



*School of English, Journalism  
and European Languages*

**Faculty of Arts**

**HEA330  
Literary Theory**

**Semester 2, 2010**

**Distance Education**

**Unit Outline**

**Dr Lisa Fletcher**

CRICOS Provider Code: 00586B

# Contact details

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Thursday 12-1

## Other teaching staff

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Thursday 9-10

## Distance education office

This office will be able to help with general inquiries about distance education (such as those related to study schools and assignment submission).

**Staff:** Vicki Simm, Vivienne Condren and Julie Leeder  
**e-mail:** [DistanceEd.Arts@utas.edu.au](mailto:DistanceEd.Arts@utas.edu.au)  
**Phone:** +61 3 6324 3663 or 1800 671 526 (toll free)  
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7250  
**Location:** Launceston Campus, Faculty of Arts, Room L107  
(Ground Floor)  
**Website:** [http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/distance\\_education/](http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/distance_education/)

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## Unit description

This unit examines the development of literary theory from the middle of the twentieth century to the present. It aims to provide students with the skills to read theory critically and to develop informed arguments in response to literary and critical texts. The unit focuses on a range of approaches to reading literature including structuralism, Marxism, feminism, post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, postmodernism and queer theory.

## Intended learning outcomes

On completion of this unit, you should be able to:

1. demonstrate and apply knowledge of key topics in literary theory;
2. appraise and critique the relevance and effectiveness of theoretical models for reading literature through:
  - a. analysis of theoretical texts; and
  - b. analysis of literary texts in the light of theory.
3. communicate in writing through:
  - a. short answer exercises;
  - b. essays; and
  - c. exams.

These learning outcomes guide the assessment for this unit.

## Generic graduate attributes

In your work for this unit you will develop knowledge and skills — or 'attributes' — applicable in a range of different contexts. These attributes will, by the successful completion of your course at UTAS, become your graduate attributes. In this unit, you should make progress in developing:

**Knowledge:** students will build knowledge of key topics in literary theory.

**Communication skills:** students will enhance skills in:

1. written communication through work on assessment tasks (reading assignments, essay, exam); and
2. oral communication through participation in tutorial activities.

**Problem-solving skills:** students will enhance problem-solving skills through responding to assessment tasks and through close critical analysis of theoretical and literary texts.

**Global perspective:** students will develop a global perspective through consideration of approaches to literary theory in diverse cultures and times.

**Social responsibility:** students will consider issues of social responsibility by examining the role of the literary critic in society.

[http://www.utas.edu.au/policy/attributes\\_grads.pdf](http://www.utas.edu.au/policy/attributes_grads.pdf)

## Alterations to the unit as a result of student feedback

The University of Tasmania regularly requests feedback from students through the Student Evaluation of Teaching and Learning (SETL) process. Changes to units stemming from student responses to texts and teaching strategies are regularly implemented in the School of English, Journalism and European Languages.

A number of alterations have been made to this unit as a result of student feedback. Most importantly, students responded very positively to opportunities to use theoretical concepts and approaches to analyse literary texts. In order to enhance this aspect of the unit, the “pure theory” textbook used in the unit from 2005 to 2009 has been replaced by one with a more practical focus and the requisite texts now include three literary texts.

## Prior knowledge &/or skills

25% at level 100 in English

## Learning expectations and teaching strategies/approaches

### *Expectations*

The University is committed to high standards of professional conduct in all activities, and holds its commitment and responsibilities to its students as being of paramount importance. Likewise, it holds expectations about the responsibilities students have as they pursue their studies within the special environment the University offers.

The University's Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning states:

Students are expected to participate actively and positively in the teaching/learning environment. They must attend classes when and as required, strive to maintain steady progress within the subject or unit framework, comply with workload expectations, and submit required work on time.

### *Teaching and learning strategies*

If you need assistance in preparing for study please refer to your lecturer. For additional information, see:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/students/>

The teaching in this unit will be undertaken through lectures and MyLO discussion:

- The weekly **lectures** (50 minutes) – available as recordings through MyLO – will introduce key terms and concepts in literary theory and model a range of approaches to using theory in the study of literature.
- The on-line **discussions** provide the opportunity for students to clarify ideas presented in the lectures, analyse and discuss the Required Reading, and raise questions regarding the preparation of assignments.

## Learning resources required

### MyLO

Access to the online unit in MyLO is required. Log-in to MyLO at: <https://mylo.utas.edu.au/> and then select “HEA330 Literary Theory” in the Course List.

### Requisite texts

\*Rivkin, Julie and Michael Ryan, eds. *Literary Theory: An Anthology*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004.

\*Ryan, Michael. *Literary Theory: A Practical Introduction*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007.

Bishop, Elizabeth. *Complete Poems*. London: Chatto & Windus, 2004.

Munro, Alice. *Friend of My Youth*. London: Vintage, 1991.

Shakespeare, William. *King Lear*. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008.

**Note:** Requisite texts are stocked by and can be purchased from the Co-op Bookshop on-line or on campus. Texts marked with an asterisk will be available for purchase in a set. The library also holds copies of all requisite texts on reserve.

## ***E- (electronic) resources***

### **Library**

You are encouraged to make use of the library's Subject Guide for English at <http://utas.libguides.com/english>. This page includes resources for English students including information about key reference resources held by the library and a guide to MLA referencing style.

## **Technical requirements**

### ***Accessing MyLO off campus***

For information and help with setting up a computer and web browser to access online resources in MyLO when off campus, see:

<https://mylo.utas.edu.au/>

<http://uconnect.utas.edu.au/>

**Note:** Older computers may not have the hardware to run some of the required software applications.

### ***Accessing MyLO on campus***

MyLO can be accessed in the Library computers and in computer labs. See:

[http://www.utas.edu.au/itr/computing\\_labs.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/itr/computing_labs.html)

You can also access the University network and MyLO via a laptop computer. See:

<http://uconnect.utas.edu.au/uana.htm>

## **Details of teaching arrangements**

### ***Lectures***

Mondays 9.00 – 9.50am; lectures will be recorded using Lectopia and available for streaming or download on MyLO.

### ***MyLO Discussions***

In this unit, you will be communicating with other students and your lecturer via MyLO Discussions. These discussions will provide a forum for you to ask questions, present your views and receive timely feedback. You will be able to read and contribute to Discussions topics weekly at times that are convenient for you.

## How to use MyLO Discussions

For comprehensive information on accessing and using the MyLO Discussions tool, browse the help resources at:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/mylo-support.htm>

### **Useful files on MyLO Discussions include:**

[Using the discussion tool \[ Word, 66 kb \]](#) Step-by-step guide  
([http://tlo.calt.utas.edu.au/secure/content/using\\_discus\\_stepguide.doc](http://tlo.calt.utas.edu.au/secure/content/using_discus_stepguide.doc))

[Using the discussion tool \[ Word, 43 kb \]](#) Quick guide  
([http://tlo.calt.utas.edu.au/secure/content/using\\_discus\\_quick.doc](http://tlo.calt.utas.edu.au/secure/content/using_discus_quick.doc))

If you find that you require further assistance in accessing the Discussions, contact **Help and Support** at Learning Online

<http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>

or contact Dr Fletcher.

### **Attaching files to messages**

If required, you may attach a Word file (or other file type) with information supporting your message.

### **Naming files**

File names must not contain spaces or symbols. It is safest to use only numbers and letters of the alphabet. Files must have an extension (e.g. .htm .doc .pdf)

For information on using attachments, browse the help resources at:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/mylo-support.htm>

A useful file on attachments is:

[Using attachments in mail and discussions \[ Word, 455 kb \]](#) Step-by-step guide  
([http://tlo.calt.utas.edu.au/secure/content/attach\\_email\\_disc\\_step.doc](http://tlo.calt.utas.edu.au/secure/content/attach_email_disc_step.doc))

## Getting started with MyLO Discussions

When you access your MyLO unit “HEA330 Literary Theory” select the Welcome link on the Home Page. Read the message/s that have been posted and post your own reply.

You can then begin to work on Structuralism and post messages to the Discussion topics that appear in the module. New Discussion topics will be added to the MyLO unit as the semester progresses.

## General suggestions on participating

The following suggestions will help you get the most out of your Discussions.

- Stay current and timely with your work. Visit Discussion topics regularly and read all new messages. Respond constructively and with substance to messages that have meaning for you.

- **Take risks!** Your participation is the most important aspect of online Discussions. Your aim should be to **communicate** with others and **grapple with the concepts** being discussed. Your responses are not all expected to be 'brilliant'; sometimes you may not understand something under study. Use the Discussions to help you clarify your own understanding. (Many times other students may have the same questions you have — discussing it will help with everyone's understanding!)
- Try to keep your messages reasonably short (between 100–200 words), and spend between 10 to 25 minutes on writing a message.
- Be considerate when you comment on someone else's work or posting. The written word is unable to carry the nuances of the spoken word, so be gentle. (For instance, do not use all capitals, as this is considered to be 'shouting' online.)

Messages can be drafted outside of MyLO (using a word processor such as Microsoft Word) and copied and pasted into a message. (This enables you to spell-check your messages, and may save you Internet access costs.)

## Specific attendance/performance requirements

### *MyLO Discussions*

Students in this unit are expected to **participate regularly in MyLO Discussions**. The unit coordinator will facilitate the Discussion topics. She will visit Discussion topics regularly (Tuesdays, 10.00-11.00am and Wednesdays 12.00-1.00pm), read new messages, and write responses to at least two postings. You are required to:

- post at least four messages or responses to postings during semester.

**Students who fail to meet this requirement will lose 10% of the total marks available for this unit.**

### *Assessment*

Students in this unit are required to **complete all assessment tasks**. If you submit Assessment Task 1 or Assessment Task 2 two or more weeks after the due date and you have not been granted an extension, you may be deemed ineligible to pass the unit.

# Assessment

## Assessment schedule

Assessment task	Task length	Date due	Percent weighting	Links to Intended Learning Outcomes
Assessment Task 1: Reading Assignments	2 x 500 words (1000 words)	25/8/2010	20%	1, 2b, 3a
Assessment Task 2: Essay	2000 words	6/10/2010	40%	1, 2, 3b
Assessment Task 3: Exam	2 hours	Scheduled in the official examination period.	40%	1, 2, 3c

## Assessment details

### Assessment task 1: Reading Assignments

#### Task description

You are required to complete two 500-word reading assignments in this unit:

- Reading assignments are designed to equip students with the skills to read theoretical texts critically and to use this reading to enrich their own studies of literature.
- This assessment task will assess your comprehension of the topics covered in Weeks 16-19. Reading assignment questions relate directly to the required reading and assess students' knowledge of key concepts in literary theory and their capacity to use that knowledge to enrich their analysis of literary texts. Questions will be distributed in class.

#### Assessment criteria

To complete the Reading Assignments you should:

1. demonstrate knowledge of key concepts in literary theory as required by the question;
2. use knowledge of key concepts in literary theory to formulate responses to set text(s)
3. communicate in the form of a short piece of writing using:
  - a. a logical and appropriate structure
  - b. clear expression
  - c. accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling
  - d. referencing that conforms to MLA style

**Date due** 25/8/2010

## Assessment task 2: Essay

### *Task description*

You are required to write one 2000-word essay in this unit.

- This assignment gives students the opportunity to add depth to their understanding of one of the topics in literary theory studied in weeks 20-25. Questions will be distributed in class.

### *Assessment criteria*

Please refer to the criteria sheet for this task which is included in this unit outline.

**Date due** 6/10/2010

## Assessment task 3: Exam

### *Description / conditions*

2-hr exam. The exam will be in two parts:

- Part 1: short-answer questions
- Part 2: essay

**Note:** Your essay in Part 2 should not focus on the topic in literary theory or the literary text you discussed in your 2000 word essay.

### *Date*

***The exam is conducted by the University Registrar in the formal examination period. See the Current Students homepage (>Examinations and Results) on the University's website.***

## Submission of assignments

All work submitted for assessment must conform to the requirements of the School of English, Journalism and European Languages.

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.

Assignments can be submitted:

- **as a printout** via the Faculty of Arts Distance Education office; or
- **as an electronic file** via the Faculty of Arts Distance Education office.

## ***Submitting assignments as a printout***

For information on submitting assignments as printouts, see the green Assignments page in your study package.

A completed 'Assignment Cover Sheet' must be attached to the front of all assignments.  
**Assignments submitted without a completed, signed cover sheet will not be marked.**

Coversheets and full information are available from the Distance Education Office.  
[http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/distance\\_education/assign.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/distance_education/assign.html)

(This link also appears in General Information / Assessment in your MyLO course.)

## ***Submitting assignments as an electronic file***

### **By regular email to the Distance Education Office**

Assignments for this unit can be submitted by regular email to the Distance Education Office. Please follow the instructions for doing this at:  
[http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/distance\\_education/assign.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/distance_education/assign.html)

A completed 'Assignment Cover Sheet for Electronic Submission' file **must** be included as an attachment when submitting assignment files.

## **Penalties**

Undergraduate units (100, 200 and 300 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter.

## **Requests for extensions**

Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or equivalent documentation in the case of a serious non-medical reason but you must contact the unit coordinator prior to the assignment due date.

## **How your final result is determined**

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Coursework units

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.

## Review of results and appeals

Please refer to the **Student Resources** page on the School's website for information that addresses how to apply for a review of assessment, make an appeal or seek clarification regarding any assessment practices in this unit:

[http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/student\\_resources/student\\_resources.htm](http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/student_resources/student_resources.htm)

## Academic referencing

In your written work you will need to support your ideas by referring to scholarly literature, works of art and/or inventions. It is important that you understand how to correctly refer to the work of others and maintain academic integrity.

Failure to appropriately acknowledge the ideas of others constitutes academic dishonesty (plagiarism), a matter considered by the University of Tasmania as a serious offence.

The English, French and German disciplines use MLA Style. The Journalism, Media and Communications discipline uses the Harvard style of referencing. For more information about referencing, and brief introductory guides for each of these styles, please refer to:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/referencing.html>

For general information on presentation of assignments, including referencing styles:

<http://utas.libguides.com/referencing>

Please read the following statements on academic misconduct and plagiarism. Should you require clarification please see your unit coordinator or lecturer.

## Academic misconduct

**Academic misconduct** includes cheating, plagiarism, allowing another student to copy work for an assignment or an examination and any other conduct by which a student:

- a) seeks to gain, for themselves or for any other person, any academic advantage or advancement to which they or that other person are not entitled; or
- b) improperly disadvantages any other student.

Students engaging in any form of academic misconduct may be dealt with under the Ordinance of Student Discipline, and this can include imposition of penalties that range from a deduction/cancellation of marks to exclusion from a unit 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/>

### Plagiarism

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.academicintegrity.utas.edu.au/>

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.

**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.**

For further information on this statement and general referencing guidelines, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism/> or follow the link under 'Policy, Procedures and Feedback' on the **Current Students** homepage.

## ***Occupational health and safety (OH&S)***

The University is committed to providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. In addition to specific requirements of this unit you should refer to the University's policy at: [http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol\\_proc/ohs.pdf](http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/ohs.pdf)

## **Further information and assistance**

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 are advised to raise these with your lecturer in the first instance.

There is a range of University-wide support services available to you including Teaching & Learning, Student Services, International Services. Please refer to the **Current Students** homepage at: <http://www.utas.edu.au/students/>

Should you require assistance in accessing the Library visit their website for more information at <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>

You are also welcome to contact the School of English, Journalism and European Languages with any enquiries:

Room 557, Humanities Building  
Sandy Bay campus, Hobart

Tel: (03) 6226 2347  
Fax: (03) 6226 7631  
Email: [SEJEL.admin@utas.edu.au](mailto:SEJEL.admin@utas.edu.au)  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel>

## Unit schedule

Lectures in HEA330 will be presented by the following staff members:

- Dr Lisa Fletcher (LF)
- Dr Dominic Lennard (DL)

The following abbreviations are used for the requisite texts in the unit schedule:

- *LT*: Ryan, Michael. *Literary Theory: A Practical Introduction*
- *LTA*: Rivkin, Julie and Michael Ryan, eds. *Literary Theory: An Anthology*.
- *EB*: Bishop, Elizabeth. *Collected Poems*
- *AM*: Munro, Alice. *Friend of My Youth*.

Week	Date beginning	Topic	Required Reading	Suggested Further Reading
14	12 July	Introduction: What is "theory" and why does it matter? (LF)		Culler, Jonathan. <i>Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford: Oxford UP, 1997.
15	19 July	Dead Theory? Or, Theory before "Theory" (LF)		<i>LTA</i> , Part One
16	26 July	Structuralism (LF)	<i>LT</i> , Ch. 2 <i>LTA</i> , Introduction to Part Two <i>LTA</i> , de Saussure <i>EB</i> , "The Map" <i>AM</i> , "Hold Me Fast, Don't Let Me Go"	<i>LTA</i> , Part Two
17	2 August	Poststructuralism I: Deconstruction (LF)	<i>LT</i> , Ch. 4 <i>LTA</i> , Introduction to Part Four <i>LTA</i> , Select one essay by Derrida <i>EB</i> , "Over 2,000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance"	<i>LT</i> , Ch. 3 <i>LTA</i> , Part Four
18	9 August	Poststructuralism II: Postmodernism (LF)	<i>LT</i> , Ch. 4 <i>LTA</i> , Introduction to Part Four <i>LTA</i> , Baudrillard OR Lyotard	<i>LTA</i> , Part Four
19	16 August	Psychoanalysis I: Freud (DL)	<i>LT</i> , Ch. 5 <i>LTA</i> , Introduction to Part Five <i>LTA</i> , Freud, "The Uncanny" <i>AM</i> , "Meneseteung"	<i>LTA</i> , Part Five
20	23 August	Psychoanalysis II: After Freud (DL)	<i>LT</i> , Ch. 5 <i>LTA</i> , Introduction to Part Five <i>LTA</i> , Lacan "The Mirror Stage"	<i>LTA</i> , Part Five

21	6 September	Political Criticism: Marxism to Cultural Materialism (LF)	LT, Ch. 6 LTA, Introduction to Part Seven LTA, Althusser	LTA, Part Seven
22	13 September	Gender & Sexuality I (DL)	LT, Ch. 7 LTA, Introduction to Part Eight Select one essay by Irigaray <i>King Lear</i>	LTA, Part Eight
23	20 September	Gender & Sexuality II (DL)	LT, Ch. 7 LTA, Introduction to Part Nine LTA, Sedgwick OR Butler <i>King Lear</i>	LTA, Part Nine
24	27 September	History (LF)	LT, Ch. 8 LTA, Introduction to Part Six <i>King Lear</i>	LTA, Part Six
25	4 October	Postcolonialism (LF)	LT, Ch. 10 LTA, Introduction to Part Eleven LTA, Select one essay from Part Eleven EB, "Brazil, January 1, 1502" and "The Burglar of Babylon"	LTA, Part Eleven
26	11 October	Post-theory (or, What Happens after Theory?)		Eagleton, Terry. <i>After Theory</i> . London: Penguin, 2003.