



# ENGL3031

## Popular Fiction

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

*School of Humanities*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Stephanie Russo

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Contact via Email

Room 546 25B Wally's Walk

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

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>

## 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

*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
<u>Research Essay</u>	45%	No	08/06/2025
<u>Case study/analysis</u>	35%	No	13/04/2025
<u>Portfolio</u>	20%	No	01/06/2025

## Research Essay

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 45 hours

Due: **08/06/2025**

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.

## Case study/analysis

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **13/04/2025**

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.

## Portfolio

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 26 hours

Due: **01/06/2025**

Weighting: **20%**

Students submit a portfolio of notes based on weekly unit activities throughout the semester.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

One lecture and one tutorial per week; tutorials commence in Week 2. No lecture or tutorial in Week 13.

### Texts to buy:

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Daphne du Maurier, *Rebecca*

Agatha Christie, *The Body in the Library*

Dorothy P. Hughes, *In a Lonely Place*

Martha Wells, *All Systems Rred*

Terry Pratchett, *Mort*

## 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 [connect.mq.edu.au](https://connect.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/>

## Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) 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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Changes from Previous Offering

Some minor changes to text list

Change to assessment structure

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Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)