



ENGL121

Creative Writing 1: An Introduction

S2 Day 2019

Dept of English

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Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

ENGL120

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This is a practical unit that introduces students to various approaches and ways of thinking about creative writing. The unit consists of a series of workshops and lectures covering a range of creative writing skills and topics. Students are encouraged to be experimental and adventurous in their writing. Each seminar addresses a different creative writing topic so that students can engage with different genres, methods and approaches. The workshops are interactive; they aim to increase understanding of the process of creative writing. Assessment of each student's creative work is based on development and realisation of a topic, language use and the writing skills, structure and overall presentation as well as demonstrated engagement with unit topics in all set assignments and on-course writing exercises.

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:

Compose several pieces of conceptually developed creative writing and understand the value of drafting and revision.

Reflect on student's own creative writing processes.

Identify, engage with and apply concepts of narrative form in creative writing.

Employ written and language skills in different creative writing contexts.

Participate in group-interaction and collaborative learning environments.

Demonstrate professional skills appropriate to the unit.

Practice academic honesty in scholarly and creative writing.

General Assessment Information

The university Assessment Policy states that in order to pass a unit, a student must make a serious attempt at all items of assessment.

NB: It is a requirement of this unit that all creative work handed in for workshops or as assignments is new, original work written during this unit and engaging with unit topics. Work from a concurrent unit or previous units or studies must not be presented for workshops or assessments. Creative writing written prior to the unit commencing cannot be presented either.

See [University Academic Integrity Policy](#)

<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/academic-integrity>

Absence from more than two seminars without written explanation (medical or counseling certificate) will impact significantly on your participation mark.

Assignments

Word lengths, criteria, and penalties.

- Word or line lengths and marking criteria are provided in the details for each assignment.
- It is necessary to set word or line limits for assignments, though we have no wish to restrain your creativity. It is important to learn to write concisely, clearly and with a direct style. Avoid submitting 'wordy' stories that are way over the word limit or very short poems. Penalties of 5% per 100 words, or part thereof, over or under the limit and beyond the wriggle room will apply. If your poetry is made up of very short lines, then you need to submit more than the minimum 60 or 80 lines respectively. Your work should be substantial enough to show your full engagement with the unit topics. If you aren't sure, check with your tutor.
- There is 10% wriggle room on prescribed word length. No penalty applies to work that remains within the 10% leeway.
- Note the relative weightings of the assessment tasks.
- In this unit, marks are given for demonstrated progress in your work and the development of your writing skills and concepts, your willingness to revise, rewrite, edit, and reconsider your writing during drafting, and for your engagement with unit topics and strategies.
- Please retain all drafts of assignment work – early handwritten notes, hand-annotated

printouts, computer drafts (numbered). Do not submit these with your assignments, but markers may ask you to provide them at a later stage.

Presentation of assignments

- Ensure that you have proof-read your assignment carefully before submitting it.
- Use double or 1.5 spacing and 12 point font and leave sufficient side margins for comments. No fancy fonts – Times or Arial or other plain font.
- Single spacing is not acceptable.
- Insert page numbering and the word count at the end of the document.
- **Marks will be deducted for failure to comply with these presentation requirements.**

Assessment submission via Turnitin

- Assessment tasks for this unit are submitted and marked electronically, via **Turnitin**. **The links for submission of each assignment are in the iLearn Assessment section.**
- Please submit only **Word** documents.
- ** Submit each assignment **as one document** directly to the appropriate Turnitin Assignment link, eg. creative writing + reflective statement as one document (Assignments 2 and 3) for each of Assessment Tasks 2 and 3

Extensions and late submission of assignments – Faculty policy:

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.

You should also contact your tutor before the due date if you think you will not be able to submit your work on time. If you are having any problems to do with the unit and your studies, please speak to your teacher or the unit convenor as early as possible.

Special Consideration

<https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

The Disruption to Studies Notification must be completed and submitted online through <https://ask.mq.edu.au/> within five (5) working days of the commencement of the disruption.

Please be aware that if you apply for Special Consideration, your unit convenor might not be alerted and might not process your request, so please alert them separately by email when lodging a Special Consideration application.

For any issues relating to university policies and processes, please note that the Student

Advocacy Service and other support services are available.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Quizzes on readings	15%	No	Weeks 3 - 8
Creative writing & reflection	25%	No	Week 7
Creative Writing & Reflection	40%	No	Week 13
Participation (10 + 10)	20%	No	Week 7 & Week 13

Quizzes on readings

Due: **Weeks 3 - 8**

Weighting: **15%**

Students must complete the quizzes on the weekly readings where prompted to do so in the iLearn modules. These must be completed prior to the Monday lecture of the weeks in which they are set.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, engage with and apply concepts of narrative form in creative writing.

Creative writing & reflection

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **25%**

This assignment requires the submission of creative writing *and* a short reflective statement.

- Word length - Creative writing: prose 1250 words OR poetry minimum length - 60 lines total even if you do more than one poem; a 350 word reflective statement. You may write one long poem, or several shorter ones – maximum 5 poems.
- See iLearn for full details on this assignment.
- Submit to Turnitin as **one Word** document.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Compose several pieces of conceptually developed creative writing and understand the value of drafting and revision.

- Reflect on student's own creative writing processes.
- Identify, engage with and apply concepts of narrative form in creative writing.
- Employ written and language skills in different creative writing contexts.
- Practice academic honesty in scholarly and creative writing.

Creative Writing & Reflection

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

- Word length: Creative writing: prose 1,750 words or poetry 80 lines minimum, 5-7 poems; and a 550 word reflective essay.
- See iLearn for full details on this assignment.
- Submit to Turnitin as one Word document.

This is the final assignment for the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Compose several pieces of conceptually developed creative writing and understand the value of drafting and revision.
- Reflect on student's own creative writing processes.
- Identify, engage with and apply concepts of narrative form in creative writing.
- Employ written and language skills in different creative writing contexts.
- Practice academic honesty in scholarly and creative writing.

Participation (10 + 10)

Due: **Week 7 & Week 13**

Weighting: **20%**

This mark is for participation in seminars and in-class workshops

Students are expected to attend all classes and lectures. Absence from more than 2 seminars without documentation will have a serious impact on your participation mark.

Participation marks are given for the following criteria. Students are expected to:

- Attend and participate in all seminar classes and workshop activities whether they are scheduled that week or not;
- Come prepared for classes having done the readings for each week prior to the seminar;
- *bring printouts of the workshop pieces for that week's class* – a student's (when scheduled) own and others' also scheduled for that week;
- Students must upload their workshop writing as an attachment to their iLearn website **class forum by Thursday 5 pm of latest in the week prior to their scheduled**

workshop. As classes start on Monday of each week, this is to give other students and teachers time to read them and prepare for class.

- *Submit your writing to the workshop forum **of the week you are scheduled to workshop, not any other week.**
- Bring copies of *other* students' work for each week which you have downloaded, printed and read;
- Bring a printed copy of your own work to class when you are scheduled to workshop;
- Give feedback notes and constructive criticism to other students, written on their scripts (this can be done in class when we workshop, but should also be part of your reading their work before class);
- Participate in *class discussion of the readings* and other class activities.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Compose several pieces of conceptually developed creative writing and understand the value of drafting and revision.
- Participate in group-interaction and collaborative learning environments.
- Demonstrate professional skills appropriate to the unit.

Delivery and Resources

Unit Requirements and Expectations

The university Assessment Policy states that in order to pass a unit, a student must make a serious attempt at all pieces of written assessment.

Students enrolled in this unit are expected to:

- Attend or listen to lectures each week – lectures cover essential concepts and information for the unit topics.
- complete and submit *all* assessment tasks on time;
- attend and participate in all seminar classes and workshop activities whether they are scheduled that week or not;
- complete all online quizzes as required;
- come prepared for lectures and classes having done the readings for each week **and be prepared for workshops as outlined under Assessment Task 5 Participation.**
-

*** It is a requirement of this unit that all creative work handed in for workshops or as**

assignments is **new, original work written during this unit**, and engaging with unit topics. Work from a concurrent unit or previous units or studies must not be presented for workshops or assessments. Creative writing written prior to the unit commencing cannot be presented either. See the **University Academic Honesty Policy**.**

CLASSES

For classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>. This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and classroom locations. Students **must attend the classes in which they are enrolled**.

Further information about classes are on the iLearn website.

- **** Absence from more than two seminars without written explanation (medical or counseling certificate) will have an impact on your participation mark. ****

Lectures

* Lectures start in Week 1.

Seminar classes begin in Week 1. Students are expected to attend or listen to all lectures and attend all seminars.

Please check the university timetable for lecture and class venues.

Lectures are delivered as live lectures, and recorded. Recorded lectures available in Echo 360. The seminars each week will cover readings and topics dealt with in the same week's lecture.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Required (prescribed) reading

Required weekly readings for this unit must be accessed via **the Leganto link in the unit iLearn website**.

- **These essential weekly readings for this unit are in the Leganto link in the unit iLearn, linked to the library.**
- **The** readings must be accessed via the Leganto link in iLearn. Only after your first login through iLearn will you be subsequently able to access the Leganto list via Multisearch Unit Readings. The list is always available via the iLearn Leganto link.

It is recommended that students access, download and print the readings well before the scheduled weeks, so that the readings can be read and annotated. Annotating your readings promotes active reading and comprehension, and enables you to make notes on your reading responses.

This texts is also prescribed:

- Kate Grenville, *The Writing Book: A workbook for writers*, Allen and Unwin.

Recommended

- Mark Tredinnick, *Little Green Grammar Book*, UNSW Press
- Hazel Smith, *The Writing Experiment: Strategies for Innovative Creative Writing*, Allen & Unwin, 2005.
- John Singleton and Mary Lockhurst (eds), *The Creative Writing Handbook: Techniques for New Writers*, Macmillan, 1996, 2000.
- Hodgins, Jack, *A Passion for Narrative*, McClelland & Stewart, 2001.

UNIT WEBPAGE AND TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

Online units can be accessed at: <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>.

PC and Internet access are required, Broadband or WiFi connection is essential. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

Students must be able to upload, download, and print Word documents for workshopping and for other students to access for feedback.

ILearn is used extensively, for access to recorded lectures (Echo), for quizzes, for submission of workshop writing and Turnitin assignments, and for communication and for access to all unit materials via the library or directly in iLearn.

Unit Schedule

Where the Monday lectures and classes fall on a public holiday (Week 9), all classes for the unit are cancelled that week.

Week 1 – Introduction

Week 2 – Mon public holiday, no lecture or classes this week.

Week 3 – Approaches to Writing 1

Week 4 – Approaches to Writing 2

Week 5 – Story and Narrative

Week 6 – Time in Narrative

Week 7 – Focalization

Recess

Week 8 – Language – Dialogue and Register

Week 9 – Monday public holiday, no lecture or classes this week

Week 10 – Writing Place, Writing Culture

Week 11 – Memory

Week 12 – Creativity and Writing

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/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

- Compose several pieces of conceptually developed creative writing and understand the value of drafting and revision.
- Identify, engage with and apply concepts of narrative form in creative writing.
- Employ written and language skills in different creative writing contexts.

Assessment tasks

- Creative writing & reflection
- Creative Writing & Reflection

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

- Reflect on student's own creative writing processes.
- Identify, engage with and apply concepts of narrative form in creative writing.
- Employ written and language skills in different creative writing contexts.
- Participate in group-interaction and collaborative learning environments.
- Demonstrate professional skills appropriate to the unit.
- Practice academic honesty in scholarly and creative writing.

Assessment tasks

- Creative writing & reflection
- Creative Writing & Reflection
- Participation (10 + 10)

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

- Compose several pieces of conceptually developed creative writing and understand the value of drafting and revision.
- Reflect on student's own creative writing processes.
- Employ written and language skills in different creative writing contexts.
- Participate in group-interaction and collaborative learning environments.
- Demonstrate professional skills appropriate to the unit.
- Practice academic honesty in scholarly and creative writing.

Assessment tasks

- Quizzes on readings
- Creative writing & reflection
- Creative Writing & Reflection

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

- Compose several pieces of conceptually developed creative writing and understand the value of drafting and revision.
- Reflect on student's own creative writing processes.
- Identify, engage with and apply concepts of narrative form in creative writing.
- Employ written and language skills in different creative writing contexts.
- Practice academic honesty in scholarly and creative writing.

Assessment tasks

- Quizzes on readings
- Creative writing & reflection
- Creative Writing & Reflection
- Participation (10 + 10)

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

- Compose several pieces of conceptually developed creative writing and understand the value of drafting and revision.
- Reflect on student's own creative writing processes.
- Identify, engage with and apply concepts of narrative form in creative writing.

Assessment tasks

- Creative writing & reflection
- Creative Writing & Reflection

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

- Compose several pieces of conceptually developed creative writing and understand the value of drafting and revision.
- Reflect on student's own creative writing processes.

Assessment tasks

- Creative writing & reflection
- Creative Writing & Reflection

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

- Compose several pieces of conceptually developed creative writing and understand the value of drafting and revision.
- Reflect on student's own creative writing processes.
- Identify, engage with and apply concepts of narrative form in creative writing.
- Employ written and language skills in different creative writing contexts.
- Participate in group-interaction and collaborative learning environments.
- Demonstrate professional skills appropriate to the unit.

Assessment tasks

- Quizzes on readings
- Creative writing & reflection
- Creative Writing & Reflection
- Participation (10 + 10)

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

- Participate in group-interaction and collaborative learning environments.
- Practice academic honesty in scholarly and creative writing.

Assessment task

- Participation (10 + 10)

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

- Participate in group-interaction and collaborative learning environments.
- Demonstrate professional skills appropriate to the unit.
- Practice academic honesty in scholarly and creative writing.

Assessment task

- Participation (10 + 10)

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
03/08/2019	The weekly schedule has been removed. It contained incorrect and confusing information. Students are directed to find the weekly schedule in iLearn.