



UNSW Course Outline

ARTS1032 The Literature Laboratory: Writing Beyond Limits - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS1032

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of the Arts and Media

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This introductory course challenges you to think about writing as experimental, world-building,

adventurous, challenging, radical, and even dangerous, and to write as though it can change the way things are. It teaches that literature has been the engine-room of many of history's most decisive changes to social, cultural, ideological, and behavioural norms. Divided into three primary modules – The Urgency of Now, Utopian Speculation, and Beyond Form and Formlessness – it exposes you to some of the most exciting and unconventional writing in English, and equips you with some of the skills necessary to resist the cultural conformities that deaden the mind. Treating literature as process, intervention, and experiment, the course asks you to see writing as a lifelong education in how - to use Samuel Beckett's phrase - to fail better.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course has direct relevance to students in both English and Creative Writing and introduces an important and exciting tradition of radical invention in the literature from the Modern era to the present. The course also has great relevance to students beyond English and Creative Writing including those interested in literature's active role in the processes of historical and societal change and offers all creative writers with original and productive frameworks for the development of their own writing practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

| Course Learning Outcomes |
|--|
| CLO1 : Position literature in its social contexts |
| CLO2 : Evaluate literature as an ongoing process |
| CLO3 : Recognise and discuss the long tradition of experimentation in English literature |
| CLO4 : Apply the protocols of academic knowledge construction |

| Course Learning Outcomes | Assessment Item |
|--|---|
| CLO1 : Position literature in its social contexts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay or Creative Writing Task• Critical or creative response to Module 2• Take Home Exam |
| CLO2 : Evaluate literature as an ongoing process | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay or Creative Writing Task• Critical or creative response to Module 2• Take Home Exam |
| CLO3 : Recognise and discuss the long tradition of experimentation in English literature | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take Home Exam |
| CLO4 : Apply the protocols of academic knowledge construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay or Creative Writing Task• Critical or creative response to Module 2• Take Home Exam |

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Blackboard Collaborate | Echo 360

Learning and Teaching in this course

The lecture is a primary resource of this course and aims to be dynamic and interactive to enable students to ask questions and respond to new material and ideas. The lectures recordings are a document of this live experience.

The course deploys extensive information in its powerpoint slides, which are posted on the Moodle site each week.

The tutorials are framed by weekly questions, posted on the Moodle site.

The course is supported by Leganto and an extensive number of resources on the Moodle site including primary texts, additional literary texts, critical essays and links to scholarly sites on both the fiction and scholarship.

Additional Course Information

Your reading is central to your experience of this course. Plan ahead and start reading the texts early so you are ready to study them and discuss them. This preparation determines the value of lectures and tutorials for you.

Developing your own writing style and voice is central to studying English at university. The assessment tasks provide opportunities for you to practise and develop your writing. Wide reading will help support your writing.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

| Assessment Item | Weight | Relevant Dates |
|---|--------|--|
| Essay or Creative Writing Task Assessment Format: Individual | 35% | Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 21/06/2024 10:00 PM Post Date: 21/06/2024 10:00 PM |
| Critical or creative response to Module 2 Assessment Format: Group | 30% | Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 19/07/2024 10:00 PM Post Date: 19/07/2024 10:00 PM |
| Take Home Exam Assessment Format: Individual | 35% | Start Date: 08/02/2024 09:00 AM Due Date: 07/08/2024 10:00 PM Post Date: 07/08/2024 10:00 AM |

Assessment Details

Essay or Creative Writing Task

Assessment Overview

1000-word essay or creative writing task based on Module 1 of the course.

Feedback via LMS

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Position literature in its social contexts
- CLO2 : Evaluate literature as an ongoing process
- CLO4 : Apply the protocols of academic knowledge construction

Detailed Assessment Description

Critical essay or creative work on manifestoes

Assessment Length

1000 words

Submission notes

A word doc submitted to the course Moodle site via turnitin

Assessment information

This assessment covers Module 1.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Critical or creative response to Module 2

Assessment Overview

Students work together in small groups to design, write and present critical and creative responses to Module 2

1000-words

Feedback via LMS

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Position literature in its social contexts
- CLO2 : Evaluate literature as an ongoing process
- CLO4 : Apply the protocols of academic knowledge construction

Detailed Assessment Description

Students will work in groups of 5 or 6 to develop a group presentation on Utopias and/or Dystopias. This presentation can be creative or analytical or a combination of both. Some time will be given in two tutorials to work on this project, though it also requires out-of class research and preparation as per most assignments. The in-class presentation can be delivered by some or all of the group depending on student preference. All students also submit a document via turnitin that relates to their individual contribution to the presentation. This means that students receive an individual overall mark for the assessment.

Assessment Length

Presentations in tutorials and individual submission of 750 words

Submission notes

Group presentation and individual word doc via turnitin

Assessment information

This assessment covers Module 2.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Take Home Exam

Assessment Overview

This assessment task will cover Module 3 of the course

1000-words

Feedback via LMS

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Position literature in its social contexts
- CLO2 : Evaluate literature as an ongoing process
- CLO3 : Recognise and discuss the long tradition of experimentation in English literature
- CLO4 : Apply the protocols of academic knowledge construction

Detailed Assessment Description

This assignment is a **critical essay** on one of the writers from Module 3. Students are given 5 days to complete the assignment

Assessment Length

1000 words

Submission notes

Word doc submitted via turnitin on Moodle

Assessment information

This assessment task is an essay related to material in Module 3.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

1. Assessments must be successfully submitted by the specified due date and time, or they will be deemed late, and a penalty applied. It is the responsibility of each individual student to ensure that any work is successfully submitted by the deadline, and in the correct format/version.
2. You should familiarise yourself with a recognised referencing style appropriate for humanities disciplines. A good one is MLA (Modern Language Association) style. Details here: <https://style.mla.org/>

3. We also like to see a strong independent voice in all written tasks. Find confidence in your own views and judgments, while testing them against the ideas of other critics and thinkers.
4. The word limit for each of the three assessments is 1000 words. We will accept +/-10% on this length. Note that the individual component of Assignment 2 is 750 words on the understanding that the remaining 250 words formed part of the group presentation.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

1. All assessment tasks are required course components. Each task must be attempted in order to pass the course. Failure to complete any of these tasks will result in a failure of the entire course, even if your results in the other two tasks might add up to a numerical passing grade.
2. For the three assessment tasks you may use standard editing and referencing software, but not generative AI. You are permitted to use the full capabilities of the standard software (eg Microsoft Office suite or Grammarly). If the use of generative AI such as ChatGPT is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.
4. We expect attendance at lectures and tutorials. A roll will be taken in tutorials and we expect 80% minimum attendance in tutorials.

Course Schedule

| Teaching Week/Module | Activity Type | Content |
|----------------------------|---------------|---|
| Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June | Lecture | The Urgency of Now: Manifestos 1 Prof Elizabeth McMahon Introduction to the course: its rationale, aims, structure and assessment. Discussion of realism and its limits, the ways language builds worlds, and the 'moods' of writing. |
| | Tutorial | Manifestos 1 Introduction to each other and to the course. Discussion of lecture material. Tutorial preparation posted on Moodle. |
| Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June | Lecture | The Urgency of Now: Manifestos 2 Background and Marx's Communist Manifesto as key model Prof Elizabeth McMahon |
| | Tutorial | The Urgency of Now: Manifestos 2 Discussion of Week 2 lecture material. Tutorial preparation activities are posted on Moodle. |
| Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June | Lecture | The Urgency of Now: Manifestos 3 Prof Elizabeth McMahon |
| | Tutorial | The Urgency of Now: Manifestos 3 Discussion of Week 3 lecture material. Tutorial preparation activities are posted on Moodle. |
| Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June | Lecture | Lecture: Prof Elizabeth McMahon Utopian Speculation 1 How to read Utopias: activity and activism |
| | Tutorial | Utopian Speculation 1 How to read Utopias: activity and activism, More's Utopia and the Utopian inheritance Discussion of Week 4 lecture material and group 'lab' work. Tutorial preparation activities are posted on Moodle. |
| | Assessment | Assessment 1 due by 10pm Friday 21 June via turnitin. |
| Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June | Lecture | Utopian Speculation 2: More's Utopia and the New World |
| | Tutorial | Utopian Speculation 2: More Utopia and the New World Discussion of Week 5 lecture material. Tutorial preparation activities are posted on Moodle. |
| Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July | Reading | Flexibility Week. No Classes. |
| Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July | Tutorial | Utopian Speculation 3: Ursula Le Guin The Dispossessed Discussion of Week 7 lecture material. Tutorial preparation activities are posted on Moodle. |
| | Lecture | Utopian Speculation 3: Ursula Le Guin The Dispossessed Prof Elizabeth McMahon |
| Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July | Tutorial | The first hour of this tutorial will be given to group presentations from Module 2. The second hour will discuss Beyond Form and Formlessness 1 William Blake, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell (extracts) Discussion of Week 7 lecture material. Tutorial preparation activities are posted on Moodle. |
| | Lecture | Beyond Form and Formlessness 1: William Blake, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell |

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------|---|
| | | Hell (extracts) Prof Elizabeth McMahon |
| | Assessment | Individual and group assessments to be submitted no later 10 pm Friday, 19 July |
| Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July | Lecture | Beyond Form and Formlessness 2 Gertrude Stein, Tender Buttons Prof Elizabeth McMahon |
| | Tutorial | We will discuss continue to discuss William Blake from Week 8 and then move to Gertrude Stein, Tender Buttons Discussion of Week 9 lecture material. Tutorial preparation activities are posted on Moodle. |
| Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August | Lecture | Beyond Form and Formlessness 3: M NourbeSe Philip, Zong! Prof Elizabeth McMahon |
| | Tutorial | Beyond Form and Formlessness 3: M NourbeSe Philip, Zong! Discussion of Week 10 lecture material and Module round up. Tutorial preparation activities are posted on Moodle. |
| | Assessment | Assessment 3 begins this Week. Topics posted to moodle 9 am, Friday 3 August. Completed work to be submitted by 10 pm Tuesday 7 August via turnitin. |

Attendance Requirements

SAM attendance guidelines.

Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes for the School of the Arts & Media (SAM) courses in which they are enrolled. We expect **80% minimum attendance in tutorials**. If students have more than two unexplained absences they may be refused final assessment.

Students who do not meet attendance expectations run the risk of failing a course. No additional or special consideration will be provided if a student misses out on essential course information and materials, or misses an assessment task/deadline, due to unexplained absences or an unapproved lack of attendance.

A student may be advised by the Course Convenor to withdraw from the course if significant learning activities are missed. Alternatively, a student may be required to undertake supplementary class(es) or task(s) as prescribed by the Course Convenor.

If assessment tasks have been missed, the student should apply for [Special Consideration](#), accompanied by appropriate documentation.

General Schedule Information

This schedule includes assessment dates.

Also remember that Week 6 is a Reading week with no classes.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

The set readings will mostly be available through the course moodle site. You may also wish to obtain your own copies of these longer texts and, ideally, to read these before the start of term:

Ursula Le Guin, *The Dispossessed*

Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*

M. Philip NourbeSe, *Zong!*

Recommended Resources

Extensive additional resources are provided via the course moodle site.

Additional Costs

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Course Evaluation and Development

This course is adjusted and refined each year to reflect student feedback. In 2021 we introduced material from Australia and the region alongside material from the US, UK and Caribbean. We also provide a lecture on how to read Utopian fiction.

From 2023 the assessment load has been reduced so that the second assignment is a group presentation with designated class time to prepare the work. This assessment is designed so students receive an individual mark rather than a group mark.

Staff Details

| Position | Name | Email | Location | Phone | Availability | Equitable Learning Services Contact | Primary Contact |
|----------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Convenor | Professor Elizabeth McMahon | | Webster 223 | 434575687 | please email for an appointment | Yes | Yes |

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

Location: Room 312, Level 3 Robert Webster Building

Opening Hours: Monday -Friday, 9am - 5 pm

Email: sam@unsw.edu.au

Phone: +612 9385 4856

web: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-schools/arts-media>