



School of the Arts and Media

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

ARTS3031

English Capstone: Literature and the Contemporary World

Session 2, 2016

Course Outline

Staff Contact Details

Position	Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Convener	Sigi Jottkandt	s.jottkandt@unsw.edu.au	Thursdays 1-2pm	Webster 311J	x56813

Contact Information

Room 312, level 3 Robert Webster Building

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

Email: 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 face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

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, their request 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.

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

All SAM students must make a serious attempt at all assessments in order to pass the course.

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 you 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?

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

1. Interrogate the disciplinary assumptions and institutional history of literary studies
2. Reflect upon and articulate your personal reasons for studying and reading literature.
3. Consider your private reading experience in a broader social and critical context.
4. Engage in debate about the significance of literature to public discourse, and the relative merits of a formal education in literary studies
5. Construct an original argument in relation to a field of scholarly debate
6. Employ the critical skills necessary to support arguments with textual evidence.
7. Conduct formal textual analysis of literary works.

Teaching Strategies

Rationale for the inclusion of content and teaching approach

I am dedicated to promoting the value of literature as an art form, and as a vital element of public discourse. My teaching is conducted within the context of literary studies as an academic discipline. I conceive of a discipline not just as a body of knowledge to be learned, but as a series of recurring questions to be debated. As a result, I aim to introduce students to some of the foundational questions of literary studies and to current scholarly debates in the field. I encourage students at all levels, from undergraduate to postgraduate, to conceive of themselves as participants in these debates, to which they can contribute via their essays.

I feel that my role as a teacher, beyond ensuring that students acquire relevant disciplinary knowledge, is to demonstrate how to succeed in this field, how to contribute to its ongoing development. The qualities and attributes which I think are necessary to this success include: a spirit of open enquiry; a willingness to experiment; the capacity to interrogate received opinion; and an ambition to produce high quality work. To promote this ambition I try to lead by example, engaging students with my passion for the subject and my commitment to teaching. I aim to give students as much autonomy as possible in the learning process, encouraging them to pursue the work which most interests them. I aim to foster a learning environment which is both respectful and critically robust. To this end I engage openly with all student opinions and encourage open and honest debate in classes.

Teaching strategies

- lectures to familiarise students with key issues and concepts in the course
- group discussion of issues raised by lectures and material in course reader
- close reading and textual analysis of set texts to develop critical skills
- occasional in-class group exercises
- time allocated for each student to offer their own opinion
- no set questions for major essay to encourage students to research the topics which most interest them, and to provide them with the opportunity to make their own original intervention in a scholarly debate

Assessment

You must seriously attempt all assessment tasks to be eligible for a passing grade.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Length	Due Date	Submission
Scholarly Essay	60%	2500-3000 words	25 October	Turnitin
Annotated Bibliography and Personal Comment	40%	1500-2000	6 September	Turnitin

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Scholarly Essay

Details: 3500 word essay. This is the final assessment task. Written feedback.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin, students do not see Turnitin similarity reports

Learning outcomes:

- Interrogate the disciplinary assumptions and institutional history of literary studies
- Reflect upon and articulate your personal reasons for studying and reading literature.
- Consider your private reading experience in a broader social and critical context.
- Engage in debate about the significance of literature to public discourse, and the relative merits of a formal education in literary studies
- Construct an original argument in relation to a field of scholarly debate
- Employ the critical skills necessary to support arguments with textual evidence.
- Conduct formal textual analysis of literary works.

Assessment 2: Annotated Bibliography and Personal Comment

Details: A brief summary and evaluation of the set readings for any one week from week one to week four. This should include at least four pieces from the course reader, and at least another two references derived from your own research: half a page to a page per reading. Your own informed opinion in response to the question which has organized the readings for that particular week (ie, what is literature, why do we read, what is literary criticism, what is literary studies?): 2500 words Written feedback.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin, students do not see Turnitin similarity reports

Learning outcomes:

- Engage in debate about the significance of literature to public discourse, and the relative merits of a formal education in literary studies
- Consider your private reading experience in a broader social and critical context.
- Reflect upon and articulate your personal reasons for studying and reading literature.
- Interrogate the disciplinary assumptions and institutional history of literary studies

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

Turnitin Submission

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. 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 Assessment Penalties

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted fourteen days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted twenty-one days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- * Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- * Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- * Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,
- * Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including 'When to Apply', 'How to Apply' and 'Supporting Documentation' please refer to the Special Consideration website: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

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.

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

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 25 - 29 July	Lecture	Introduction
	Tut	No tutes in Week 1
Week 2: 1 - 5 August	Lecture	What is Literature?
	Tut	What is Literature?
Week 3: 8 - 12 August	Lecture	Why do we read?
	Tut	Why do we read?
Week 4: 15 - 19 August	Lecture	What is literary criticism?
	Tut	What is literary criticism?
Week 5: 22 - 26 August	Lecture	What is "literary studies"?
	Tut	What is "literary studies"?
Week 6: 29 August - 2 September	Lecture	Why study English?
	Tut	Why study English?
Week 7: 5 - 9 September	Lecture	What is the canon?
	Tut	What is the canon?
Week 8: 12 - 16 September	Lecture	The crisis in the Humanities
	Tut	The crisis in the Humanities
Week 9: 19 - 23 September	Lecture	Practical criticism
	Tut	Practical criticism
Week 10: 4 - 7 October	Lecture	The Theory Wars I
	Tut	The Theory Wars I
Week 11: 10 - 14 October	Lecture	The Theory Wars II
	Tut	The Theory Wars II
Week 12: 17 - 21 October	Lecture	The End(s) of English?
	Tut	The End(s) of English?
Week 13: 24 - 28 October	Tut	Wrap up class

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Please see Moodle for links to expected resources.

Recommended Resources

Please see Moodle for a list of recommended resources for students.

Course Evaluation and Development

Your feedback will be invaluable for assessing the learning and teaching strategies of the English capstone so please fill out online CATEI forms at the end of the course.