



*School of English, Journalism
and European Languages*

Faculty of Arts

**HEA404
Colonial Adventure Fiction**

Semester 2, 2010

Unit Outline

Dr. Lisa Fletcher

CRICOS Provider Code: 00586B

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Unit description

The colonial project inspired countless stirring adventure stories - from boys' own tales of derring-do to fantastic fictions of lost races. In this unit we will read a selection of colonial adventure fictions and related criticisms in order to explore issues such as the constructions of empire, race and masculinity in this popular genre. We will also examine the "afterlives" of colonial fictions: recent texts (including films) that reprise or rework the tropes of this genre. Texts will range chronologically from the mid-nineteenth century to the present and geographically from Africa to Antarctica.

Intended learning outcomes

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

1. Present informed analysis of the set texts in relation to the period and culture which produced them;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of recent theoretical and critical work in colonial and postcolonial literary studies;
3. Construct an argument supported by:
 - a) evidence from your chosen texts
 - b) reference to secondary sources
4. Communicate your research through:
 - a) scholarly writing
 - b) oral discussion

These learning outcomes guide the assessment for this unit.

Generic graduate attributes

The University has defined a set of generic graduate attributes (GGAs) that can be expected of all graduates (see <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/policies/index.htm>). By undertaking this unit you should make progress in attaining the following attributes:

Knowledge: students will build knowledge of key topics in colonial and postcolonial literary studies.

Communication skills: students will enhance skills in:

1. written communication through work on major assessment task (research essay); and
2. oral communication through participation in tutorial activities and assessment task (oral presentation).

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

Global perspective: students will develop a global perspective through consideration of British literary texts which depict diverse cultures and times.

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.

Prior knowledge &/or skills

Prerequisite: admission into HEA400/401 English 4 (Honours) or entry to Graduate Certificate in Arts (R5W)

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

Student-led class discussion; reading; research; analysis; writing.

Learning resources required

Requisite texts

Henty, G.A. *In Times of Peril* (HEA404 Unit Reader – available for purchase at UniPrint)

Haggard, H. Rider. *King Solomon's Mines*. Oxford UP.

Mason, A.E.W. *The Four Feathers*. Penguin.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*. Oxford UP.

All requisite texts are available at the Co-op Bookshop, with the exception of unit readers, which are available at UniPrint.

MyLO

This unit does not require access to MyLo.

Details of teaching arrangements

Seminars

9 x 3 hour seminars (Weeks 15–19; 21-24)

Note: Please consult your class timetable for information about the seminar venue.

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

Specific attendance/performance requirements

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who fail to attend classes may be disadvantaged. In addition to the formal pieces of assessment, you are required to participate actively and positively in the weekly seminars.

Students in this unit are required to complete all assessment tasks (See below for more detailed information about assignments). 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: Seminar Presentation | N/A | Weeks 17, 19, 21, 22 | N/A | 1, 2, 3, 4b |
| Assessment Task 2: Book Review | 1000 words | 5pm 26/8/10 | 20% | 2, 4a |
| Assessment Task 3: Research Essay | 4000 words | 5pm 11/10/10 | 80% | 1, 2, 3, 4a |

Assessment details

Assessment task 1: Seminar presentation

Task description

Each student must nominate a week when they will present a formal paper and lead discussion arising from their presentation.

Assessment criteria

1. Demonstrated engagement with the readings through application of appropriate theoretical and critical concepts; and
2. Persuasive communication of arguments in oral form, drawing on evidence from the text(s).

If these conditions are not fulfilled, your final mark will be reduced by 10% of the total marks available for this unit.

Date due **Weeks 15–19; 21-24**

Assessment task 2: Book review

Task description

You are required to write a 1000 word review of one academic book relevant to the concerns of the unit from the list provided in the first seminar.

Assessment criteria

To complete the Book Review you should:

1. identify and explain the scholarly aims and objectives of the book under review;
2. appraise and critique the relevance and value of the book's argument for studying the issues listed in the Unit Description; and
3. communicate in the form of a book review using:
 - a. a logical and appropriate structure;
 - b. clear expression;
 - c. accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling; and
 - d. referencing that conforms to MLA style.

Date due **5pm 26/8/10**

Assessment task 3: Research essay

Task description

Research Essay – topic to be approved by Unit Coordinator.

Assessment criteria

To complete this task you should:

1. construct a persuasive, independent argument based on informed analysis of the set texts and the period and culture which produced them;
2. demonstrate knowledge of recent theoretical and critical work in colonial and postcolonial literary studies;
3. communicate through scholarly writing using:
 - a. a logical and appropriate essay structure;
 - b. clear expression;
 - c. accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling; and
 - d. referencing that conforms to MLA style.

Date due 5pm 22/8/10

Submission of assignments

Students are required to submit a signed assignment cover sheet with every assignment. The cover sheet includes a declaration that all material submitted is your own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office and the School website. **Assignments submitted without a completed, 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 should be completed within two weeks of the assignment due date.

Assignments must be submitted in hard copy (not by email) via the assignment slot at the School office. If there are additional submission requirements (eg the use of Turnitin) this will be specified in your unit outline. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments.

Assignment cover sheets can be downloaded from
http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/student_resources/student_resources.htm

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.

Penalties

Honours and postgraduate coursework units (400, 500 and 600 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day.

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%

Honours

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

- First Class (HF)—80-100%
- Second Class upper division (HU)—70-79%
- Second Class lower division (HL)—60-69%
- Third Class (HT)—50-59%
- Fail (HN)—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

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.

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

Unit schedule

| Week | Date beginning | Topic | Required Reading | Seminar Leaders |
|------|----------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 15 | 19 July | Colonial Adventure Fiction: Defining the genre | Note: In addition to the primary texts, students are required to read secondary sources in preparation for seminars and assessment tasks. Details of these sources will be provided by teaching staff during semester. | Lisa Fletcher & Ralph Crane |
| 16 | 26 July | The boy reader: Adventure in the Magazines | | Lisa Fletcher & Ralph Crane |
| 17 | 2 August | The boy reader: Stevenson, <i>Treasure Island</i> | <i>Treasure Island</i> | |
| 18 | 9 August | Book review reporting | | |
| 19 | 16 August | The "boy's own" writer/ Illustrating Henty | <i>In Times of Peril</i> | |
| 20 | 23 August | NO SEMINARS | | |
| | 30 August | READING BREAK | | |
| 21 | 6 September | Mapping the empire: Haggard <i>King Solomon's Mines</i> | <i>King Solomon's Mines</i> | |
| 22 | 13 September | Reading the hero: Mason <i>The Four Feathers</i> | <i>The Four Feathers</i> | |
| 23 | 20 September | Mini-conference: Research essay topics | | |
| 24 | 27 September | Conclusion | | Lisa Fletcher & Ralph Crane |