ENGX8026

Developing the novel or novella

Session 1, Online-flexible 2025

School of Humanities

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit convenor
Hsu-Ming Teo
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25 Wally's Walk, Room B551
Available on iLearn site

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 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

Assignment Submission:

Assignments are to be submitted through Turnitin on iLearn. The assignments relate to developing a regular practice of fiction writing and building writing skills for a sustained creative work like a novel or novella. They will be assessed according to the appropriate rubrics which will be provided on the unit's iLearn site.

Correct use of grammar, accurate spelling, demonstrated depth of research where appropriate and evidence that you have thought deeply about your subject matter are other important factors in assessing your work. Meeting the set deadline and presenting the work according to specifications will improve your mark. Group and individual feedback will be provided wherever possible.

Use the following checklist before handing in any work:

1. Typed, minimum of 1.5 line spacing, with wide margins.
2. Spelling checked, including proper names
3. Word count (where required) printed at the end of the piece.
4. Grammar correct.
5. Correct referencing provided where necessary (that is, in the documentation of research). The Discipline of Literature and Creative Writing uses the Modern Languages Association (MLA) referencing format. A guide to referencing will be provided to students.

Late Assignments:

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.

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 http://connect.mq.edu.au. 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
Creative work	30%	No	04/05/2025
Portfolio	40%	No	25/05/2025
Project plan	30%	No	01/06/2025

Creative work

Assessment Type [1]: Creative work
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **04/05/2025**
Weighting: **30%**

Workshopped, revised and edited opening to a novel or novella

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Produce the opening 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.

Portfolio

Assessment Type [1]: Portfolio
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40 hours
Due: **25/05/2025**
Weighting: **40%**

Portfolio of formative learning activities completed throughout the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 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.

Project plan

Assessment Type [1]: Plan
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **01/06/2025**
Weighting: **30%**

Plan of the story project including synopsis, chapter breakdown, and research plan.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Produce the opening 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.

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[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.

TUTORIALS

Classes start in Week 1.

- Internal Students: There will be a one-hour weekly tutorial to discuss unit concepts and content, and writing techniques.
- Online Students: Discussion of unit concepts and content, and writing techniques, will take place through online discussion posts.

Participation in tutorial classes or online discussion forums is optional in this unit.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments are to be submitted via Turnitin - Please note the strict Late Penalty that applies.

TECHNOLOGY:

Lectures will be available on iLearn. The tutorial for internal students is scheduled face-to-face. External students will work asynchronously via online forums. Announcements, assignment tasks and other materials to be used in tutorials will be posted as needed on iLearn.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

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*, 3rd edition*. Writers Tribe Books, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1937746247.
- Prasanthi Ram, *Nine Yard Sarees*. Ethos Books, 2023. https://www.ethosbooks.com.sg/products/nine-yard-sarees.
- Hsu-Ming Teo, *Love and Vertigo*. Allen and Unwin, 2000. Available as an e-book in the Library.
- Kim Kelly, *The Rat Catcher: a love story*. Brio Books, 2022.

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

- 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). 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

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 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 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/.

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.

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the Handbook