ENGL3031

Popular Fiction

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2023

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

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**General Information**

| Unit convenor and teaching staff | Stephanie Russo  
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephanie.russo@mq.edu.au">stephanie.russo@mq.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit points</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>130cp at 1000 level or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corequisites</td>
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<td>Co-badged status</td>
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**Unit description**

Apart from being hugely entertaining, what does being *popular* mean? Cultural perceptions of what makes literature fiction popular, rather than elite, serious or academic, constantly shift in response to changing historical circumstances. This unit looks at a wide variety of popular novels and short stories from different genres and different historical periods: Gothic novels, crime and detective fiction, romance, popular women’s fiction, and fantasy and science fiction. This unit will explore how such texts differ from and challenge their “respectable” counterparts, and consider issues of production, reception, audience engagement and fandom.

**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](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates)

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- **ULO1**: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of concepts of popular fiction.
- **ULO2**: Articulate links between literary texts and their cultural contexts.
- **ULO3**: Exhibit skills in close textual analysis.
- **ULO4**: Communicate arguments about literature, culture and aesthetic ideas in oral and written forms whilst engaging with other points of view.
- **ULO5**: Deploy research skills in order to support arguments about literary texts.
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 non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23.55 on 4/6/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participatory Task 1: Weeks 1-7</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weeks 1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case study/analysis</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23.55 on 16/4/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participatory task 2: Weeks 8-12</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weeks 8-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Research Essay

Assessment Type: Essay
Indicative Time on Task: 45 hours
Due: 23.55 on 4/6/23
Weighting: 45%

Students will compose a research essay on a set topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of concepts of popular fiction.
- Articulate links between literary texts and their cultural contexts.
- Exhibit skills in close textual analysis.
- Communicate arguments about literature, culture and aesthetic ideas in oral and written...
forms whilst engaging with other points of view.
  • Deploy research skills in order to support arguments about literary texts.

**Participatory Task 1: Weeks 1-7**

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 14 hours
Due: **Weeks 1-7**
Weighting: **10%**

Preparation of notes for class relating to set tutorial topics. Participation in group activities; answering questions in weekly tutorials and contributing meaningfully to in-class discussion.

On successful completion you will be able to:
  • Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of concepts of popular fiction.
  • Articulate links between literary texts and their cultural contexts.
  • Exhibit skills in close textual analysis.
  • Communicate arguments about literature, culture and aesthetic ideas in oral and written forms whilst engaging with other points of view.

**Case study/analysis**

Assessment Type 1: Case study/analysis
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours
Due: **23.55 on 16/4/23**
Weighting: **35%**

Through a written task, students will demonstrate skills in textual analysis.

On successful completion you will be able to:
  • Exhibit skills in close textual analysis.
  • Communicate arguments about literature, culture and aesthetic ideas in oral and written forms whilst engaging with other points of view.
  • Deploy research skills in order to support arguments about literary texts.
Participatory task 2: Weeks 8-12
Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 12 hours
Due: Weeks 8-12
Weighting: 10%

Preparation of notes for class relating to set tutorial topics. Participation in group activities; answering questions in weekly tutorials and contributing meaningfully to in-class discussion.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of concepts of popular fiction.
• Articulate links between literary texts and their cultural contexts.
• Exhibit skills in close textual analysis.
• Communicate arguments about literature, culture and aesthetic ideas in oral and written forms whilst engaging with other points of view.

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
Texts to purchase:

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Becky Chambers, *The Long Way to a Smal Angry Planet*

Martha Wells, *All Systems Red*
Changes from Previous Offering

Changes to text list

Patrick Rothfuss, *The Name of the Wind*

Daphne du Maurier, *Rebecca*

Agatha Christie, *The Body in the Library*

James Ellroy, *The Black Dahlia*