



ENGL3035

Novel and Novella Writing

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of Humanities

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Convener Michelle Hamadache michelle.hamadache@mq.edu.au Contact via Email By Appointment
Credit points 10
Prerequisites 20cp at 2000 level including ENGL2033 or ENGL233
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit introduces students to long-form narrative writing in the genre of the novel and novella. Students apply their previous learning of narrative writing technique and craft to the creation and planning of a new work, focusing on creativity and inspiration, research and planning, drafting the plot outline, developing characters, and building the story-world. Students engage in intensive writing practice each week, completing exercises that help them to develop the bones of their novel or novella. Students are also introduced to current industry practices and conditions. At the conclusion of this unit students will have produced the opening to a novel or novella, and an outline of the work.

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 long-form narrative, either a novel or novella, and an outline of the work.

ULO2: Practice a range of methods of improvisation and drafting that support the creative development of the novel or novella.

ULO3: Employ close reading skills and technical creative writing terms, vocabulary and

narrative studies concepts to discuss and analyse craft and technique.

ULO4: Collaborate in the analysis and discussion of the work of others in writing workshops.

ULO5: Research and select potential publication or funding opportunities.

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.

To apply for Special Consideration: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Creative Work	40%	No	01/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Story collage	30%	No	20/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Portfolio	30%	No	08/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Creative Work

Assessment Type ¹: Creative task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **01/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Creative Work: opening 2,500 words to a novel or novella.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Produce the opening of a long-form narrative, either a novel or novella, and an outline of the work.
- Collaborate in the analysis and discussion of the work of others in writing workshops.

Story collage

Assessment Type ¹: Creative task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **20/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Collage presentation of the story, including indications of plot, character, story-world and themes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Produce the opening of a long-form narrative, either a novel or novella, and an outline of the work.
- Practice a range of methods of improvisation and drafting that support the creative development of the novel or novella.
- Research and select potential publication or funding opportunities.

Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students will collate the unit writing activities comprising writing exercises, workshopping and discussion forum posts and submit a single document portfolio

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Practice a range of methods of improvisation and drafting that support the creative development of the novel or novella.
- Employ close reading skills and technical creative writing terms, vocabulary and narrative studies concepts to discuss and analyse craft and technique.
- Collaborate in the analysis and discussion of the work of others in writing workshops.

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

Lectures

Lectures begin in Week 1 in the form of **Live Zoom lectures**. Please consult the ENGL3035 iLearn site to access the Zoom lecture link. These lectures will be recorded and made available to students through Echo360 on the ENGL/ENGX3035 iLearn site.

Listening to the lectures is expected before participating in the weekly tutorial. Missing lectures will reduce your opportunities for learning and probably result in poor marks across the unit.

Tutorials

Internal students in ENGL3035 will participate in the weekly on-campus tutorials.

External/OUA students enrolled in ENGX3035 will participate in the weekly tutorials via the iLearn Discussion Forums beginning in week 1.

Required text

Alan Watt, *The 90-Day Novel: Unlock the Story Within*. 90-Day Novel Press, 2014.

An e-book version is available from [Booktopia.com.au](#), while [Amazon.com.au](#) has a paperback version.

A copy will also be available in the MQ library.

Hsu-Ming Teo, *Behind the Moon*. Allen and Unwin, 2005. This is optional as background context to the lecture in Week 7.

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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](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 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)