



ENGX8015

Writing Creative Non-Fiction - An Introduction

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2021

Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature

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Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update

The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of [units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities](#).

Visit the [MQ COVID-19 information page](#) for more detail.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Michelle Hamadache

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MCrWrit

Corequisites

Co-badged status

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.

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

New Late Penalty Statement: Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved (a) a penalty for lateness will apply—10 marks out of 100 credit will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date—and (b) no assignment will be accepted seven days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participatory task	20%	No	Ongoing
Project Plan	20%	No	09:00 27/09/2021
Creative work (minor)	10%	No	23:59 12/09/2021
Creative work (major)	50%	No	23:59 31/10/2021

Participatory task

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 36 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

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

Project Plan

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **09:00 27/09/2021**

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 (minor)

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **23:59 12/09/2021**

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.

Creative work (major)

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 42 hours

Due: **23:59 31/10/2021**

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

Lectures: Lectures will be recorded and made available to students through Echo360 on the iLearn site for this unit. **NB:** Lectures begin in Week 1. Listening to lectures prior to engaging in class discussions, whether in class, zoom, or online forums, is required.

Tutorials:

You must participate **weekly** in online forums. Additional zoom sessions are made available, but are optional in this unit for OUA students.

Readings:

Some readings will be available through leganto: an online resource linked to the iLearn site for this unit.

NB: There are three required readings for this unit:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). 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](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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.