



ENGL108

Politics and Literature

S2 Day 2019

Dept of English

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Australian Hearing Hub, level 2

By appointment

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The relationship between politics and literature is never simple. Writers have always addressed political issues: supporting or resisting revolution, analysing the ethics of war or the sophistries of political language, interrogating ideas of power embedded in gender, class, ethnicity, industrialisation and sexuality. Literary language can make available subversive and powerful critiques of dominant political structures and hierarchies just as it can normalise inequality and stifle dissent. Poets and novelists participate in the dissemination of myths, stereotypes and narratives that privilege certain worldviews over others. Covering writing from the Renaissance to the present this unit addresses a series of political issues as they are constructed in literary texts, and looks at the aesthetic forms writers invent and deploy in order to reflect, produce and contain change.

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:

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
- To develop a greater understanding of the historical and often hierarchical deployment of concepts of gender, class, and ethnicity
- To develop the ability to engage in informed critical discussion on unit content with peers and tutors, to respond to others' points of view, and to argue a critical position

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Assignments that are more than 10% over- or under the required length will attract a penalty of at least 10%, depending on the degree of deviation from the stipulated word limit.

If you have applied for and been given an extension please note that at the top of your essay.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Essay 1	35%	No	Midnight Sunday 8 September
Essay 2	45%	No	Midnight Sunday 10 November
Tutorial Participation	20%	No	Each teaching week of semester

Essay 1

Due: **Midnight Sunday 8 September**

Weighting: **35%**

Short essay, 1500 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
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- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
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- To develop a greater understanding of the historical and often hierarchical deployment of concepts of gender, class, and ethnicity

Essay 2

Due: **Midnight Sunday 10 November**

Weighting: **45%**

Research essay, 2500 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
- To develop a greater understanding of the historical and often hierarchical deployment of concepts of gender, class, and ethnicity

Tutorial Participation

Due: **Each teaching week of semester**

Weighting: **20%**

Active participation in class discussion throughout semester. This is not an attendance mark.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
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- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique

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Delivery and Resources

Students attend one lecture and one tutorial per week. Lectures and tutorials begin in week one. For lecture times and tutorial rooms please consult the MQ Timetable website: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>. This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and tutorial room locations.

Required reading:

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818/1831)

Revolutionary Poetry, (Milton: "To the Lord General Cromwell, May1652"; Smith: "To a Nightingale"; Wordsworth: "London, 1802"; Shelley: "England in 1819")

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "The Cry of the Children"; "The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point" (1843, 1848/50)

Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969)

William Shakespeare, *Titus Andronicus* (1594)

George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia* (1938)

Joe Weisberg, *The Americans*, season 1 (2013)

Chris Kraus, *I Love Dick* (1997)

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890/91)

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (1688)

George R.R. Martin, *A Game of Thrones* (the novel 1996; David Benioff, D.B Weiss, *Game of Thrones*, season 1, 2011).

Unit Schedule

	Pleas see Unit's iLearn site for lecture schedule.

Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
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- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
- To develop a greater understanding of the historical and often hierarchical deployment of concepts of gender, class, and ethnicity
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Assessment tasks

- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Tutorial Participation

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
- To develop a greater understanding of the historical and often hierarchical deployment of concepts of gender, class, and ethnicity
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Assessment tasks

- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Tutorial Participation

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
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Assessment tasks

- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Tutorial Participation

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
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Assessment tasks

- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Tutorial Participation

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
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Assessment tasks

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- Essay 2
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Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
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Assessment tasks

- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Tutorial Participation

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
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Assessment tasks

- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Tutorial Participation

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
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Assessment tasks

- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Tutorial Participation

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To develop the capacity to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- To develop analytical and research skills that can be applied to past and present cultural and literary debates
- To learn to communicate historical and theoretical concepts in verbal and written forms
- To develop a greater understanding of the way in which literary texts and literary language function to produce political critique
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Assessment tasks

- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Tutorial Participation