



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEA233/333
Ideas of Authorship

Semester 2, 2008
<http://www.utas.edu.au/English>

Convenor:	Dr Narelle Shaw Room: L216 Phone: 6324 3225 Email: N.Shaw@utas.edu.au
Consultation hours:	Tuesdays 11-12, Wednesdays 12-1
Unit description:	Examines how contemporary authors conceive of literature's relations to life and literary theory. Aims to provide students with a critical understanding of selected classical theory (inspiration and imitation) and twentieth-century theory (primarily structuralism, post-structuralism and postmodernism) and how these inform the literary texts.
Unit aims and objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Compare classical and postmodern ideas of authorship2. Develop an understanding of such terms as "structuralism," "post-structuralism," and "postmodernism"3. Discuss representations of the relationship between language and reality, art and life, in the work of selected authors.
Learning outcomes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Knowledge: Students will develop knowledge of English as specified in Unit aims and objectives

	<p>2. Communication skills: Students will acquire competency in information literacy and develop generic skills by communicating across a range of contexts</p> <p>3. Problem-solving: Student will enhance skills in problem-solving through assessment tasks and tutorial activities, which develop research techniques in English</p> <p>4. Global perspective: Students will develop their global perspective through the study of literary texts from a range of national and cultural contexts</p>
Required texts:	<p>Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author," <i>Image, Music Text</i> (London: Fontana, 1977), 142-8. (e-reserve)</p> <p>Robert Dessaix, <i>Night Letters</i> (Picador, 1996).</p> <p>John Fowles, <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> (Vintage, 1996).</p> <p>David Lodge, <i>Author, Author</i> (Penguin, 2005).</p> <p>David Malouf, <i>Child's Play</i> (Vintage, 1999).</p> <p>Les Murray, "The Suspect Captivity of the Fisher King," <i>A Working Forest</i> (Potts Point: Duffy & Snellgrove, 1997), 183-9. (e-reserve)</p>
When taught:	<p>Lectures: Mondays 3.10-4 pm (L142)</p> <p>Tutorials: Mondays 4.10-5 pm (L142) and alternate weeks (commencing in Week 2) Wednesdays 4.10-5 pm (L141)</p> <p>Tutorials start in Week 2</p>
Assessment:	<p>3,000-word essay (60%), 2-hr exam (40%)</p>
Links to learning outcomes:	<p>Essay: 1, 2, 3, 4</p> <p>Exam: 1, 2, 3, 4</p>

LECTURE AND TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

Week Starting	Topic	Monday Tutorial	Wednesday Tutorial
14 July	Classical Ideas of Authorship		
21 July	(Cont.)	Analysis of Harwood's "To the Muse"	Discussion of Burke's "Changing Conceptions of Authorship"
28 July	The Linguistic Turn	'Working with Structuralism' Practicum	
4 Aug.	(Cont.)	Humanities vs. the Deconstructionists: Bring a prepared précis of Barry's "Theory before 'Theory'—Liberal Humanism"	Analysis of "The Death of the Author"
11 Aug.	Barthes vs Murray	Comparative analysis of "The Death of the Author" and Fisher King maxims	
18 Aug.	<i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> and French Theory	Discussion of Waugh's "What is Metafiction?"	
25 Aug.	(Cont.)	Analysis of "unlucky" Chapter Thirteen	Working with <i>FLW</i> Practicum
Mid-Semester Break 1-5 Sept.			
8 Sept.	<i>Child's Play</i> and "The Death of the Author"	Practicum: Barthes on writing as performative and Malouf on "the swing away from Aristotle's notion of imitation"	
15 Sept.	(Cont.)	Discussion of Copeland's interview with Malouf	Working with <i>Child's Play</i> Practicum

22 Sept.	<i>Night Letters</i> and Linguistic Anxieties	Discussion of "Incommunicado"	
29 Sept.	(Cont.)	What does R's postcard mean to you?	Working with <i>Night Letters</i> Practicum
6 Oct.	<i>Author, Author: Bowing Out or Taking a Bow?</i>	Critique of Guignery's essay	
13 Oct.	(Cont.)	Discussion of Lodge's prefatory statement on the novel's structure	Working with <i>Author, Author</i> Practicum
Study Period: 20-24 Oct.			
Examination Period: 25 Oct-11 Nov.			

ASSIGNMENT

Topic	<p>"The foregrounding of the act of authorship within the boundaries of the text which is such a common feature of contemporary fiction, is a defensive response, either conscious or intuitive, to the questioning of the idea of the author and of the mimetic function of fiction by modern critical theory" [David Lodge, "The Novel Now," <i>After Bakhtin: Essays on Fiction and Criticism</i> (London: Routledge, 1990), 19.]</p> <p>Discuss this statement in respect to either <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> or <i>Child's Play</i> or <i>Author, Author</i>.</p>
Task length	3,000 words
Links to learning outcomes	1, 2, 3, 4
Assessment criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effectiveness of introduction 2. Relevance and coherence of argument 3. Effectiveness of conclusion 4. Use of critics <p>200 Level: at least 3 critics 300 Level: at least 6 critics</p>

	5. Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading, MLA Style
Due Date	<i>FLW</i> option: Monday 8 Sept. 5pm <i>Child's Play</i> option: Monday 29 Sept. 5pm <i>Author, Author</i> option: Monday 20 Oct. 5pm

Final exam	
Description / conditions	2 hour closed book examination
Links to learning outcomes	1, 2, 3 and 4
Assessment criteria / guidelines	Essays should address the questions as directly and as fully as possible. More specific information on the exam will be provided in Week 13.
Date	The final exam is conducted by the University Registrar in the formal examination period. See: http://www.studentcentre.utas.edu.au/examinations_and_results/

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 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, 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 or 6226 1818, within University 1818)