



**Faculty of Arts and Social  
Sciences**

**School of the Arts and Media**

**ARTS3031**

**English Capstone: Literature and the Contemporary World**

**Session 2, 2015**

## UNSW Course Outline

### Staff Contact Details

| Position         | Name        | Email  | Availability                    | Location     | Phone |
|------------------|-------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Course Authority | Bill Walker | <a href="mailto:w.walker@unsw.edu.au">w.walker@unsw.edu.au</a> | Mondays, 2-3<br>Wednesdays, 2-3 | Webster 311B | 52306 |

### School of the Arts and Media Contact Information

Room 312, level 3 Robert Webster Building

Phone: 9385 4856

Email: [sam@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sam@unsw.edu.au)

Website: <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au>

### Attendance Requirements

- A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a F2F or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.
- A student who attends less than 80% of the classes/activities and has not submitted appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain their absence may be awarded a final grade of UF (Unsatisfactory Fail).
- A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.
- If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.
- A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.
- A student who has submitted the appropriate documentation but attends less than 66% of the classes/activities will be asked by the Course Authority to apply to discontinue the course without failure rather than be awarded a final grade of UF. The final decision as to whether a student can be withdrawn without fail is made by Student Administration and Records.
- For more information about the SAM attendance protocols, see the SAM policies and guidelines webpage: <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

### Essential Information For SAM Students

For essential student information relating to: attendance requirements; requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; examination procedures; special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure; student equity and disability; and other essential matters, see the SAM Policies and Guidelines webpage: <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

## Course details

**Credit Points:** 6

### Summary of the Course:

Subject Area: *English*

This course can also be studied in the following specialisation: *Creative Writing*

The discipline of literary studies emerges not just from a set of canonical texts but also from an ongoing and vital series of debates about the nature, meaning and value of what we call literature. What is a classic, what is a hoax, what is obscene, and what is worthless? The aesthetic judgements we make about literary texts show how enmeshed literature is in the fabric of the contemporary world. This course will consider the relationship between literature as a creative act and literature as a public discourse. It will analyze literary culture from the perspective both of aesthetics and politics. It will encourage students to reflect upon the role of literary studies in the contemporary world by asking: How does literature contribute to a society's public discourse about itself? And how can studying literature serve members of that society in their professional capacities?

### Aims of the Course:

The course encourages students to reflect on the social value and meaning of literature and literary criticism. It aims to equip students with a deeper critical awareness of their roles as readers, students, critics and – potentially – writers of literature. The course will not only reinforce the core disciplinary skills of textual analysis and critical thinking developed throughout the English major. It will also enable students to articulate some of the reasons for the continuing relevance of literature and criticism in contemporary society. It will also enable students to articulate some of the reasons for the continuing relevance of literature and criticism in contemporary society and in the workplace.

### Student learning outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Critical awareness of literary forms and genres.
2. Understanding of canonicity and literary value.
3. Ability to articulate reasons for the continuing relevance of literature and criticism in the early 21st century.
4. Ability to engage critically with existing research in the field of literary studies.
5. Ability to write critically and cogently about literature and criticism, and to reflect on one's own practices as a reader and student of literature.

### Graduate Attributes:

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to:

1. analyse literature through close reading of texts in English
2. know the main periods and branches of English literature
3. relate literary texts to the contexts in which they were produced
4. reflect upon his/her own practice as a literary critic within the discipline of English

5. make and justify aesthetic judgments about texts

6. understand how texts are produced

7. express him/herself well and compose in English

### **Rationale for the inclusion of content and teaching approach**

My approach is governed in general by

- my own intellectual and emotional engagement with English literature
- my expertise in the field
- my understanding of English literary criticism as a discipline within the humanities
- my views about how best to achieve the outcomes listed above.

I will pursue the course aims by doing many things, such as

- lecturing on the required texts
- reading poetry out loud in lecture and seminar
- participating in and guiding discussion in seminars
- providing written comments on your major essay (if you request it)
- being available to discuss with you the course and your studies
- asking you to remember what you have learned over the course of your BA
- using a technical vocabulary to discuss the assigned texts
- providing examples of good scholarly prose
- trying to respond in a helpful way to your questions about the material and the course
- providing explicit guidelines for essay writing

## Assessment

1. Essay
2. Short In-class Presentation
3. Annotate Bibliography

| Assessment task               | Length          | Weight | Learning outcomes assessed | Graduate attributes assessed | Due Date                |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Major Essay (60%)             | 2500 words      | 60%    | 1,2,3,4,5                  | 1,2,3,5,6,7                  | 4pm, Monday, 26 October |
| Individual presentation (10%) | 10 minutes      | 10%    | 1,2,3                      | 1,2,4,5,7                    | in seminar, weeks 2-12  |
| Annotated Bibliography (30%)  | 1500-2000 words | 30%    | 1,3,4,5                    | 1,3,4,5,7                    | 4pm, Friday, 21 August  |

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their **names** and **student numbers** on **every page** of their assignments. If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au). Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally in SAM there will no longer be any hard-copy submission; assessments must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible it will be stated on your course's moodle site with alternative submission details.

## Late Submission

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE RULES APPLY FOR ALL COURSES IN SAM.

If your assignment is submitted after the due date, a penalty of 3% per day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays) will be imposed for up to 2 weeks. For example, if you are given a mark of 72 out of 100 for an essay, and your essay were handed in two days late, it would attract a penalty of 6% and the mark would be reduced to 66%. If the same essay were handed in seven days late (i.e. a penalty of 21%) it would receive a mark of 51%. If your assignment is not submitted within 2 weeks of its due date, it will receive a mark of 0. For more information on submission of late work, consult the SAM assessment protocols at <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

## Extension Procedure

- A student seeking an extension should submit a SAM extension application form (found in Forms on SAM website) to the Course Authority before the due date.
- The Course Authority should respond to the request within two working days of the request.
- The Course Authority can only approve an extension of up to five days. A student requesting an extension of

more than five days should complete an application for Special Consideration.

- If a student is granted an extension, failure to comply will result in a penalty. The penalty will be invoked one minute past the approved extension time.
- This procedure does not apply to assessment tasks that take place during regular class hours or any task specifically identified by the Course Authority as not subject to extension requests.
- A student who missed an assessed activity held within class contact hours should apply for Special Consideration via myUNSW.
- For more information, see the SAM extension protocols on the SAM policies and guidelines webpage: <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

## Special Consideration

In the case of more serious or ongoing illness or misadventure, you will need to apply for Special Consideration. For information on Special Consideration please go to this URL: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Students who are prevented from attending a substantial amount of the course may be advised to apply to withdraw without penalty. This will only be approved in the most extreme and properly documented cases.

## Academic honesty and plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- **Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.
- **Inappropriate paraphrasing:** changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.
- **Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- **Inappropriate citation:** Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- **Duplication ("self-plagiarism"):** submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Details of what plagiarism is can be found on the Learning Centre's Website Plagiarism & Academic Integrity website (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/academic-integrity-plagiarism>), in the myUNSW student A-Z: Guide <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism> and in Appendix A of the Student Misconduct Procedure (pdf- <https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf>).

The Learning Centre also provides substantial education written materials, workshops, and tutorials to aid students, for example:

- Correct referencing practices;
- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

Course schedule

| Week                                   | Topic               | Lecture Content   | Seminar Content   |
|--|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Week 1: 27-31 July</b>              | Introduction        | Aesthetics, Politics, Canonicity                              | <b>Hour 1</b> <i>Hamlet</i><br><b>Hour 2</b> <i>Hamlet</i>  |
| <b>Week 2: 3-7 August</b>              | Hamlet              | The Quality of <i>Hamlet</i>                                  | <b>Hour 1</b> <i>Hamlet</i><br><b>Hour 2</b> <i>Hamlet</i>  |
|  | Samson Agonistes    | Approaching <i>Samson Agonistes</i>                           | <b>Hour 1</b> Milton, <i>Samson Agonistes</i><br><b>Hour 2</b> Milton, <i>Samson Agonistes</i>  |
| <b>Week 4: 17-21 August</b>            | Samson Agonistes    | Milton in the Age of Terrorism                                | <b>Hour 1</b> Milton, <i>Samson Agonistes</i><br><b>Hour 2</b> Milton, <i>Samson Agonistes</i>  |
| <b>Week 5: 24-28 August</b>            | Joseph Andrews      | A Theory of the Novel--in the Novel                           | <b>Hour 1</b> Fielding, <i>Joseph Andrews</i><br><b>Hour 2</b> Fielding, <i>Joseph Andrews</i>  |
| <b>Week 6: 31 August - 4 September</b> | Joseph Andrews      | Realism, Pornography, and the Novel                           | <b>Hour 1</b> Fielding, <i>Joseph Andrews</i><br><b>Hour 2</b> Fielding, <i>Joseph Andrews</i>  |
| <b>Week 7: 7-11 September</b>          | Wordsworth          | Savage Torpor: Wordsworth's <i>Preface to Lyrical Ballads</i> | <b>Hour 1</b> Wordsworth, <i>Tintern Abbey</i><br><b>Hour 2</b> Wordsworth, "London, 1802," "I wandered lonely as a cloud...", "The world is too much with us...", <i>Ode to Duty</i> |
| <b>Week 8: 14-18 September</b>         | Shelley             | The Poet as Legislator: Shelley's <i>Defence of Poetry</i>    | <b>Hour 1</b> Shelley's <i>Defence</i><br><b>Hour 2</b> <i>Hymn to Intellectual Beauty</i> , <i>Ode to the West Wind</i> , <i>Ode to Liberty</i>                                      |
|  | Arnold              | Arnold on Sweetness, Light, and Philistines                   | <b>Hour 1</b> Arnold, <i>Culture and Anarchy</i><br><b>Hour 2</b> Arnold, <i>Empedocles on Aetna</i>  |
| <b>Week 10: 6-9 October</b>            | Nietzsche and Yeats | No Lecture  | <b>Hour 1</b> Nietzsche, "European Nihilism"; "The Will to Power as Art"  |



|                               |                |  |   |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--|---|
|                               |                |  | <b>Hour 2</b> Yeats, "Leda and the Swan," "The Second Coming," "A Prayer for my Daughter," "A Dialogue of Self and Soul," "Easter, 1916," "Leda and the Swan," "Sailing to Byzantium," "Byzantium"  |
| <b>Week 11: 12-16 October</b> | T. S. Eliot    | Modern Drowning: Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" | <b>Hour 1</b> Baudelaire, "Au Lecteur," "La Beaute," "L'Albatros"; Eliot, "Baudelaire"<br><br><b>Hour 2</b> Eliot, "The Metaphysical Poets," "Ulysses, Order, and Myth," "Tradition and the Individual Talent," "The Function of Criticism" |
| <b>Week 12: 19-23 October</b> | Virginia Woolf | Darwin...Freud...Woolf   | <b>Hour 1</b> Freud, <i>Civilization and its Discontents</i> ; Woolf, <i>Between the Acts</i><br><br><b>Hour 2</b> Woolf, <i>Between the Acts</i>   |

### Course evaluation and development

This course has been revised with the aim of encouraging reflection about the discipline of English literary studies as presented in the Gateway courses in English literary studies at UNSW. The changes aim to cultivate a deeper knowledge of the history and genres of English literature, and a more sophisticated understanding of the qualities of specific works that have made them canonical. The revised version of the course provides more coverage of literature from earlier periods of English literature, and literature that is grounded in worldviews and moral sensibilities that differ from ours. This version of the course also requires more serious consideration of the history of ideas about the value and significance of English literature and literary criticism. The intention is to enable a historically informed and therefore more powerful reflection about literature and what we as literary critics can offer to our contemporary world.