



ENGX8026

Developing the novel or novella

Session 1, Online-flexible 2024

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

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convener

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Contact via Email

By Appointment

Convener

Michelle Hamadache

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MCrWrit

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to planning and researching a long-form creative fiction work such as a novella or novel. It provides students with an opportunity to produce a detailed roadmap of their novel or novella, applying their knowledge of literary genres and drawing on techniques of characterisation, plotting, story arc, and themes that will be developed through intensive weekly writing exercises. By the end of this unit, students will have produced a detailed story outline and the opening to their novel or novella.

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: Produce the opening 5000 words of a novel or novella suitable for potential publication

ULO2: Exercise higher level editorial abilities through independent reflection, revision and rewriting of the manuscript.

ULO3: Locate and appraise appropriate resources to develop the novel or novella.

ULO4: Collaborate in the analysis and discussion of the work of others in writing workshops

ULO5: Plan for and conduct research relevant to the production and potential publication of a novel or novella.

General Assessment Information

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

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Story collage	30%	No	Week 8, 23:55pm Sunday, 14/04/2024
Weekly preparation, participation, and workshopping	10%	No	Ongoing, Weeks 1-12
Writing exercises	10%	No	Ongoing, Weeks 1-12
Creative work	50%	No	Week 12, 23:55pm Sunday 26/05/2024

Story collage

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Week 8, 23:55pm Sunday, 14/04/2024**

Weighting: **30%**

Collage presentation of the story, including indications of plot, character, story-world and themes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Produce the opening 5000 words of a novel or novella suitable for potential publication
- Exercise higher level editorial abilities through independent reflection, revision and rewriting of the manuscript.
- Locate and appraise appropriate resources to develop the novel or novella.
- Plan for and conduct research relevant to the production and potential publication of a novel or novella.

Weekly preparation, participation, and workshopping

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

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

Weighting: **10%**

Preparation and meaningful participation in online discussions, and workshopping of other students' creative drafts.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Collaborate in the analysis and discussion of the work of others in writing workshops

Writing exercises

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

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

Weighting: **10%**

Weekly writing exercises to develop elements of the novel or novella

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Produce the opening 5000 words of a novel or novella suitable for potential publication
- Exercise higher level editorial abilities through independent reflection, revision and rewriting of the manuscript.
- Locate and appraise appropriate resources to develop the novel or novella.

Creative work

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Week 12, 23:55pm Sunday 26/05/2024**

Weighting: **50%**

Workshopped, revised and edited opening to a novel or novella

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Produce the opening 5000 words of a novel or novella suitable for potential publication
- Exercise higher level editorial abilities through independent reflection, revision and rewriting of the manuscript.
- Locate and appraise appropriate resources to develop the novel or novella.
- Collaborate in the analysis and discussion of the work of others in writing workshops
- Plan for and conduct research relevant to the production and potential publication of a novel or novella.

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 ENGL/ENGX8026 iLearn site.

Lectures begin in Week 1.

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

You must participate in the weekly tutorial class via Zoom, or through the iLearn Discussion Forums beginning in week 1.

REQUIRED READINGS:

NB: In this unit, it doesn't matter which edition you buy or borrow, or whether you purchase the e-book (when available) or hard copy.

- Alan Watt *The 90-Day Novel*
- Hsu-Ming Teo *Love and Vertigo*.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

These novellas will be referred to in the lecture.

- Jenny Offill *Dept of Speculation*
- William Maxwell *So Long, See You Tomorrow*.

The authors of the below books will be interviewed in the second half of the semester.

- Tessa Lunney *Autumn Leaves*
- Michelle Cahill *Daisy and Woolf*
- Clinton Caward *Love Machine*

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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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

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/>

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](#)

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/.

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
05/02/2024	Story Collage Due Week 8

Unit information based on version 2024.02 of the [Handbook](#)