



MMCC3110

Telling True Stories

Session 1, Special circumstances, North Ryde 2021

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

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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 activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face 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

Convenor

Associate Professor Kate Rossmanith

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10HA248 Office250

TBC

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In this unit we look at techniques and structures writers use to engage ever-more fickle audiences. Key readings are drawn from a number of platforms – books, feature articles, blogs, graphic novels, indie publishing – to exemplify some of the more dynamic and engaging recent trends in creative nonfiction writing. We focus in particular on new and novel ways of approaching the past – historical events, family sagas, crimes, eccentric and little known phenomena – and on new modes of writing about science, sport, technology and social change. Students are guided to find and develop their own original stories, and produce pieces of quality writing, suitable for print or broadcast.

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: analyse and critique key issues raised in the production of literary nonfiction writing.

ULO2: communicate and demonstrate literary nonfiction writing through in-depth relevant research using a variety of methodologies.

ULO3: apply unique methods of presenting research in writing for a general readership.

ULO4: construct and write stories yourself that fall into the broad category of literary nonfiction writing.

General Assessment Information

Assessment standards in this unit align with the University's grade descriptors, available at: <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment>

Examples of relevant and related assessment tasks will be made available on iLearn and will be discussed in tutorials.

Methods of Feedback:

- Informal: comments from tutors during tutorials; through the announcement function in iLearn; interactions with peers during tutorial activities; personal reflections on learning during the course.
- Individual: in email communication with individual students where comments are made by the tutor and/or unit convenor in response to questions related to course activities and assessments; in personal face-to-face consultations during Weeks 5, 11 & 12 of the unit, or as requested (consultations either by phone or face-to-face)
- Formal: general comment and in-text comments attached to assignments marked in Turn-It-In; rubrics; reflections from peers; in-class comments from tutors in regards to assessments; marks are made available through the Gradebook function in iLearn.

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 (including weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Extensions: Extensions can only be granted by the unit convenor in line with university policy.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Writing exercises</u>	20%	No	ongoing
<u>Research report and portfolio</u>	30%	No	16/04/21 at 11.59pm
<u>Major project</u>	50%	No	02/06/21 at 11.59pm

Writing exercises

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Produce short written pieces to develop writing and conceptual skills.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse and critique key issues raised in the production of literary nonfiction writing.
- communicate and demonstrate literary nonfiction writing through in-depth relevant research using a variety of methodologies.
- apply unique methods of presenting research in writing for a general readership.

Research report and portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **16/04/21 at 11.59pm**

Weighting: **30%**

The research report will detail how the research will be used in the creative work. The portfolio will showcase the breadth and depth of research conducted for the creative work.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- communicate and demonstrate literary nonfiction writing through in-depth relevant research using a variety of methodologies.
- apply unique methods of presenting research in writing for a general readership.

Major project

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **02/06/21 at 11.59pm**

Weighting: **50%**

Students are required to produce a literary non-fiction article.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse and critique key issues raised in the production of literary nonfiction writing.
 - communicate and demonstrate literary nonfiction writing through in-depth relevant research using a variety of methodologies.
 - apply unique methods of presenting research in writing for a general readership.
 - construct and write stories yourself that fall into the broad category of literary nonfiction writing.
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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

There will be no live lectures but lecture recordings are available on ilearn. Tutorials commence in Week 2.

Below is a list of essential readings, which are available through Leganto on iLearn.

- Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*, New York: Penguin, pp. 15-17.
- Lee Gutkind, *You Can't Make This Stuff Up*, Da Capo Press 2012, pp. 32-43
- Louise Kiernan, 'Writing Complicated Stories', in *Telling True Stories: A Nonfiction writers' guide*, Kramer and Call (eds), New York: Penguin, pp. 145-147
- Lane Degregory 'Narrative as a Daily Habit', in *Telling True Stories: A Nonfiction writers' guide*, Kramer and Call (eds), New York: Penguin, pp.240-243
- Chloe Hooper, 'Consider the Lily', *The Monthly*, June 2006
Kate Rossmanith, 'Many me', *The Monthly*, February, 2007, pp.25-27
- Kate Rossmanith 'Jenolan's Ancient Archives', *The Australian*, 2006
- Vanessa Berry, 'Excavating St Peters' in *Mirror Sydney: an Atlas of Reflections*, pp. 135-147, Giramondo: Sydney, 2017
- Lee Gutkind, 'Immersion', in *The Art of Creative Nonfiction*, John Wiley & Sons 1997, pp.

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- Helen Garner, 'Labour Ward, Penrith', in *True Stories: Selected non-fiction*, Melbourne: Text Publishing, pp 230-242
- Lee Gutkind, 'Interviewing', in *The Art of Creative Nonfiction*, John Wiley & Sons 1997, pp. 107-116
- Eve Vincent, 'Meat-Eaters', *Sydney Review of Books*, 8 June 2018
- Kate Rossmanith 'On the Edge' *The Monthly*, August, 2008, pp. 28-30
- Fanny Burney, 'A mastectomy, 30 September, 1811' from *The Faber and Faber Book of Reportage*, John Carey, (ed) London, Faber, 1987, pp. 272-277
- Naomi Klein, 'Risky Business,' from *The Nation*, January 5, 2004 <http://www.thenation.com/print/article/risky-business>, accessed 11 February, 2013
- David Finkel, *The Good Soldiers*, Melbourne: Scribe 2009, pp.3-24
- Maria Tumarkin, 'This Narrated Life', *Griffith Review*, April 2014
- Peter Doyle 'Stranger in the House', *Sydney Review of Books*, 14 November 2016: <https://sydneyreviewofbooks.com/stranger-in-the-house/>
- Kate Rossmanith, *Small Wrongs: How we really say sorry in love, life and law*, Melbourne & London: Hardie Grant Books, pp. 1-9
- Lee Gutkind, 'Inner Point of View', in *You Can't Make This Stuff Up*, Da Capo Press 2012, pp. 138-182

Policies and Procedures

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