



# ENGX3051

## Critical Approaches to Literature

Session 1, Online-flexible 2025

*School of Humanities*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor, Lecturer, Tutor

Geoffrey Payne

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Contact via email

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by appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

ENGX1001 or ENGX1002 or ENGX120; and 20cp in ENGX units at 2000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines different critical approaches to analysing literature, including narratological, postcolonial, feminist, and cognitive. This range of perspectives will open up ways of considering what literature is, what kinds of knowledge it provides, and what is at stake — culturally, politically, aesthetically, and emotionally — in the way texts are understood and consumed. This unit will prepare students for research in literary studies by addressing questions concerning how we as scholars approach literary texts and the critical responses they have attracted; how we recognize and assess a literary approach; and what questions and access points we use to understand and critique literary texts. Practically, students will learn to identify, understand, and apply different questions and concepts to the interpretation of texts and to the creation of meaning.

## 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:** Identify, understand and apply different questions and concepts to the interpretation of texts, and to the creation of meaning.

**ULO2:** Demonstrate an understanding of the way literature is understood and consumed, through the critique of texts from a range of perspectives.

**ULO3:** Compare, contrast and critique different points of view, to generate new ideas in spoken and written contexts.

**ULO4:** Interpret, synthesise and critically analyse published scholarship in English literary studies.

**ULO5:** Organise and present information meaningfully and persuasively through the combination of research and critical practice.

## General Assessment Information

### Submission Methods

The essay, draft essay plan, and research essay must be submitted via Turnitin in iLearn.

### 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 to late submissions, up until the 7th calendar 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.

#### Important to note:

- 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.
- Students should not request an informal arrangement from their tutor, lecturer or Unit Convenor (or equivalent).
- Where an application for Special Consideration is approved and the outcome is an extension to the due date of a task, submissions that are received after the new due date will be subject to late penalties that are calculated from the new due date. This only applies where the outcome is an extension to the due date – see the [Special Consideration Policy](#) for a schedule of all possible outcomes.

These are serious penalties that will substantially alter your final grade and even determine whether you pass or fail this unit. Please make every effort to submit your assignment by the due date.

If you find you cannot submit your assignment on time, please apply for Special Consideration through AskMQ. Make sure you read Macquarie University's policy regarding Special Consideration requests before you apply: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Essay</u>	40%	No	13/04/2025
<u>Essay plan task</u>	10%	No	04/05/2025
<u>Research Essay</u>	50%	No	08/06/2025

### Essay

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 30 hours

Due: **13/04/2025**

Weighting: **40%**

Discursive (essay) response to one of the set questions. Further information pertaining to the task can be found on the iLearn site for the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, understand and apply different questions and concepts to the interpretation of texts, and to the creation of meaning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the way literature is understood and consumed, through the critique of texts from a range of perspectives.
- Compare, contrast and critique different points of view, to generate new ideas in spoken and written contexts.
- Interpret, synthesise and critically analyse published scholarship in English literary studies.
- Organise and present information meaningfully and persuasively through the combination of research and critical practice.

### Essay plan task

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 12 hours

Due: **04/05/2025**

Weighting: **10%**

## Draft essay topic and plan

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, understand and apply different questions and concepts to the interpretation of texts, and to the creation of meaning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the way literature is understood and consumed, through the critique of texts from a range of perspectives.
- Compare, contrast and critique different points of view, to generate new ideas in spoken and written contexts.
- Interpret, synthesise and critically analyse published scholarship in English literary studies.
- Organise and present information meaningfully and persuasively through the combination of research and critical practice.

## Research Essay

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 48 hours

Due: **08/06/2025**

Weighting: **50%**

Students will write a research essay relating to the unit's key themes and concepts. Further information pertaining to the task can be found on the iLearn site for the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, understand and apply different questions and concepts to the interpretation of texts, and to the creation of meaning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the way literature is understood and consumed, through the critique of texts from a range of perspectives.
- Compare, contrast and critique different points of view, to generate new ideas in spoken and written contexts.
- Interpret, synthesise and critically analyse published scholarship in English literary studies.
- Organise and present information meaningfully and persuasively through the combination of research and critical practice.

<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

### Delivery

Students are expected to attend or listen to 1 lecture each week. **Lectures will begin in week 1.** Students are also expected to attend tutorial classes (in-person mode) or to participate in online discussion forums (for online flexible and OUA students). **Tutorials and discussion forums begin in week 2.**

### Readings

Most readings for this unit will be supplied digitally via the Macquarie University Library. Students will need to arrange their own access to a copy of William Shakespeare's play, *The Tempest* (any edition).

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.smq.edu.au) (<https://policies.smq.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.smq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.smq.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.smq.edu.au) (<https://policies.smq.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

Removal of Participatory Tasks assessment item. Grades and ULOs redistributed amongst alternative assessment tasks.

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