



MMCC3011

Writing for Love or Money

Session 2, Online-scheduled-weekday 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Convenor Can Yalcinkaya can.yalcinkaya@mq.edu.au Contact via By Email 25WW By appointment
Credit points 10
Prerequisites 130cp at 1000 level or above
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description Students in this unit will concentrate on the craft of life-writing, from memoir to travel writing, personal essays and writing that plays at the border between fact and fiction. The emphasis will be on refining storytelling techniques while examining the way the different elements of a story come together to convey the subjectivity of the writer and stir responses in the reader.

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, analyse and critique key issues raised in the production of life writing.
- ULO2:** research, write and edit stories of a high standard that fall into the broad category of life writing.
- ULO3:** evaluate the complexity of ethical issues in the field, and treat information in an ethical manner.
- ULO4:** utilise and apply writing techniques of a high standard.
- ULO5:** critically analyse and synthesise a variety of readings chosen as instructive on

the craft of writing and use these to reflect on students' own writing.

General Assessment Information

Assignment Submission:

A high level of critical engagement with the set texts and active participation in the lectures and workshops is essential for passing this unit.

Assessment tasks are aligned to the Unit Learning Outcomes. Rubrics are provided for each assignment that give information about the standards required to meet the learning outcomes at each of the grading levels - high distinction through to fail. Please be aware that the failure to meet one of the learning outcomes specified for each grading level can result in a lower grade. For example, students who do not complete the assignments ethically will fail, even if they successfully meet the learning outcomes in other areas.

Assignments are to be submitted through Turnitin on iLearn. The assignments are varied but all relate to building professional creative non-fiction writing skills. They will be assessed according to the appropriate rubrics.

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.

While you are encouraged to show your work to your student colleagues for feedback, please be aware that the piece you submit must be your own work. Substantial editing by other people - family, friends, colleagues or professionals - is not permitted. Nor is overuse of AI.

Use of AI

Use of Artificial Intelligence in your work is discouraged. Its use becomes unacceptable in your work for this unit when it crosses the line and becomes cheating: AI must not do your work for you. For example, it is not acceptable to use AI in your research to replace real interviews with real people -- or to replace actual locations you have visited with invented fieldwork. Nor is it acceptable to copy and past text produced by AI into your assignments.

This semester, it is acceptable to use AI generatively in your writing -- for example, as a starting point to write. It is then up to you to continue re-writing and re-writing, until you achieve new and original work of your own. It is not acceptable to use AI to write the assignment for you.

If you use AI then you must:

- Acknowledge at the end of your assignments that you have used it and the ways you have used it.
- In your final assignment, discuss its usage in your reflection. You can add up to a further 100 words to the existing length of the reflection, as long as those extra words are dedicated to the topic of your use of AI.

Presenting work for assessment

In the Writing strand we work on the assumption that you are preparing all coursework as if you were presenting material to real editors in the real world. Editors are people who read for a living. They read a lot. They read thousands of words a day and make decisions about it. If your work is poorly presented, what they will decide is that you are wasting their time. Consequently, marks will be deducted for failing to present work in an appropriate manner that would not offend the eyes of a professional editor.

Use the following checklist before handing in any work:

1. Typed, **double spaced**, with wide margins.
2. Spelling checked, including proper names
3. Word count done (where required) and printed at the end of the piece.
4. Grammar correct.
- 5 *All book, film and other titles in italics.*

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

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>

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.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of other peoples' work or ideas. It is a serious academic offence and attracts severe penalties. It is your responsibility to know what plagiarism is, and how to avoid it.

Consent Forms and Publication Wavier Forms

When a student interviews a real person face-to-face, via Zoom or other online platform, over the telephone, via email or through any other means, they must provide that person with information about the interview and how the resulting information gathered will be used. Students must also obtain written or emailed confirmation that their interview subject has understood and agreed to such uses. A standard form for this purpose is attached to the study guide (consent form). The relevant form must be completed and attached to all assignments that involve interviews.

When students submit their work to a magazine, website or other publication, whether seeking payment or not, they must obtain written agreement that the publisher will assume total responsibility for the publication of the story and indemnify the writer against any action arising from such publication. A standard form for this purpose -- a publication waiver -- must be used

and can be obtained from the unit convenor.

Note: Your assignments will not be marked unless the required Consent Form is completed and attached to the work for each person interviewed. Students should keep copies of all completed forms.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Tutorial preparation, participation, and workshopping</u>	30%	No	Ongoing	Individual	No	Open
<u>Memoir</u>	30%	No	11/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Final Creative Writing Project</u>	40%	No	06/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Tutorial preparation, participation, and workshopping

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 24 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Preparation for and participation in scheduled tutorials (face-to-face and online). Workshopping of other students' creative drafts. (See iLearn for further information.)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify, analyse and critique key issues raised in the production of life writing.
- research, write and edit stories of a high standard that fall into the broad category of life writing.
- utilise and apply writing techniques of a high standard.

Memoir

Assessment Type ¹: Creative task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 24 hours

Due: **11/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

For this assessment students are required to submit a memoir article. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify, analyse and critique key issues raised in the production of life writing.
- research, write and edit stories of a high standard that fall into the broad category of life writing.
- evaluate the complexity of ethical issues in the field, and treat information in an ethical manner.
- utilise and apply writing techniques of a high standard.
- critically analyse and synthesise a variety of readings chosen as instructive on the craft of writing and use these to reflect on students' own writing.

Final Creative Writing Project

Assessment Type ¹: Creative task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 33 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

For this assessment students can submit a memoir piece, personal essay, or travel writing. In addition to the written essay, they have the option to submit a podcast or a video (with the written text provided). Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify, analyse and critique key issues raised in the production of life writing.
- research, write and edit stories of a high standard that fall into the broad category of life writing.
- evaluate the complexity of ethical issues in the field, and treat information in an ethical manner.
- utilise and apply writing techniques of a high standard.
- critically analyse and synthesise a variety of readings chosen as instructive on the craft of writing and use these to reflect on students' own writing.

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

This unit is worth 10 credit points which equates to 150 hours of work; therefore, you should expect to commit an average of 12 hours of your time per week to this unit including all scheduled and unscheduled activities as well as preparing and executing the assessment tasks.

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Identify, analyse and critique key issues raised in the production of life writing.
2. Research, write and edit stories of a high standard that fall into the broad category of life writing.
3. Evaluate the complexity of ethical issues in the field, and treat information in an ethical manner.
4. Utilise and apply writing techniques of a high standard.
5. Critically analyse and synthesise a variety of readings chosen as instructive on the craft of writing and use these to reflect on students' own writing.

Lectures will begin in Week 1. They will be provided online. Some of them will be on Echo while some have been recorded on Powerpoint. To play a Powerpoint presentation as a continuous lecture, go into Slideshow and press "Play from Start".

Tutorials are one hour in length and will begin in Week 2.

There are no tutorials planned for Week 13, however, if tuts have to be cancelled during the semester, there may be a make-up tutorial scheduled in that last week.

Class Participation - Students are expected to attend tutorials and workshop each other's assignments. To this end, a forum has been set up for each tutorial each week. Students are asked to upload their weekly homework into the relevant tutorial forum for each module by the start of the class. This work is for class participation only and will not be collected for formal grading.

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.

Unit information based on version 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)