ENGX308

Australian Fiction in the Digital Age

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Open Universities Australia

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Unit Convenor, Online Discussion Moderator, Marker Toby Davidson toby.davidson@mq.edu.au Contact via toby.davidson@mq.edu.au
Prerequisites (ENGX120 or ENG110) and two ENGX units at 200 level or above
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit explores contemporary Australian novels, fiction, graphic works and online narratives through the prism of digital communications and culture. How have established, world-renowned novelists such as Peter Carey positioned 'digital natives' as characters? How are major 21st century issues such as asylum seekers, climate change, terrorism, cyberbullying, Indigenous affairs, multiculturalism, LGBTIQ rights reflected in longer and shorter fictional formats? How has the digital arena changed the language, practice and forms of writing now being offered to the reading public? How has the late 20th century been newly constructed as 'historical' while the late 21st century is reimagined as the immediate future? These are some of the key questions of the unit, enhanced by student input, online research and a visit to or engagement with an Australian Writers' Festival.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/

Learning Outcomes

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

Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument

Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media

Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts

Professionalism in terms of punctuality, prompt explanation of absences, fulfilment of set unit tasks, task management, team-based commuication and presentation of work

Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage

the learning of others

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Tutorial/online Participation	20%	No	Ongoing
iLearn Early Feedback Quiz	10%	No	Friday of Week 3
Author Analysis (1500 words)	30%	No	Friday of Week 7
Research Essay (2000 words)	40%	No	Friday of Week 13

Tutorial/online Participation

Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **20%**

Participation for Weeks 1-13, comprising of punctuality and demonstrated preparation (reading the set texts, available at the Macquarie Co-op bookshop, prior to class discussions) and quality of overall contributions to the online discussions, including one short Sydney Writers' Festival session report. If you cannot attend the Festival in person, session podcasts and extended clips are available. to review The ultimate determinant of your participation mark is the degree to which your fellow students benefit from your online contribution.

ABSENCES: All internal students must explain absences from online discussions by an email with doctor's certificate or other evidence before the day where possible. More than two (2) unexplained absences is a direct breach of Learning Outcome 4 (Professionalism) and may result in failure of the Participation grade, and, by extension, the unit as a whole.

Discussion Forums begin in Week 1 on the ENGX308 iLearn site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Professionalism in terms of punctuality, prompt explanation of absences, fulfilment of set unit tasks, task management, team-based commuication and presentation of work
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage

the learning of others

iLearn Early Feedback Quiz

Due: **Friday of Week 3**
Weighting: **10%**

In Week 3 there will be an Early Feedback Quiz on the topics of Weeks 1, 2, 3, the Unit Guide, assessments and a little on Weeks 4 and 5 (yes, you need to read ahead!).

This will be under 'Assessments' on the iLearn site at http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/. Check this site regularly for updates, links, discussions, recorded i-lectures and slides, etc.

The Early Feedback Quiz will open 9am on the Monday of Week 3 and **closes the following Friday at 11.59pm**.

There are twenty (20) questions. Every student is allowed **two turns** of the quiz as a whole. Most students choose to use their first turn as a 'test run' to see the questions and their second as their final set of answers.

If you cannot complete this task, it is your responsibility to communicate this to your tutor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Professionalism in terms of punctuality, prompt explanation of absences, fulfilment of set unit tasks, task management, team-based commuication and presentation of work

Author Analysis (1500 words)

Due: **Friday of Week 7**
Weighting: **30%**

The purpose of this analysis is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the ways in which two living authors reflect upon their fictional responses to the issues and challenges of the digital era.

This 1500-word task requires each student to compare and contrast the opinions of two of our first four authors (Breeze, Carey, Tan or Wright) on how they operate as a digital-era author in terms of their key themes, characters, issues, chosen form/genre and narrative/stylistic choices. Don't forget that the digital era (2000-present), while marked by revolutions in technology and communications, is not defined by these issues alone and authors may just as easily choose to respond to national politics, world events, personal experiences etc. Authors can be discussing the unit texts or any other piece of 21st century writing.

This analysis requires primary sources only, especially the use of interviews (not limited to those on the unit texts), essays, speeches or statements **by the authors themselves**. Brief examples from both authors' cited works (post-1999) should be given to demonstrate fictionally what is being stated in the interviews, essays, speeches or statements. All print and online sources cited should be referenced in MLA style.

Penalties:

LATENESS: The standard 2% penalty per day late applies. Extension and Disruption to Study requests should be made through ask.mq.edu.au.

LENGTH: A minimum 10% penalty applies for any analysis with a word count which is 10% under or over the set word limit of 1500 words. Word count begins from the first word of the essay and finishes with the last, unless there are also endnotes. Works Cited/Bibliography is not included in the word count.

PLAGIARISM: If you repeat any combination of words from another source, you must acknowledge the authorship of this source and distinguish it from your own authorship. Failure to do this is a breach of Academic Honesty which can lead to serious penalties, so please err on the side of caution and ask if you are unsure.

Submission and return of assessments is via upload to the Turnitin link under 'Assessments' on the ENGX308 iLearn site. There is no physical submission of assessments.

If you cannot complete this task, it is your responsibility to communicate this to your tutor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Professionalism in terms of punctuality, prompt explanation of absences, fulfilment of set unit tasks, task management, team-based commuication and presentation of work
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Research Essay (2000 words)

Due: **Friday of Week 13**
Weighting: **40%**

XThis final essay is in lieu of examination. It will ask students to discuss at least 1 set unit text

and one post-1999 fictional text from outside the unit. This essay has a strong research component. Students are expected to conduct independent scholarly research in relation to the essay questions, which will be uploaded to the ENGL308 iLearn site in Week 8.

All print and online sources cited should be referenced in MLA style.

Penalties:

LATENESS: The standard 2% penalty per day late applies. Extension and Disruption to Study requests should be made through ask.mq.edu.au.

LENGTH: A minimum 10% penalty applies for any analysis with a word count which is 10% under or over the set word limit of 1500 words. Word count begins from the first word of the essay and finishes with the last, unless there are also endnotes. Works Cited/Bibliography is not included in the word count.

PLAGIARISM: If you repeat any combination of words from another source, you must acknowledge the authorship of this source and distinguish it from your own authorship. Failure to do this is a breach of Academic Honesty which can lead to serious penalties, so please err on the side of caution and ask if you are unsure.

Submission and return of essays is via upload to the Turnitin link under 'Assessments' on the ENGX308 iLearn site. There is no physical submission of essays.

If cannot complete this task, it is your responsibility to communicate this to your tutor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Professionalism in terms of punctuality, prompt explanation of absences, fulfilment of set unit tasks, task management, team-based commuication and presentation of work
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

External, online only with iLearn support site.

For current updates, lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetables website: http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au.

Required Texts and/or Materials (in order of reading, all stocked at the Macquarie Co-op Bookshop)

Carey, Peter. *Amnesia*

Tan, Shaun. *Tales from Outer Suburbia*

Wright, Alexis. *The Swan Book*

Teo, Hsu-Ming. *Behind the Moon*

Tsiolkas, Christos. *Merciless Gods*

Breeze, Mez. *Attn: Solitude*

Recommended Texts (optional)

Breeze, Mez. Inanimate Alice at http://www.inanimatealice.com/

There are no books on Reserve for this unit.

Technology Used and Required

iLearn access is imperative as are the use and regular checking of your Macquarie email address for Unit Updates and communications.

Special Consideration

If you have an issue which may cause you to miss multiple classes, or key assessments, you may be able to apply for Special Consideration. Please see https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration if required.

Unit Schedule

Available via the ENGX308 iLearn site.

Policies and Procedures

Late Submission - applies unless otherwise stated elsewhere in the unit guide

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Extension Request

Special Consideration Policy and Procedure (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration)

The University recognises that students may experience events or conditions that adversely affect their academic performance. If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration.

You need to show that the circumstances:

1. were serious, unexpected and unavoidable
2. were beyond your control
3. caused substantial disruption to your academic work
4. substantially interfered with your otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of the unit requirements
5. lasted at least three consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period and prevented completion of an assessment task scheduled for a specific date.

If you feel that your studies have been impacted submit an application as follows:

1. Visit Ask MQ and use your OneID to log in
2. Fill in your relevant details
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'Browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'Submit Form' to send your

notification and supporting documents

4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process

Outcome

Once your submission is assessed, an appropriate outcome will be organised.

OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

Withdrawal from a unit after the census date

You can withdraw from your subjects prior to the census date (last day to withdraw). If you successfully withdraw before the census date, you won't need to apply for Special Circumstances. If you find yourself unable to withdraw from your subjects before the census date - you might be able to apply for Special Circumstances. If you're eligible, we can refund your fees and overturn your fail grade.

If you're studying Single Subjects using FEE-HELP or paying up front, you can apply online.

If you're studying a degree using HECS-HELP, you'll need to apply directly to Macquarie University.

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). 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
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy *(**Note:** The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)*

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/p

olicy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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 ask.mq.edu.au.

Please note: Disruption to Studies has now been renamed Special Consideration (https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration)

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

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.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial/online Participation
- Author Analysis (1500 words)
- Research Essay (2000 words)

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Professionalism in terms of punctuality, prompt explanation of absences, fulfilment of set unit tasks, task management, team-based commuication and presentation of work
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial/online Participation
- iLearn Early Feedback Quiz
- Author Analysis (1500 words)
- Research Essay (2000 words)

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Professionalism in terms of punctuality, prompt explanation of absences, fulfilment of set unit tasks, task management, team-based commuication and presentation of work
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial/online Participation
- iLearn Early Feedback Quiz
- Author Analysis (1500 words)
- Research Essay (2000 words)

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial/online Participation
- iLearn Early Feedback Quiz
- Author Analysis (1500 words)
- Research Essay (2000 words)

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial/online Participation
- Author Analysis (1500 words)
- Research Essay (2000 words)

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and

they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial/online Participation
- iLearn Early Feedback Quiz
- Author Analysis (1500 words)
- Research Essay (2000 words)

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial/online Participation
- Author Analysis (1500 words)
- Research Essay (2000 words)

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Professionalism in terms of punctuality, prompt explanation of absences, fulfilment of set unit tasks, task management, team-based commuication and presentation of work
- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial/online Participation
- Author Analysis (1500 words)
- Research Essay (2000 words)

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstration of independent critical research analysis leading to the communication of an essay based argument
- Ability to work contextually between genres, eras and print, film and online media
- Ability to apply literary insights into broader social and environmental contexts
- Professionalism in terms of punctuality, prompt explanation of absences, fulfilment of set unit tasks, task management, team-based commuication and presentation of work

- Ability to employ the skills and insights of this unit in further learning and to encourage the learning of others

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial/online Participation
- Research Essay (2000 words)