



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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## UNIT OUTLINE

**HEA435**  
**Fictocriticism**

**Semester 1, 2006**

[www.utas.edu.au/units/HEA435](http://www.utas.edu.au/units/HEA435)

<b>Convenor:</b>	<b>Dr Philip Mead</b>  <b>Room: HUM 560</b> <b>Phone: 6226 2352</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:P.Mead@utas.edu.au">P.Mead@utas.edu.au</a></b>
<b>Consultation hours:</b>	Friday 12-2 pm
<b>Unit description:</b>	Postmodern critical and creative work is moving rapidly away from the traditional academic genres of essay, chapter and journal article, on the one hand, and, on the other, the traditional creative genres of fiction and poetry. A hybrid writing, part critical, part theoretical, part creative, is proving influential in the reformulation of literary and cultural studies. Cross- and trans-disciplinary work has brought into existence new forms of academic writing. This unit studies some current, influential work of cultural analysis and commentary by writers working outside and against previously normative disciplinary genres, in what might be termed intellectual avant-gardes. The unit is loosely framed by a psychoanalytic theoretical paradigm and focuses on the pragmatics of writing practice as well as crucial theoretical questions of subjectivity, objectivity, value and cultural politics. There is the opportunity for students to do fictocritical work for their assessment.
<b>Unit aims and objectives:</b>	The aim of this unit is to introduce students to recent and contemporary developments within the discipline 'English', under the heading Fictocriticism. It focuses on recent, innovative academic writing practices in the field of literary and cultural studies, and in the humanities more broadly. The unit aims to increase students' awareness of the field of English and literary studies and of the academic writing practices it currently encompasses. Objectives of the unit are to provide a re-introduction to Freudian and post-Freudian psychoanalytic theory, to increase students' self-consciousness about their own writing practices, to provide opportunities for innovation and experiment in their own advanced, Honours work.

<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	Students taking this unit will have an increased knowledge of cross- and trans-disciplinary advanced work in the field of literary and cultural studies, will have thought about the genres of academic writing, be aware of aspects of the production of academic work and, in some cases, have experimented with innovation in their own work for assessment in the unit. Students will also have been reintroduced to some aspects of psychoanalytic theory as it pertains to the fictocritical field.
<b>Required texts:</b>	<p>HEA435 Fictocriticism Unit Reader (contents marked*)  Anne Curthoys and John Docker, <i>Is History Fiction?</i>  Ross Gibson, <i>Seven Versions of an Australian Badland</i>  Katherine Hayles, <i>Writing Machines</i>  Alice Kaplan, <i>French Lessons: a memoir</i>  Heather Kerr and Amanda Nettelbeck, <i>The Space Between</i>  Stephen Muecke, <i>No Road (Bitumen all the Way)</i></p> <p>Texts marked † on the seminar schedule are on Reserve in the Morris Miller Library</p>
<b>When taught:</b>	<p>Semester 1, 2006</p> <p>1 x 3-hr seminar per week (9 weeks); flexible delivery</p>
<b>Assessment:</b>	1 x 5000 word essay

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Lecturer
week 1 - 3 March	<b>introductory: genres/theory/disciplines/writing practice/knowledge</b> Borges, 'Pierre Menard, author of the <i>Quixote</i> '* Greenblatt, 'Introduction' and 'Epilogue' (from <i>Renaissance Self-Fashioning</i> )* Magee, 'Kierkegaard II: The Sequel'* Ruthven, 'The Future of Disciplines: A Report on Ignorance'* Didion, 'Sentimental Journeys'* Castro, 'Auto/biography'*	PM
week 2 - 10 March	<b>writing the self/psychoanalysis (an origin)</b> Freud, <i>Fragment of an Analysis of a Case of Hysteria</i> ('Dora')* Berheimer and Kahane, <i>In Dora's Case: Freud, Hysteria, Feminism</i> † Wright, 'What is a clinical "case"?'*	PM
week 3 - 17 March	<b>autocritography/psychoanalysis/memory</b> Kaplan, <i>French Lessons: a Memoir</i> † Shumway, 'The Star System in Literary Studies'* Sutherland, 'The Peons and the Program'* Veaser, 'The Case for Confessional Criticism'*	PM
week 4 - 24 March	<b>writing practice/gender</b> Kerr and Nettelbeck, <i>The Space Between: Australian Women Writing Fictocriticism</i> † Brook, "'Does Anybody Know What Happened to 'Fictocriticism'?"* Dawson, 'A Place for the Space Between: Fictocriticism and the University'* Gibbs, 'Bodies of Words: Feminism and Fictocriticism'*	PM
week 5 - 31 March	<b>critical institutions/literature/the 'fully sick' self</b> Ellman, <i>The Hunger Artists: Starving, Writing &amp; Imprisonment</i> † Berube, 'Life as We Know It'* Simpson, 'Speaking Personally: the Culture of Autobiographical Criticism'* Sedgewick, 'White Glasses'* Michaels, <i>Unbecoming: an AIDS Diary</i> †	PM
week 6 - 7 April	<b>writing practice/place/history</b> Gibson, <i>Seven Versions of an Australian Badland</i> † Curthoys and Docker, <i>Is History Fiction?</i> †	PM
week 7	No seminar: Easter break 13-19 April	
week 8 - 21 April	<b>writing practice/nomadism/history</b> Muecke, <i>No Road (Bitumen All the Way)</i> † Curthoys and Docker, <i>Is History Fiction?</i> † Falconer, 'Columbus' Blindness'* Muecke, 'The Fall: Fictocritical Writing'*  ☛ <b>essay proposals due</b>	PM
week 9 - 28 April	<b>autocriticalcyberfictions</b> Hayles, <i>Writing Machines</i> † Haraway, 'A Manifesto for Cyborgs'* Sofoulis, 'Cyberquake: Haraway's Manifesto'* Robyn Ferrell, 'The Danger of Technology'*	PM
	<b>Study period:</b> 5 June - 9 June 2006	
	<b>Examination period:</b> 10 June - 27 June 2006	

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at [www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism](http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism) or in the Student Information Handbook. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office. All written assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email or other electronic means) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted.

### Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

### Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Student Counsellor
- Careers Adviser
- Disability Adviser

### University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at

<http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/> "

**The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.**

### Assignment Presentation

The English discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003).

### Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- Honours - First Class (HF)—80-100%
- Honours - Second Class Upper Division (HU)—70-79%
- Honours - Second Class Lower Division (HL)—60-69%
- Honours - Third Class (HT)—50-59%
- Honours Failure (HN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

### Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Scope of textual referencing
- Use of critics
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and stylesheet.