane Austen. <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> .	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated).
7.	Assessment preparation and submission	n/a	Research Proposal and Literature Review (Due Sunday 21/09/14).

Week	Topic	Texts	Assessment
8.	Jane Austen and the Political: Gender, Class, War, Colonialism	Jane Austen. <i>Mansfield Park</i> .	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated).
9.	Contemporary Influence/s: The Regency Novel and Austen	Walter Scott. <i>Waverley</i> .	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated).
10.	Style: Analysing Literary Discourse, Precision, and Verbal Elegance.	Jane Austen. <i>Emma</i> .	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated).
11.	Jane Austen and Cognitive Historicism.	Jane Austen. <i>Persuasion</i> .	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated).
12.	Reception as Scholarly Approach: Austen in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.	No new texts	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated).
13	Jane Today. Adaptation, Cultural Cache, Canonicity and Popularism.	Students will bring in their own selections of how Austen's work is used in contemporary culture.	Class participation. Student presentations (when nominated). Research Essay (due Sunday 16/11/14).

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. To critically engage with texts written by Jane Austen and by others who form part of the cultural and intellectual milieu that surrounded their production and reception.
- 2. To analyse a variety of current critical approaches to the study of literature within the academy, demonstrating an ability to apply them to the texts under scrutiny on the course.
- 3. To develop skills in conducting research, demonstrating an ability to apply critical methodologies to texts in a focused and creative manner.
- 4. To effectively communicate learning and research to peers and teachers (using oral and written forms).
- 5. To actively participate in the production of a scholarly community of learners that investigates issues pertaining to the intellectual parameters of the course.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Presentation and Report
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. To critically engage with texts written by Jane Austen and by others who form part of the cultural and intellectual milieu that surrounded their production and reception.

- 2. To analyse a variety of current critical approaches to the study of literature within the academy, demonstrating an ability to apply them to the texts under scrutiny on the course.
- 3. To develop skills in conducting research, demonstrating an ability to apply critical methodologies to texts in a focused and creative manner.
- 5. To actively participate in the production of a scholarly community of learners that investigates issues pertaining to the intellectual parameters of the course.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Presentation and Report
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 3. To develop skills in conducting research, demonstrating an ability to apply critical methodologies to texts in a focused and creative manner.
- 4. To effectively communicate learning and research to peers and teachers (using oral and written forms).
- 5. To actively participate in the production of a scholarly community of learners that investigates issues pertaining to the intellectual parameters of the course.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Presentation and Report
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual

formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 4. To effectively communicate learning and research to peers and teachers (using oral and written forms).
- 5. To actively participate in the production of a scholarly community of learners that investigates issues pertaining to the intellectual parameters of the course.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Presentation and Report
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- 5. To actively participate in the production of a scholarly community of learners that investigates issues pertaining to the intellectual parameters of the course.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Presentation and Report

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 2. To analyse a variety of current critical approaches to the study of literature within the

academy, demonstrating an ability to apply them to the texts under scrutiny on the course.

- 3. To develop skills in conducting research, demonstrating an ability to apply critical methodologies to texts in a focused and creative manner.
- 4. To effectively communicate learning and research to peers and teachers (using oral and written forms).
- 5. To actively participate in the production of a scholarly community of learners that investigates issues pertaining to the intellectual parameters of the course.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Presentation and Report
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay