



UNSW Course Outline

ZINT8105 Academic Practice: Critical Reading and Writing - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ZINT8105

Year : 2024

Term : Semester 2

Teaching Period : Z2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Canberra

Academic Unit : UC School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Delivery Mode : Online

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : UNSW Canberra at ADFA

Campus : UNSW Canberra

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course is designed to guide students on a pathway into various master's programs. Its focus is on building the skills essential for success at Master level. At the same time, it engages with one of the pressing conversations of our time: what is the future of war? In order to consider

this question, we will explore the ways in which military theorists and historians, as well as writers of prose fiction and films representing war, have imagined the forms which future conflicts may take. Are you able to comprehend and synthesize new information from a variety of sources? Are you able to communicate that understanding clearly and persuasively? This course is intended to empower you by developing these attributes, through carefully scaffolded activities and assignments with relevance to your own real-world context.

Relationship to Other Courses

This is a bridging course for students who do not have the usual prerequisites to enter a coursework Masters program.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and application of conventions of scholarly enquiry at Master AQF Level 9.
CL02 : Locate complex information from a variety of sources to develop the skills required for undertaking research at Master level.
CL03 : Analyse, synthesize, and critically evaluate information to demonstrate problem-solving skills.
CL04 : Communicate ideas and arguments clearly and accurately in a range of formats.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and application of conventions of scholarly enquiry at Master AQF Level 9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major essay • Short Exercises • Short Essay
CL02 : Locate complex information from a variety of sources to develop the skills required for undertaking research at Master level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major essay
CL03 : Analyse, synthesize, and critically evaluate information to demonstrate problem-solving skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Exercises • Short Essay • Major essay
CL04 : Communicate ideas and arguments clearly and accurately in a range of formats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Essay • Major essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

Moodle is the Learning Management System used at UNSW Canberra.

All courses have a Moodle site which will become available to students at least one week before the start of semester. Please find all help and documentation (including Blackboard Collaborate) at the [Moodle Support](#) page.

UNSW Moodle supports the following web browsers:

- Google Chrome 50+
- Safari 10+
- Internet Explorer is not recommended
- Addons and Toolbars can affect any browser's performance.

Operating systems recommended are:

Windows 7, 10, Mac OSX Sierra, iPad IOS10

For further details about system requirements click [here](#).

Log in to Moodle [here](#).

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Major essay Assessment Format: Individual	40%	
Short Exercises Assessment Format: Individual	40%	
Short Essay Assessment Format: Individual	20%	

Assessment Details

Major essay

Assessment Overview

This essay, on a different topic from the short essay, requires you to bring together the skills you have acquired in the course and to draw on further research of your own.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and application of conventions of scholarly enquiry at Master AQF Level 9.
- CL02 : Locate complex information from a variety of sources to develop the skills required for undertaking research at Master level.
- CL03 : Analyse, synthesize, and critically evaluate information to demonstrate problem-solving skills.
- CL04 : Communicate ideas and arguments clearly and accurately in a range of formats.

Short Exercises

Assessment Overview

These questions are designed to help you keep up with your reading and to hone the skills taught in the course. Research has shown that such tasks can build students' reading resilience; that is, their ability to complete readings through regular, sustained written reflection.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and application of conventions of scholarly enquiry at Master AQF Level 9.
- CL03 : Analyse, synthesize, and critically evaluate information to demonstrate problem-solving skills.

Short Essay

Assessment Overview

This assignment is designed to enable students to synthesise and convey understanding of readings from more than one text, expanding on the skills practised in the short exercises.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and application of conventions of scholarly enquiry at Master AQF Level 9.
- CL03 : Analyse, synthesize, and critically evaluate information to demonstrate problem-solving skills.
- CL04 : Communicate ideas and arguments clearly and accurately in a range of formats.

General Assessment Information

Late Submission of Assessment

Unless prior arrangement is made with the lecturer or a formal application for special consideration is submitted, a penalty of 5% of the total available mark for the assessment will apply for each day that an assessment item is late up to a maximum of 5 days (120 hours) after which an assessment can no longer be submitted and a grade of 0 will be applied.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Electronic submission of assessment

Except where the nature of an assessment task precludes its electronic submission, all assessments must be submitted to an electronic repository, approved by UNSW or the Faculty, for archiving and subsequent marking and analysis.

Students are responsible for their uploading of the correct document, and should wait to view a digital receipt to ensure that this has been successful. Should an error have been made, students should contact the course convenor immediately by email, with the correct document attached.

Release of final mark

All marks obtained for assessment items during the session are provisional. The final mark as published by the university following the assessment review group meeting is the only official mark.

Guidance on AI

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If such use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion. Because Academic Practice is a bridging course in which the development of writing skills is emphasised, students should also not use any content-editing software or services, such as Grammarly.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Students should regularly access the materials in the course Moodle site, starting at the beginning of semester. They should also frequently check their university email account, and communicate regularly with the course convenor.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 15 July - 19 July	Reading	Please read the introductions from Lawrence Freedman's <i>The Future of War</i> , Redman's and Maples' <i>Good Essay Writing</i> , and Hanscomb's <i>Critical Thinking: the Basics</i> .
Week 2 : 22 July - 26 July	Reading	Chapters 1-3 in <i>The Future of War</i> and Chapters 2-3 in <i>Good Essay Writing</i> .
Week 3 : 29 July - 2 August	Reading	Chapters 4-6 in <i>The Future of War</i> .
	Assessment	Be preparing for the first short exercise, due on Sunday August 4. If you want the course convenor to give feedback on a draft, this should be sent as an email attachment several days before the deadline.
Week 4 : 5 August - 9 August	Reading	Chapters 7-9 in <i>The Future of War</i> and Chapter 4 in <i>Good Essay Writing</i> .
Week 5 : 12 August - 16 August	Reading	Chapters 10-12 in <i>The Future of War</i> .
Week 6 : 19 August - 23 August	Reading	Chapters 13-15 in <i>The Future of War</i> .
	Assessment	Be preparing for the second short exercise, due on Sunday August 25. If you want the course convenor to give feedback on a draft, this should be sent as an email attachment several days before the deadline.
Week 7 : 9 September - 13 September	Assessment	PLEASE NOTE THAT THE GAP OF TWO WEEKS IN THIS COURSE SCHEDULE BECAUSE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE MID-SEMESTER BREAK. The third short exercise is due on Sunday September 8. If you want the course convenor to give feedback on a draft, this should be sent as an email attachment several days before the deadline.
	Reading	Chapters 16-19 in <i>The Future of War</i> .
Week 8 : 16 September - 20 September	Reading	Chapters 20-22 in <i>The Future of War</i> .
Week 9 : 23 September - 27 September	Reading	Chapters 23-25 in <i>The Future of War</i> .
	Assessment	The fourth short exercise is due on Sunday September 29.
Week 10 : 30 September - 4 October	Reading	Chapters 3-5 in <i>Critical Theory: the Basics</i> , and Chapters 5-6 & 10 in <i>Good Essay Writing</i> .
Week 11 : 7 October - 11 October	Reading	This week, please choose and read a variety of chapters and articles from the Course Reading List in the Moodle site, in preparation for the first essay.
Week 12 : 14 October - 18 October	Assessment	The first essay is due on Sunday October 20.
	Reading	Chapters 7-9 & 12 in <i>Good Essay Writing</i> .
Week 13 : 21 October - 25 October	Reading	Be reading more broadly and drafting your second essay. The second essay will be due on Saturday November 9.

Attendance Requirements

Regular online consultation sessions will be offered. If students are unable to attend these, they should organise individual appointments (by Teams or Zoom, for example) with the course convenor during the semester.

General Schedule Information

You will find the weekly set tasks and the assessment tasks explained in the course Moodle site.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

The primary text which students should purchase in hard copy as soon as possible is Lawrence Freedman's *The Future of War: a History* (Penguin Books, 2018).

Students should also obtain Peter Redman and Wendy Maples' *Good Essay Writing: a Social Sciences Guide*, Fifth edition (Sage, 2017).

Recommended Resources

Students are strongly recommended to obtain Stuart Hanscomb's *Critical Thinking: The Basics* (Routledge, 2017).

Course Evaluation and Development

One of the key priorities in the 2025 Strategy for UNSW is a drive for academic excellence in education. One of the ways of determining how well UNSW is progressing towards this goal is by listening to our own students. Students will be asked to complete the myExperience survey towards the end of this course.

Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the “On-going Student Feedback” link in Moodle, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus groups. Student opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for this course to see how the feedback from previous students has contributed to the course development.

Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct Policy

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf>

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Heather Neilson		29-213	61 02 51145089	Please email to arrange an appointment if you wish to consult me outside class contact hours.	No	Yes