



ENGX2040

Historical Fiction and a Passion for the Past

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of English

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convener

Stephanie Russo

stephanie.russo@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Historical fiction is one of the oldest genres of the literary novel, but the past is also used in many different ways in popular mass-market fiction such as romance and fantasy. This unit explores the use of history in narrative forms, including medieval literature, the rise of the novel in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and the explosion of popular genre fiction in the twentieth century. It looks at how the genre became "feminised" and the role of the novelist Georgette Heyer in creating a new subgenre of historical romance. It explores how fantasy novelists such as George R.R. Martin draw upon medievalism to create strange and compelling worlds in the series A Game of Thrones. Yet the twenty-first century historical novel is not merely entertaining; it can create debates and challenge public perceptions of the past in unsettling ways. Students will also consider how Australian authors have used historical fiction to retell or offer alternative narratives about the nation. By the end of this unit, students will understand how the past informs literary and popular fiction, and why historical fiction can sometimes be considered a form of historiographical interpretation, especially in novels relating to the Second World War and the Holocaust.

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:

ULO1: Explain the development and evolution of the historical novel.

ULO2: Analyse and describe the way that history is used in different genres of fiction.

ULO3: Demonstrate an understanding of the place that historical novels have in the public understanding of history.

ULO4: Evaluate both literary and historiographic scholarship on the historical novel.

ULO5: Demonstrate an ability to form cohesive and well-researched arguments about literary texts, and present these ideas both orally and in writing.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participatory task	20%	No	Ongoing
Quiz	10%	No	Week 3
Professional writing task	30%	No	13 September 2020
Essay	40%	No	8 November 2020

Participatory task

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 36 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Ongoing participatory tasks

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an ability to form cohesive and well-researched arguments about literary texts, and present these ideas both orally and in writing.

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 2 hours

Due: **Week 3**

Weighting: **10%**

Quiz

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the place that historical novels have in the public understanding of history.
- Evaluate both literary and historiographic scholarship on the historical novel.

Professional writing task

Assessment Type ¹: Professional writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **13 September 2020**

Weighting: **30%**

Professional writing task

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the development and evolution of the historical novel.
- Analyse and describe the way that history is used in different genres of fiction.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the place that historical novels have in the public understanding of history.
- Evaluate both literary and historiographic scholarship on the historical novel.
- Demonstrate an ability to form cohesive and well-researched arguments about literary texts, and present these ideas both orally and in writing.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 37 hours

Due: **8 November 2020**

Weighting: **40%**

2000-word essay

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the development and evolution of the historical novel.
- Analyse and describe the way that history is used in different genres of fiction.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the place that historical novels have in the public

understanding of history.

- Evaluate both literary and historiographic scholarship on the historical novel.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

1 recorded lecture per week

Participation in discussion forums

Texts to buy:

1. Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Buried Giant*.
2. Georgette Heyer, *The Grand Sophy*
3. Sarah MacLean, *A Scot in the Dark*
4. Hannah Capin, *The Dead Queens Club*
5. Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*
6. Kate Greenville, *The Secret River*

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.)

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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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.