ENGL2036
Writing Popular Genre Fiction
Session 1, Online-scheduled-weekday 2023

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

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Lecturer, Tutor
Jimmy Van
jimmy.van@mq.edu.au
Contact via email
by appointment

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit explores commercially popular fiction and genre fiction in the marketplace today. We begin by analysing the form and features of bestselling novels as well as mass-market genre fiction such as fantasy, science-fiction, suspense/thriller/horror, crime, and romance. We examine how generic forms crossover with each other, and how digital publishing enables the proliferation of hybrid genres and niche subgenres within the popular fiction market. Students learn how to identify different types of research fields that are relevant to their genre of interest, and to integrate this research into their creative writing in practical ways. There will be a particular focus on world-building, characterisation, and the development of character-driven plots.

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 evaluate different readerships and audiences for popular mass-market genre fiction.
ULO2: Identify and analyse practices and techniques of writing popular genre fiction.
ULO3: Apply practical and theoretical knowledge of different genre conventions in
creative written work.

ULO4: Work collaboratively in groups to identify and analyse the features of popular genre fiction, and to build creative worlds within specific genres.

ULO5: Critique and evaluate their own research and creative writing processes.

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of ‘0’ (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to written reports and recordings only. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs) will be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation and participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewing genre essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:55 02/04/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative project</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:55 28/05/2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preparation and participation

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 36 hours
Due: Ongoing
Weighting: 30%

Preparatory reading of set texts and other students’ creative works. Answering questions in weekly tutorials (or other online activities) and contributing meaningfully to in-class discussion. Providing critical feedback on other students’ creative works.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and evaluate different readerships and audiences for popular mass-market genre fiction.
• Identify and analyse practices and techniques of writing popular genre fiction.
• Work collaboratively in groups to identify and analyse the features of popular genre fiction, and to build creative worlds within specific genres.
• Critique and evaluate their own research and creative writing processes.

**Reviewing genre essay**

Assessment Type 1: Case study/analysis  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 30 hours  
Due: 23:55 02/04/2023  
Weighting: 30%

Pick one book from a genre of choice and analyse how the novel explicates and/or deviates from its generic conventions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Analyse and evaluate different readerships and audiences for popular mass-market genre fiction.
• Identify and analyse practices and techniques of writing popular genre fiction.

**Creative project**

Assessment Type 1: Creative work  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 60 hours  
Due: 23:55 28/05/2023  
Weighting: 40%

Creative writing work based on a particular genre or genres, accompanied by a reflective statement explaining techniques used and the research underpinning the creative work.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Analyse and evaluate different readerships and audiences for popular mass-market genre fiction.
• Identify and analyse practices and techniques of writing popular genre fiction.
• Apply practical and theoretical knowledge of different genre conventions in creative written work.
• Critique and evaluate their own research and creative writing processes.
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 begin in Week 1. Live Zoom lectures will take place on Mondays from 9am to 10am. Please consult the ENGL/ENGX2036 iLearn site to access the Zoom lecture link. These lectures will be recorded and made available to students through Echo360 on the ENGL/ENGX2036 iLearn site.

Listening to the lectures is expected before participating in the weekly tutorial. Missing lectures will reduce your opportunities for learning and probably result in poor marks across the unit.

Tutorials: Depending on your mode of enrolment, internal students in ENGL2036 must participate in the weekly on-campus tutorials or via Zoom. For internal students enrolled in the Online-scheduled-weekday mode, please access the weekly Zoom tutorial links via the ENGL2036 iLearn site.

External/OUA students enrolled in ENGX2036 and internal students enrolled in the Online-flexible mode will participate in the weekly tutorials via the iLearn Discussion Forums beginning in week 1.

Required texts:


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
Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student 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) 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](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](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

**Academic Integrity**

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**The Writing Centre**

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the Academic Integrity Module

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offers/156946/unit_guide/print
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**

Macquarie University offers a range of **Student Support Services** including:

- **IT Support**
- **Accessibility and disability support** with study
- **Mental health support**
- **Safety support** to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- **Social support** including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
- **Student Advocacy** provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

**Student Enquiries**

Got a question? Ask us via **AskMQ**, or contact **Service Connect**.

**IT Help**

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](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](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.