ENGL707
Picture Books
S1 Evening 2015
Dept of English

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
A broad aim of this unit is to survey the range of picture books produced for children and, in
doing so, to examine the range of possible ways in which words and pictures can be
combined to create narrative and to generate meaning. More specifically, it promotes
students' research abilities by encouraging them to explore the different ways in which
pictures and words represent reality, construct narrative and communicate ideology. The unit
will also focus in detail on aspects such as textual layout and composition; visual and verbal
point of view strategies; strategies for depicting time, space, movement and stasis; style; and
genre.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are

Learning Outcomes

1. Acquire a broad overview of the different types of picture books produced for children.
2. Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources, and be aware of the
   various ways in which the literature is oriented by cultural assumptions, practices and
   ideologies.
3. Think critically and make informed and logical judgments of the arguments of others to
   arrive at reasoned and meaningful arguments and positions, and formulate and apply
   ideas to new contexts.
4. Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in
   the context of professional practice and/or scholarship.
5. Demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct in research activities and relationships.
6. Attain a conceptual language with which to analyse and discuss pictorial and verbal codes used in picture books to communicate meanings and ideologies.
7. Gain an understanding of some aspects of literary theory currently used in discussions of picture books, especially narrative theory, metafiction, intertextuality and postmodernism.
8. Develop skills in analysing the pictorial and verbal codes used to construct thematic significance in picture books.

Assessment Tasks

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<td>Seminar paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>13 March 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major essay</td>
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Seminar paper
Due: 13 March 2015
Weighting: 30%

Students must submit a seminar paper on the Week 2 discussion topic:
Words, pictures and picture books are merely parts of a vast and complex system of significance that define our reality for us.

In a comparison/contrast of two different picture books, examine the functions of modality in the production of meaningful worlds.

This paper should be approximately 2000 words in length.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources, and be aware of the various ways in which the literature is oriented by cultural assumptions, practices and ideologies.
• Think critically and make informed and logical judgments of the arguments of others to arrive at reasoned and meaningful arguments and positions, and formulate and apply ideas to new contexts.
• Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in the context of professional practice and/or scholarship.
• Attain a conceptual language with which to analyse and discuss pictorial and verbal codes used in picture books to communicate meanings and ideologies.
• Gain an understanding of some aspects of literary theory currently used in discussions of picture books, especially narrative theory, metafiction, intertextuality and postmodernism.
• Develop skills in analysing the pictorial and verbal codes used to construct thematic significance in picture books.

**Research Proposal**

**Due: 8 May 2015**  
**Weighting: 20%**

Students must select one of the Final Essay topics (listed in the Weekly Guide, available for download from the iLearn site) and submit a brief research proposal which outlines how they will approach this topic, which secondary sources they will use for constructing a theoretical frame, and how they will apply this frame to their primary texts.

The objective in writing a research proposal is to describe what you will do, how you will do it and what you expect will result. A clean, well thought-out, proposal forms the backbone for the thesis itself.

This proposal should be approximately 700 words in length.

Proposals will be evaluated according to:

1. Originality and innovation.
2. Demonstrated awareness of research context (i.e. how does the proposal contextualise this essay against existing research?).
3. Articulation of scope (Does the proposal accurately outline the framework of the essay? – its boundaries, primary corpus, etc.)
4. Theoretical orientation (Does the proposal articulate a coherent and relevant theoretical framework for its main argument?)

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Acquire a broad overview of the different types of picture books produced for children.
• Think critically and make informed and logical judgments of the arguments of others to arrive at reasoned and meaningful arguments and positions, and formulate and apply ideas to new contexts.
• Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in the context of professional practice and/or scholarship.
• Demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct in research activities and relationships.
• Attain a conceptual language with which to analyse and discuss pictorial and verbal codes used in picture books to communicate meanings and ideologies.
• Gain an understanding of some aspects of literary theory currently used in discussions of picture books, especially narrative theory, metafiction, intertextuality and postmodernism.

Major essay
Due: 9 June 2015
Weighting: 50%

Please choose one of the topics listed in your ENGL 707 Weekly Guide for your final essay. This essay should be approximately 2500 words. For your primary corpus, focus on no more than three picture books. (Do not use any books that you referred to in your seminar paper.)

Your essay will be graded according to the rubric provided in the ENGL 707 Weekly Guide.

Further details about this assessment task are available in the Weekly Guide.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Acquire a broad overview of the different types of picture books produced for children.
• Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources, and be aware of the various ways in which the literature is oriented by cultural assumptions, practices and ideologies.
• Think critically and make informed and logical judgments of the arguments of others to arrive at reasoned and meaningful arguments and positions, and formulate and apply ideas to new contexts.
• Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in the context of professional practice and/or scholarship.
• Demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct in research activities and relationships.

Delivery and Resources
REQUIRED READING:

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS:**

(If you are an external student, the four picture books listed below are a basic selection that you can refer to each week. It is also expected that you use your local library to locate some of the others listed under each topic):

1. Carle, Eric, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*
2. Jeffers, Oliver, *Lost and Found*
3. Rosen, Michael, *We’re Going on a Bear Hunt*
4. Tan, Shaun, *The Red Tree*

**WEEKLY READING:**

A number of picture book texts are listed each week. In addition to the four books mentioned above, you will also need to access at least one additional text out of books listed for each weekly topic (for the purpose of making comparisons). You can source your texts from good online second-hand booksellers or public libraries.

**UNIT WEBPAGE AND TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED:**

Online units can be accessed at: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

Please consult teaching staff for any further, more specific requirements.

**UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:**

To complete ENGL 707 students must:

- Attend and participate in seminars (if internal).
- Make at least 8 online posts on the iLearn Discussions Forum (if external)
- Complete all prescribed assessment tasks.
- Reach a satisfactory level of achievement in the prescribed assessment tasks.

*Absence from more than two seminars without written explanation (medical or counselling certificate) will disqualify a student from passing the unit. University regulations also stipulate that a student must attempt every part of assessment in order to be eligible to pass a unit of study.

**Notes on Participation for External Students:**

External students must participate in online discussions via the ENGL 707 iLearn site. External students should read the weekly texts and prepare the seminar discussion topics in advance, then post responses to the seminar questions and respond to the posts of other students, to
facilitate an active discussion such as would occur in a face-to-face seminar. Students are also encouraged to raise other relevant points of interest in their online discussions. Be prepared to question the opinions of others, to have your opinions challenged and to participate actively in discussion. Students are expected to make at least 8 posts* over the semester. Please make sure that your postings do not exceed 500 words, as it is harder for others to respond to postings that are excessively long and detailed.

*A “post” is defined as a discursive response relevant to unit interests of at least 50 words: a short paragraph of at least 4 sentences.

**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:


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/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

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

- Acquire a broad overview of the different types of picture books produced for children.
- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources, and be aware of the various ways in which the literature is oriented by cultural assumptions, practices and ideologies.
- Attain a conceptual language with which to analyse and discuss pictorial and verbal codes used in picture books to communicate meanings and ideologies.
- Gain an understanding of some aspects of literary theory currently used in discussions of picture books, especially narrative theory, metafiction, intertextuality and postmodernism.
- Develop skills in analysing the pictorial and verbal codes used to construct thematic significance in picture books.
Assessment tasks

- Seminar paper
- Research Proposal
- Major 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

- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources, and be aware of the various ways in which the literature is oriented by cultural assumptions, practices and ideologies.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in the context of professional practice and/or scholarship.
- Attain a conceptual language with which to analyse and discuss pictorial and verbal codes used in picture books to communicate meanings and ideologies.
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- Develop skills in analysing the pictorial and verbal codes used to construct thematic significance in picture books.

Assessment tasks

- Seminar paper
- Research Proposal
- Major 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

- Synthesise and analyse information from a variety of sources, and be aware of the various ways in which the literature is oriented by cultural assumptions, practices and ideologies.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in the context of professional practice and/or scholarship.
- Demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct in research activities and relationships.

Assessment tasks

- Seminar paper
- Research Proposal
- Major essay

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

- Think critically and make informed and logical judgments of the arguments of others to arrive at reasoned and meaningful arguments and positions, and formulate and apply ideas to new contexts.
- Demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct in research activities and relationships.

Assessment task

- Major 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 outcome

- Think critically and make informed and logical judgments of the arguments of others to arrive at reasoned and meaningful arguments and positions, and formulate and apply ideas to new contexts.

Assessment tasks

- Seminar paper
- Research Proposal
- Major 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 outcomes

- Think critically and make informed and logical judgments of the arguments of others to arrive at reasoned and meaningful arguments and positions, and formulate and apply ideas to new contexts.
- Demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct in research activities and relationships.