



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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## Unit Outline

**HEA205/305**  
**Twenty-first-century Australian Writing**  
**Semester 2, 2008**  
**[www.utas.edu.au/english](http://www.utas.edu.au/english)**

<b>Convenor:</b>	<b>Dr Philip Mead</b> Room: HUM 560 Phone: 6226 2352 Email: P.Mead@utas.edu.au
<b>Consultation Hours:</b>	Mon 3.10-5 pm; Wed 12-1 pm
<b>Unit Description:</b>	This unit provides a survey of Australian fiction, poetry and other genres in relation to the contemporary literary system, local, national and global. Recent writing is analysed in relation to themes in literary history, publishing regimes, reviewing and reception, prize culture, and styles of authorship.
<b>Unit Aims and Objectives:</b>	Aims and objectives of this unit include extending the ability of students to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. read literary texts closely with skill and critical awareness, across a range of genres, including fiction, poetry, autobiography and critical essays</li><li>2. develop an understanding of the field of literary production in contemporary Australia</li><li>3. develop knowledge about the literary representation of regions of Australia</li><li>4. discuss responses to texts, reading and relevant issues in the tutorial situation</li><li>5. write a researched, critical essay in response to a given topic.</li></ol>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>	Successfully completing this unit will mean that students: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. have extended their <i>knowledge</i> in the areas described in the Unit Aims and Objectives (above)</li><li>2. have enhanced their skills in <i>written communication</i> with special emphasis on reading practice and writing practice in the form of 2 500-3 000 word research and interpretative essay</li><li>3. have enhanced their skills in <i>oral communication</i></li><li>4. have developed their perspective on <i>contemporary literary</i></li></ol>

	<p><i>culture</i> in Australia</p> <p>5. have explored issues of <i>literary production, authorship, cultural politics, self-representation, race, region, nation and gender.</i></p>
<b>Required Texts:</b>	<p>Kate Grenville, <i>The Secret River</i>  Gail Jones, <i>Sorry</i>  John Honey, <i>Threatened Species</i>  Tim Winton, <i>The Turning</i>  Poetry (Unit Reader)</p>
<b>Recommended Texts:</b>	<p>Unit Reader</p>
<b>When Taught:</b>	<p><u>Lecture</u>  Thu 9-9.50am, SB.Hum548</p> <p><u>Seminars</u>  Thu 10-11.50 am, SB.SocSci581  Thu 3.10-5 pm, SB.SocSci581</p>
<b>Assessment:</b>	<p>One 2,500-3,000 word essay (50%)  This essay will assess learning outcomes 1, 2, 4 and 5.  Essay topics available week 3</p> <p>2hr end-of-semester examination (50%)  This examination will assess learning outcomes 1, 4 and 5.</p>

## LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Lecturer
Week 14 17 July	Introductory 21 <sup>st</sup> -century Australian Writing	PM
Week 15 24 July	Grenville, <i>The Secret River</i> fiction, authors, history	PM
Week 16 31 July	Grenville, <i>The Secret River</i> who owns the past?	PM
Week 17 7 August	Jones, <i>Sorry</i>	PM census date: 7 August
Week 18 14 August	Jones, <i>Sorry</i>	PM
Week 19 21 August	Jones, <i>Sorry</i> /essays	PM
Week 20 28 August	Intro to Honey, <i>Threatened Species</i> : essays due 4 pm, Friday 29 August	PM
<b>Mon 1 Sep – Fri 5 Sep Mid-Semester Break</b>		
Week 21 11 Sept	Honey, <i>Threatened Species</i>	PM
Week 22 18 Sept	Winton, <i>The Turning</i>	PM
Week 23 25 Sept	Winton, <i>The Turning</i>	PM
Week 24 2 October	poetry	PM
Week 25 9 October	poetry	PM
Week 26 16 October	Revision/exam preparation	PM
	<b>Study Period: 20-24 October</b>	
	<b>Examination Period: 25 October-11 November</b>	

# ASSESSMENT

## **Assessment and Attendance Requirements**

- Eligibility to sit the examination depends upon the completion and submission of all written work.
- You are expected to attend all tutorials; if your attendance drops below 8 tutorials you may be excluded from the exam.
- The school will notify students of the final date that any work will be accepted.

If your tutorial attendance has not met the requirements, you may also be required to do additional work in order to be eligible to sit the end-of-semester examination.

## 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 or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet must be completed within two weeks of the due date.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email) 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 submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised.

### 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
- Disability Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Student Counsellor

### 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). For a brief introduction, refer to [http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla\\_citation\\_syst.doc](http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla_citation_syst.doc), MLA Citations System: A Brief Guide.

### Marking Scale

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

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—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.

### IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>  
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>  
Help Desk (email [HelpDesk@utas.edu.au](mailto:HelpDesk@utas.edu.au) or 6226 1818, within University 1818)