

ASLT2609 **Australian Literature 1988 to Present**

6 Credit Points

A/Prof David Brooks

Prerequisite: 12 Junior credit points **Prohibition:** ASLT2009 **Offered:** Semester 2 **Classes:** Two 1 hour lectures and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Assessment:** One 1500 word essay (mid-semester 30%), and one 3000 word take-home exam (end of semester 70%)

This unit will introduce students to some major Australian texts and writers of the last two decades. While its main focus will be on fiction, poetry and non-fiction, there will also be an emphasis on texts which aim to subvert or question such generic boundaries. Other issues to be discussed will include the rewriting of Australian history from postcolonial and Indigenous perspectives; the representation of gender and sexuality in recent Australian writing; cross-cultural writing and literature in translation.

Textbooks

Astley, T. *Drylands* (Viking)

Bail, M. *Eucalyptus* (Text)

Porter, D. *The Monkey's Mask* (Hyland House)

Other texts, especially those by contemporary poets, will be set according to what is in print at the time the unit is to be taught, or made available in a Resources book.

ASLT2616 **Australian Stage and Screen**

6 Credit Points

Dr P Kirkpatrick

Prerequisite: 18 Junior credits points **Prohibition:** ASLT2006, ASLT2016 **Offered:** Semester 1 & Summer Early **Classes:** Two 1hr lectures and one 1 hr tutorial/week **Assessment:** One 2000 word essay, one oral presentation, 5-10 minutes, with 500 word written summary, and one 2000 word take-home examination

A study of the development of Australian drama and film from 1788 to the present. It will examine selected plays and films within the context of: the history of theatrical and cinema performance; the influence of changing technologies and dramatic styles; cultural concerns with identity, gender and race. It will give special emphasis to the continuing links between stage and screen, in particular the ways in which plays have been adapted to film.

Textbooks

Texts may include: plays by Bert Bailey, Louis Esson, Katharine Susannah Prichard, Patrick White, Ray Lawler, Jack Davis, David Williamson, Debra Oswald, Louis Nowra; and films by directors such as Raymond Longford, Ken G. Hall, Peter Weir, Ray Lawrence, Gillian Armstrong, Baz Luhrmann. A resource book will be available.

NB: This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit for students who are already enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.

ASLT2617 **Writing and Justice**

6 Credit Points

Dr B Brennan

Prerequisite: 18 Junior credit points **Offered:** Semester 1 **Classes:** One 2 hr seminar/week **Assessment:** One mid-semester essay (2000 wds:30%); one end-semester essay (4000 wds:70%)

This unit is designed to encourage students to consider some of the ways writers and filmmakers address issues of moral, legal and social justice. Beginning with consideration of Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment* it goes on to explore how various forms of writing - essays, poetry, fiction, non-fiction - and film seek to intervene in current political and ethical discussions occurring at a national and international level.

Textbooks

Dostoyevsky, F. *Crime and Punishment*. New Penguin Classics Edition

Garner, H. *Joe Cinque's Consolation*. Picador

Scott, R and T. Keneally, eds. *Another Country* (Southerly 64:1:2004). Halstead Press

Brennan, B (ed) Just Words? UQP,2008

Sallis, E. The Marsh Birds (A&U, 2004)

Film:

Letters to Ali (dir. Clara Law & Eddie Fong, 2004)

Drama:

Jane Harrison Stolen. Currency Press.

A course reader will be provided with a selection of essays, poems, short fiction and excerpts from larger works.

NB: This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit to students enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.

ASLT2618 **Anatomy of the Literary Hoax**

6 Credit Points

A/Prof D.Brooks

Prerequisite: 18 Junior credit points **Offered:** Semester 1 **Classes:** two 1-hour lectures and one 1hr tutorial per week **Assessment:** One 1500 wd essay, one 3000wd take-home exam, tutorial presentation

In 1944 two Australian poets devised what has been called the twentieth century's greatest literary hoax.

So many hoaxes have ensued in this country that they can be linked to the national psyche. This unit examines the history, theory and poetics of the literary hoax before exploring its key Australian manifestations, and questioning the relative weight of Australian and international factors (e.g. the postmodern interrogation of authenticity) in their generation.

Textbooks

Principal texts:

Helen Darville, The Hand that signed the Paper

'Ern Malley'. The Darkening Ecliptic

Resource Book will be available, containing selections and excerpts from Psalmanaazar, Swift, Chatterton, Macpherson, W.H.Ireland, Floupette, The Spectra Poems, and other Australian hoaxes.

Recommended Reading

R.K.K.Ruthven, Faking Literature

David Brooks, The Sons of Clovis

Michael Hayward, The Ern Malley Affair

Ian Hayward, Faking it: Art and the politics of forgery

Jost, Totaro et al. The Demidenko File

William Jay Smith, The Spectra Hoax

NB: This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit to students enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.

ASLT2620 **Writing Australian Nature**

6 Credit Points

Dr B Rooney

Prerequisite: 12 junior credit points **Offered:** Semester 2 **Classes:** Two 1hour lectures and one 1hour tutorial per week. **Assessment:** Oral presentation - 1000words, Portfolio -2000 words, Essay - 1500 words

How does Australian writing engage with Australian nature? What roles have writers (in tandem with artists, photographers and others) played in shaping consciousness of the environment - its wonders, complexities and layered human histories? This unit introduces relevant conceptual frames to examine Australian literary and cultural depictions of, and engagements with nature and the environment in a range of Indigenous and non- Indigenous texts. Can literature transform the way we think about and care for the world in which we live.

NB: This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit to students enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.

ASLT4011 **Australian Literature Honours**

12 Credit Points

Professor Robert Dixon

Prerequisite: Credit average in 48 senior Australian Literature credit points (8 units of study), including the two special entry units ASLT3601 (or ASLT3901) and ASLT3602 (or ASLT3902). This may include up to 18 credit points of senior level English and/or Australian Studies. **Offered:** Semester 1 & Semester 2

Classes: Four 2 hour seminars (2 in each semester) meeting once a week **Assessment:** A thesis of 15,000 words and 24,000 words of written work or its equivalent for each seminar.

The Honours program in Australian Literature consists of:

a thesis written under the supervision of one or more members of academic staff

two seminars that meet weekly for two hours in semester one and two seminars that meet weekly for two hours in semester two, i.e. a total of four seminars during the year.

The thesis should be 15,000 words in length. Each seminar requires 6,000 words of written work or its equivalent. One of the March semester seminars is assessed, in part, through participation in the English department's honours conference.

The thesis is worth 40% of the final Honours mark and each of the four seminars is worth 15% (60% in total).

Seminars will be offered from the following list in 2010:

Australian Poetry and the Symbolistes (Associate Professor David Brooks)

Undisciplined Histories (Professor Robert Dixon)

Australian Classics (Professor Robert Dixon)

Reading Suburbia (Dr Brigid Rooney)

Medieval Languages 1: Old English (Dr Daniel Anlezark)

Medieval Languages 2: Old English (Dr Daniel Anlezark)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (Dr Lawrence Warner)

Language and Subject (Dr Nick Riemer)

History in English: Lyric, Epic, and Dramatic (Dr Bruce Gardiner)

Milton (Associate Professor Barry Spurr)

Early/Modern (Dr Kate Lilley)

Sentiment and Sensation (Dr Vanessa Smith)

Waterloo to Peterloo (Associate Professor William Christie)

American Gothic (Dr Melissa Hardie)

Reading Whiteness: Contemporary Literature and Film (Dr Victoria Burrows)

Movements in Modern and Contemporary Drama: Theory and Practice (Dr Mark Byron)

For more information, contact Professor Robert Dixon.