ENGL1653
INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Caroline Webb
Room: H.O. 1.21
Ph: (02) 4348 4061
Fax: (02) 4348 4075
Email: Caroline.Webb@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Wednesday 2-4 (EXCEPT weeks 4, 5: Monday 10.15-12.15)

Lecturer: Anna-Maria Dell’oso
Ph: 0425 211 911
Email: annadelloso@optusnet.com.au
Consultation hours: Tuesday 2-4 (room to be advised)

Semester: Semester 2 - 2006
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Seminar

Brief Course Description
Introduces students to processes and approaches to imaginative writing in both fictional and non-fictional forms. It involves the analysis of the writing of others as well as the exploration of techniques and approaches to writing. Students will develop the capacity to draw on personal experience, memory and research and will acquire the skills of shaping language to create a portfolio of original works.

Contact Hours
Seminar for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts
Course reader (available from the Co-op Bookshop)

Course Objectives
Knowledge of forms and features of fictional and non-fictional writing
1.1 Understanding of issues in a range of fictional and non-fictional forms of writing
1.2 Understanding of the effects of technology on writing and communication
1.3 Understanding writing in an intercultural context

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1 Semester 2 2006

CTS Download Date: 4 July 2006
Skills in creative and critical thinking
2.1 Capacity to use a range of research strategies to gather ideas for creative writing
2.2 Capacity to use knowledge of language forms and features to create effective pieces of writing
2.3 Skills in critically analysing own writing and the writing of others

Communication skills
3.1 Skills in using oral language to develop, analyse and respond to writing
3.2 Skills in using written forms to communicate ideas and issues
3.3 Skills in the use of information technologies to communicate ideas and issues

Community and Profession
4.1 Understanding of issues associated with the discipline and practices of professional writing
4.2 Awareness of intercultural issues in writing and publishing

Course Content
1) the reading/writing connection
2) oral language and writing
3) writing and cultural context
4) kinds of writing
   a) non-fictional forms – feature articles, journals, memoirs, histories, reviews, essays, biography
   b) fictional forms - short stories, novels and novellas, poetry
   c) performance forms – screen, stage, radio
   d) journalism – newspaper, newsletter, magazine, internet, ‘blogs’
   e) writing for children - picture books, illustrated books, chapter books
5) processes and strategies for writing
   a) research tools and techniques
   b) establishing point of view
   c) shaping the first draft
   d) developing the work
   e) editing and proof reading strategies
6) language structures and features
   a) grammar and syntax
   b) diction and word choice
   c) punctuation

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>Non-fictional writing 30% 1200 words</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Portfolio of fictional writing 40% 3000 words</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations - Tutorial</td>
<td>Oral presentation of research 30% (equivalent of 1000 words)</td>
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Assumed Knowledge
Nil

Ourimbah Timetable

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGL1653</th>
<th>INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science</td>
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<td>Semester 2 – 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
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CTS Download Date: 4 July 2006
Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:
- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgement;
- using another’s ideas without due acknowledgement;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/academic_integrity_policy_new.pdf

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may –
- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking)
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items
Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:
1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer on the prescribed form.

Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you, at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/adm_prog/adverse_circumstances.html
Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the date of submission or examination.
- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be lodged no later than 5 working days before the date of the examination.

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

**Changing your Enrolment**
The last date to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) is:

For semester 2 courses: **31 August 2006**.

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with the Student Enquiry Centre.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html)

**Contact Details**
**Faculty Student Service Office**
The Faculty of Education and Arts
Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)
Phone: 02 4921 5314

**Ourimbah Focus**
Room: AB1.01 (Administration Building)
Phone: 02 4348 4030

**The Dean of Students**
Dr Jennifer Archer
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
[resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au)

**Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)**
Dr Bill Gladstone
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html)
**Alteration of this Course Outline**
No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

**Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards**

**STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS**
The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au.

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability.

**Online Tutorial Registration**
Students are required to enrol in the Seminar for this course via the Online Registration system:
Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

**Studentmail and Blackboard:** www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details**
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

**Hard Copy Submission**
- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet: www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/studentguide.index.html
Assignments are to be deposited at any Student Focus. Focus are located at:

- Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
- Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
- Ground Floor, University House, City
- Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah, Room H01.43

Any changes to this procedure will be announced during the semester.

Do not fax or email assignments: Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse. Assignments mailed to Schools are accepted from the date posted.

Keep a copy of all assignments: All assignments are date-stamped upon receipt. However, it is the student's responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in hard copy and on disk.

Online Copy Submission to Turnitin
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the non-fictional assignment and the portfolio to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website.

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing.

Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

Penalties for Late Assignments
Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.

Special Consideration/Extension of Time Applications
Students wishing to apply for Special Consideration or Extension of Time should obtain the appropriate form from the Student Focus.
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/index.html

No Assignment Re-submission
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Re-marks
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at:

Return of Assignments
Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Focus during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Focus to go to and the earliest date assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.
Preferred Referencing Style
Non-fictional writing in this course may be submitted either in Chicago Style (using endnotes with bibliography) or in MLA Style (parenthetical in text with Works Cited, giving in parentheses ONLY author’s surname, first main word of title if there are two works by the author in your Works Cited, and page number of quotation or passage alluded to). If you have taken courses in English at Ourimbah in recent years (e.g. HUMA1650) you should already be familiar with Chicago Style and should use this style.

Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:

Student Representatives
We are very interested in your feedback and suggestions for improvement. Student Representatives are the channel of communication between students and the School Board. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on the School website.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 July</td>
<td>Writer’s work: journals and notebooks, scaffolding the writing process. Research sources. Using research before and during writing. Ethical considerations in research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 August</td>
<td>Write what you know &amp; write to find out what you know. Scanning the environment for story. Drawing upon and shaping personal experience in creative non-fiction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 August</td>
<td>I remember when .. drawing upon &amp; shaping memories. The germinal idea. Non-fiction forms: journalism, essay, memoir</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 August</td>
<td>Assessment Task 1. Writers’ Circle Presentations</td>
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</table>
| 22 August  | Finding the form – shaping the writing 
Deadline: Assessment Task 2 - Written submissions due |
| 29 August  | Beginnings, middles & ends: Losing the plot, finding the way: Event & Story: ways of structuring narrative |
Deadline: Assessment Task 2 Creative Non-Fiction |
| 12 September| ‘Trippingly on the tongue’ – writing dialogue that speaks. The dramatic purpose of dialogue, the relationship between character & dialogue. |
| 19 September| Point of View. Who is telling the story? |
| 26 September| Suspense, mystery & dramatic irony. The art of withholding & revealing. Creating gaps for the reader’s own journey of discovery. |
| 17 October | The craft of drafting and editing. Structural, style, content and copy editing. |
| 24 October | Writers, Publishers & Readers. Establishing a professional writing practice. |
| 31 October | Course Review. 
Deadline: Assessment Task 3 Portfolio of Fiction |