ENGL3659 - Australian Fiction I: Living in Australia
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Janice Shaw
Room: TBA
Ph: 4348 4323
Fax: 
Email: Janice.shaw@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: TBA

Semester: Semester 1 - 2006
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Seminar

Course Overview

Brief Course Description
Considers Australian fictions since 1970 which have been concerned with ways of living in Australia - the domestic, the familiar, the alternative, the exotic - as an approach to the examination of the efflorescence of Australian fiction in the past thirty years.

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

Learning Materials/Texts
In order of study:
Helen Garner, Monkey Grip
Marion Halligan, Collected Stories (“The Hanged Man in the Garden” section)
Robert Drew, The Bodysurfers
Rob Sitch, The Castle
Tim Winton, Dirt Music
Michael Jenkins, Blue Murder
Helen Garner, Joe Cinque’s Consolation
Andrew McGahan, Last Drinks
Ray Lawrence, Lantana
Marele Day, The Life and Crimes of Harry Lavender
Course Objectives
To provide students with the opportunities to:
1. gain a close acquaintance with a number of literary works;
2. gain a close acquaintance with the literature of the immediate Australian social context;
3. become familiar with criticism and theory which might enable better understanding of literary works;
4. reflect on the representation of cultural elements in literary forms;
5. practise and demonstrate skills in writing analytic and research essays.

Course Content
Considers Australian fictions since the 1970s concerned with the significance of living in Australia. We will consider a range of contemporary books in terms of such themes as domesticity/family life; exile and home; Aboriginality; gender. Writers may include Frank Moorhouse, Peter Carey, Helen Garner, Amanda Lohrey, and more recent writers. While the authors of the 1970s are likely to form the basis of the course, the content will vary in different years according to current perceptions of what is important and who is emergent in Australian writing. Appropriate critical/theoretical material will also be used; contemporary reviews will be drawn upon.

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Items</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>2,500-word essay, worth 50% Substantial critical/research essay discussing issues raised in the course, considering several texts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>1,500-word essay, worth 30% Assignment on a single text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group/tutorial participation and contribution</td>
<td>Participation, worth 10%, assessed by 3 quizzes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: attendance is required in this course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assessment of participation will not include marks for attendance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80% attendance is expected in this course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations - Tutorial</td>
<td>500-word discussion paper, worth 10% Discussion on a single text or passage, to be presented in class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumed Knowledge
ENGL1650 or 10 units of English literature at 1000 level.

Ourimbah Timetable
ENGL3659
AUSTRALIAN FICTION 1
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 – 2006
Seminar Friday 10:00 - 12:00 [O_CS2.07]

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 acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- 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 -

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:

**Changing your Enrolment**

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2006
For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2006
For Trimester 1 courses: 17 February 2006
For Trimester 2 courses: 9 June 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/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with the School Office.

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 Offices**

The Faculty of Education and Arts

Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)

Phone: 0249 215 314

**The Dean of Students**

Dr Jennifer Archer

Phone: 492 15806   Fax: 492 17151

resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

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**


**Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate 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 49 21 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 lecturer, 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/disabilities

**Online Tutorial Registration:**
Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time 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/](http://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 1.5 or 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/policy/academic/general/assess_coversheet.pdf](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/assess_coversheet.pdf)
- **Assignments are to be given to the lecturer in the seminar on the date of submission. Late assignments only are to be placed in the relevant discipline assignment box:**
  - Callaghan students: School of Humanities and Social Science Office, Level 1, McMullin Building, MC127
  - Ourimbah students: Room H01.43
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 following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:

Essay 1
1500 words
Worth 30%
Due 31.3.2006 (submitted in the seminar)
You may not write again on the text you have chosen for your Discussion Paper.

Discuss the depiction of a subculture or specific cultural group in either Monkey Grip, “The Hanged Man in the Garden,” The Bodysurfers or The Castle. In what ways is this cultural group presented in the text? Does it conform to a traditional literary stereotype of Australian life, or diverge from it?

Essay 2
2500 words
Worth 50%
Due 9.6.2006 (submitted in the seminar)
This is a comparative essay. Choose 2 texts from the course to answer one of the following questions. You may not write on more than 2 films in the essays and Discussion paper, and you may not write again on the text chosen for Essay 1 or the Discussion paper.

1. Choose 2 texts in which drugs and alcohol form the basis of a sub-culture. Are they presented as a form of rebellion, or as a means of bonding in the text?

   OR

2. Discuss 2 texts which reject the literary stereotype of Australia as a rural nation drawing its sense of identity from an association with the bush. How is this rejection achieved in the text?

   OR

3. Choose 2 texts which draw on the conventions of a specific genre to make a statement about Australian society. Do the texts conform to literary conventions or parody them?

   OR

4. How is the notion of power related to gender issues in 2 of the texts on the course?

   OR

5. Choose 2 texts which explore maternity and the role of the mother. Discuss whether this is examined within the Australian context only or as a universal concept.

   OR

6. How is violence presented in 2 of the texts from the course? Is it portrayed as inherently a part of Australian society?
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 HUBS.

**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.

**Remarks**
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**
Where possible, assignments will be marked within 3 weeks and returned to students in class. At the end of semester, students can collect assignments from the Student HUBS during office hours.

**Preferred Referencing Style**
In this course, it is required that you use the MLA referencing system for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:  
§ Infoskills:  

**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:


**Discussion Paper**
The Discussion Paper consists of a 10 minute discussion of one of the following questions, chosen by the student and presented in the seminar. It is not a formal essay, and marks will be awarded on the quality of the oral presentation as well as content of the paper. It is worth 10% of the assessment.

**Discussion Questions**

**Monkey Grip**
How is sexuality presented in the text? Is it portrayed as a form of rebellion?

“The Hanged Man in the Garden”
What is the role of domesticity in the collection?

**The Bodysurfers**
How does the beach function in the text?

**The Castle**
What is the effect of the frame by Dale Kerrigan?

**Dirt Music**
Who is the main character in the novel?

**Blue Murder**
What is the function of the introduction of news footage and interviews from current affairs programmes?

**Joe Cinque’s Consolation**
Does Garner present a bias in her writing, or is it an objective view of the events she writes about?

**Last Drinks**
Is the novel too reminiscent of a particular social context for the reader? Does the reader have an impoverished reading if they are not aware of this context?

**Lantana**
How does the opening scene function in the film?

**The Life and Times of Harry Lavender**
Discuss the references to technology in the society depicted in the novel. Do they impact upon the highly stylized genre of the novel?
Recommended Reading


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading guide</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49% or less</td>
<td>Fail (FF)</td>
<td>An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% to 64%</td>
<td>Pass (P)</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65% to 74%</td>
<td>Credit (C)</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75% to 84%</td>
<td>Distinction (D)</td>
<td>Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85% upwards</td>
<td>High Distinction (HD)</td>
<td>All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Helen Garner, Monkey Grip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Marion Halligan, “The Hanged Man in the Garden”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Robert Drewe, The Bodysurfers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Rob Sitch, The Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Tim Winton, Dirt Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Michael Jenkins, Blue Murder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Note: Good Friday Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mid-Semester Recess: Friday 14 April – Friday 28 April**

| 9    | May 1         | Helen Garner, Joe Cinque’s Consolation |
| 10   | May 8         | Andrew McGahan, Last Drinks            |
| 11   | May 15        | Ray Lawrence, Lantana                  |
| 12   | May 22        | Marele Day, The Life and Crimes of Harry Lavender |
| 13   | May 29        | Essay Consultations                    |
| 14   | June 5        | Conclusion                             |

Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday: Monday 12 June
Examination period: Tuesday 13 June - Friday 30 June