



ENGX2020

Revolution, Evolution, Humanity: Literature and Change in the Long Nineteenth Century

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Humanities

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor, Lecturer, Tutor

Geoffrey Payne

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Contact via email

25WWB 543B

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to a selection of texts produced during the "long" nineteenth century in Britain, covering a period from the French Revolution of 1789 to the first decade of the twentieth century. The novels and poems you will study helped to create new visions of the human, creating and responding to changing worldviews about many facets of social life: political, scientific and artistic. Major figures such as Jane Austen, William Wordsworth, Emily Bronte, Christina Rossetti and George Eliot will be studied alongside lesser-known innovators such as Charlotte Smith, John Clare and Augusta Webster. The unit will explore how these writers used literature to respond to the most challenging and divisive issues of their time in a way that still speaks to modern readers and created the foundation of the world we live in today.

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 specific texts and literary movements of the long nineteenth century in Britain.

ULO2: Articulate links between literary texts and the cultural contexts that surround their

production.

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

Submission Methods

Portfolio activities to be aggregated throughout the session. Completed portfolio to be submitted via Turnitin. Textual Analysis Task and Research Essay must be submitted via Turnitin.

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-time-sensitised 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.

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	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Portfolio	20%	No	01/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Textual Analysis Task	30%	No	13/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Research Essay	50%	No	08/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 31 hours

Due: **01/11/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Portfolio submission

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of specific texts and literary movements of the long nineteenth century in Britain.
- Articulate links between literary texts and the cultural contexts that surround their production.
- 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.

Textual Analysis Task

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **13/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Textual analysis of short passage drawn from a set text.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate links between literary texts and the cultural contexts that surround their production.
- 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.

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Research essay related to a set topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of specific texts and literary movements of the long nineteenth century in Britain.
- Articulate links between literary texts and the cultural contexts that surround their production.
- 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.

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

Lectures: 1 hour per week (1-12).

In-person, face-to-face enrolment: Tutorials: 1 hour per week (weeks 2-12)

Online flexible mode enrolment: Online asynchronous forum discussions (weeks 2-12)

Tutorials and forum discussions start in week 2.

Texts

Required to Buy

1. Jane Austen, *Persuasion* (Oxford World Classics)
2. William Makepeace Thackeray, *Vanity Fair* (Penguin Classics)
3. Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre* (Norton Critical Edition)
4. Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (Penguin Classics)
5. Thomas Hardy, *The Return of the Native* (Oxford World Classics)
6. Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* (Penguin Classics)

Note that the editions specified above are recommended only. You may use alternative editions of these texts if you prefer.

All other primary and secondary readings will be provided in digital format via Leganto in iLearn.

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 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/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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

Participatory Tasks assessment has been replaced by a Portfolio assessment task.

Unit information based on version 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)