



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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Unit Outline  
**HEA218/318**  
**Contemporary Fiction**  
**Semester 3, 2008 (Summer School)**  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/english/>

<b>Convenor:</b>	Dr Victoria Burrows Room: 562 Phone: 6226 1722 Email: Victoria.Burrows@utas.edu.au
<b>Consultation Hours:</b>	Monday 2-5pm
<b>Unit Description:</b>	This unit explores the topic of self or subjectivity in a range of contemporary texts, both literary and filmic. It will provide an opportunity for students to analyse and interrogate the construction of self through the tropes of desire and border-crossings and will focus on textual representations of positionality, sexuality, race and gender in ways that are relevant to being and living in today's world. It will foreground gender and postcoloniality as reading strategies, and is extremely diverse in its range of texts and ideas.
<b>Unit Aims and Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To develop the skills of close reading, critical thinking and textual analysis in relation to the field of contemporary literature.</li><li>• To explore the diverse ways in which contemporary literature is being analysed and so become familiar with the key concepts and terms.</li><li>• To enable students to engage critically and analytically with selected contemporary texts and the theories through which they can be interpreted.</li><li>• To develop a knowledge of a variety of social and historical contexts through which contemporary texts (both written and filmic) are read.</li><li>• To offer a range of reading strategies for reading and understanding issues that surround the representation of race and gender in contemporary texts.</li></ul>

<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The development of scholarly research, writing and analytical skills in a new literary field.</li> <li>2. To demonstrate familiarity with a range of theoretical and critical perspectives that have been brought to bear on the set texts.</li> <li>3. To enhance the ability to present informed discussion (written and spoken) of the ways the set texts relate to each other and the periods and cultures which produced them.</li> <li>4. To develop and enhance oral communication and oral presentation both of which will be developed in the tutorials.</li> </ol>
<b>Required Texts:</b> <b>(in order of study)</b>	<i>Unit Reader</i> Albert Camus, <i>The Outsider</i> Indra Sinha, <i>Animal's People</i> Toni Morrison, <i>Sula</i> Gail Jones, <i>Sorry</i>
<b>Films:</b> <b>(in order of study)</b>	<i>Babel</i> , Alejandro González Iñárritu (2006) <i>Candy</i> , Neil Armfield (2006) <i>The Crying Game</i> , Neil Jordan (1992) <i>Nice Coloured Girls</i> , Tracey Moffat (1987) <i>The Edukators</i> , Hans Weingartner (2004)  N.B. Screenings of the films are detailed in the seminar schedule. There is no need to purchase these DVDs.
<b>When Taught:</b>	<b>Seminar: 11.00am–12.50pm:</b> Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2008, SB.Hum548 Mon – Thurs inclusive 7 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2008, SB.Hum548 Mon – Thurs inclusive 14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2008, SB.Hum548 Mon – Thurs inclusive 21 <sup>st</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2008, SB.Hum548  <b>Film Screenings: 1.10pm–4.00pm</b> Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> January, SB.Hum548 Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> January, SB.Hum 548 Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> January, SB. Physics333 Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> January, SB.Physics333 Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> January, SB.Physics333
<b>Assessment:</b>	3,000 word essay (60%) and 2hr exam (40%)

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Seminar Topic (11.00am-12.50pm)	Film Screening 1.10pm
Wed. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Introduction and <i>The Outsider</i>	
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	<i>The Outsider</i>	<i>Babel</i>
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>Babel</i>	
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>Animal's People</i>	
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>Animal's People</i>	<i>Candy</i>
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>Candy</i>	
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>Sula</i>	
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>Sula</i>	<i>The Crying Game</i>
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>The Crying Game</i>	
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<i>Sorry</i>	
	<b>ESSAY DUE MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> by 4pm</b>	
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	<i>Sorry</i>	<i>Nice Coloured Girls</i>
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	<i>Nice Coloured Girls</i>	<i>The Edukators</i>
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	<i>The Edukators</i>	
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Wind-up discussion/exam preparation	
	<b>Examination Period: 4-8<sup>th</sup> February 2008</b>	

### Attendance requirements

Regular attendance is required at all seminars and this means attending and participating in at least two-thirds of the classes and an attendance roll will be taken. If you fail to satisfy the attendance requirements and/or complete all assessments you may be deemed ineligible to sit the exam or be required to submit additional work.

# ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this unit takes the form of ONE critical essay which is worth 60% and an exam worth 40%. The essay will be due on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January and must be handed into the SEJEL office by 4pm. The exam will take place sometime in the week Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

## Assessment criteria/guidelines:

### Essays

Critical guidelines which apply to both essay options:

1. Effectiveness of introduction
2. Relevance and coherence of argument
3. Effectiveness of conclusion
4. Scope of textual referencing
5. Use of critics
6. Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading, MLA Style

An essay will **pass** if it presents a coherent argument that addresses the essay question, shows evidence of close reading of the text/s and demonstrates some engagement with issues raised in the lectures.

A mark of 58-59 is a clear message to the student. It is deliberately less than a credit but says that the student could achieve a credit with more work and/or attention to detail. The same applies to other borderline grades ie. 69%, 79%.

An essay is likely to receive a **credit or higher** if, in addition to the criteria for a pass, it presents: a clear and original approach in the construction of the argument; a range of research which extends beyond lecture material and references; a clear and engaging style of writing.

A **high distinction** signals only the most outstanding work, in terms of both substance and presentation. The student must have gone beyond lecture material and provided original insights into the subject.

Essays are **failed** in the following cases:

- there is clear evidence of plagiarism;
- there is not enough written text;
- the essay cannot be understood by the marker because of the standard of expression; and/or
- the discussion is irrelevant to the subject of the essay.

This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

### Examination

The exam will be of 2 hours duration and will be worth 40%. It will be scheduled in the official exam period and the examination timetable is published on the UTAS website. The exam will assess learning outcomes 1, 2 and 3. The same Assessment Criteria/Guidelines apply, except in the case of academic referencing standards which do not get used in the exam.

Eligibility to sit the examination depends upon the completion and submission of all written work and **regular attendance at tutorials. If written work is not completed you will not 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)