



ENGX8015

Writing Creative Non-Fiction - An Introduction

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

Unit Convenor and Lecturer

Dr Michelle Hamadache

michelle.hamadache@mq.edu.au

Contact via Via email

Level 2, 25B Wally's Walk, Macquarie University

By appointment: email; phone; Zoom

Course Director

Associate Professor Jane Messer

jane.messer@mq.edu.au

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MCrWrit

Corequisites

Co-badged status

ENGL8015

Unit description

In this practical introduction to writing creative nonfiction students research and write a number of narrative non-fiction pieces from genres including memoir, personal essay, and environmental writing. We consider what creative non-fiction is, looking at the varied cultural contexts in which these very popular and influential texts are currently being written and published, with a focus on the Australian scene. This introductory unit is suitable for students from interdisciplinary backgrounds including creative writing, ethnography, cultural studies, journalism, philosophy and history. You devise your topics in consultation with the lecturer, and are guided in the development of skills in primary research and narrative writing techniques.

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: Develop and demonstrate creative nonfiction writing and reading skills in relation to concepts, topics, craft, technique and voice

ULO2: Plan, write, edit and rewrite text-based creative nonfiction works

ULO3: Analyse and discuss the work of others in varied writing communities

ULO4: Undertake advanced research utilising libraries, journal and archival databases, visual records, site visits and/or interviews

ULO5: Demonstrate knowledge of Australian and international writing and publishing.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participatory task	20%	No	Weekly, Weeks 1-12
Creative work (minor)	10%	No	Short exercises Wks 3-6. Graded Minor Work Sunday pm, Week 7
Project Plan	20%	No	Monday pm, Week 8
Creative work (major)	50%	No	Wednesday pm, 5 November 2020

Participatory task

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 36 hours

Due: **Weekly, Weeks 1-12**

Weighting: **20%**

Preparatory reading of set texts and other students' creative works. Answering questions in weekly tutorials and contributing meaningfully to in-class discussion. Providing critical feedback on other students' creative works.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop and demonstrate creative nonfiction writing and reading skills in relation to concepts, topics, craft, technique and voice
- Plan, write, edit and rewrite text-based creative nonfiction works
- Analyse and discuss the work of others in varied writing communities

Creative work (minor)

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Short exercises Wks 3-6. Graded Minor Work Sunday pm, Week 7**

Weighting: **10%**

1000 word creative work based on weekly writing exercises and responding to unit material

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop and demonstrate creative nonfiction writing and reading skills in relation to concepts, topics, craft, technique and voice
- Plan, write, edit and rewrite text-based creative nonfiction works
- Undertake advanced research utilising libraries, journal and archival databases, visual records, site visits and/or interviews
- Demonstrate knowledge of Australian and international writing and publishing.

Project Plan

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Monday pm, Week 8**

Weighting: **20%**

Proposal or plan for major creative work, 1000 words max

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop and demonstrate creative nonfiction writing and reading skills in relation to concepts, topics, craft, technique and voice
- Plan, write, edit and rewrite text-based creative nonfiction works
- Undertake advanced research utilising libraries, journal and archival databases, visual records, site visits and/or interviews
- Demonstrate knowledge of Australian and international writing and publishing.

Creative work (major)

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 42 hours

Due: **Wednesday pm, 5 November 2020**

Weighting: **50%**

3000 word creative writing work incorporating concepts from unit

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop and demonstrate creative nonfiction writing and reading skills in relation to concepts, topics, craft, technique and voice
- Plan, write, edit and rewrite text-based creative nonfiction works
- Analyse and discuss the work of others in varied writing communities
- Undertake advanced research utilising libraries, journal and archival databases, visual records, site visits and/or interviews
- Demonstrate knowledge of Australian and international writing and publishing.

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

DELIVERY

INTERNAL STUDENTS

Internal students will be studying online in Session 2, 2020. Writing workshops and discussion of the lectures, readings and course topics will take place through online discussion posts.

ONLINE STUDENTS

Online students will work in full online mode. Writing workshops and discussion of the lectures, readings and course topics will take place through online discussion posts.

ZOOM CLASS

There will be a ZOOM class in Week 7 to discuss students' major creative work planning.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Reading from Week 1:

Brenda Miller and Suzanne Paola, *Tell It Slant*, 3rd ed. McGraw Hill, 2019. Students should purchase this text from Australian suppliers: Booktopia has [ebook](#) and [print](#) copies of the text for sale; see also Gleebooks; Readings; Dymocks and other local suppliers.

Read Chapters 1 and 11 for Week 1; later weeks - see the iLearn weekly schedule for more details.

Reading for Week 3:

Ashley Kalagian Blunt, *How To Be Australian: An Outsider's View on Life and Love Down Under*. Affirm Press, 2020. Booktopia has [ebook](#) and [print](#) copies of the text for sale; see also Gleebooks; Readings; Dymocks and other local suppliers.

Reading for Week 8:

Rebecca Giggs, *Fathoms: The World in the Whale*. Scribe, 2020. Booktopia has [ebook](#) and [print](#) copies of the text for sale; see also Gleebooks; Readings; Dymocks and other local suppliers.

Other required readings including creative nonfiction essays, blogs and book chapters, etc are available via the unit's Leganto site.

Unit Schedule

See the iLearn site Weekly schedule for details of the activities, readings and lecture topics.

Week 1 What is Creative Nonfiction?

Week 2 Telling It Slant: Memory

Week 3 Author Interview

Week 4 Family, History, Food

Week 5 Life in the Time of Coronavirus

Week 6 Research for Creative Writing

Week 7 Major Creative Work planning, and Editor Interview

Week 8 Author Interview

Week 9 Workshop 1 Major Creative Work

Week 10 Workshop 2 Major Creative Work

Week 11 Workshop 3 Major Creative Work

Week 12 Workshop 4 Major Creative Work

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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://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.