



COURSE OUTLINE

CMN304 Writing Your Novel

Course Coordinator: Ross Watkins (rwatkins@usc.edu.au) School: School of Business and Creative Industries

2021 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Online

ONLINE 1

You can do this course without coming onto campus.

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

This course will assist you in writing your own fiction novel. As a foundation, you will examine the creative processes used by successful authors through the critical reading of a selection of their novels. The course employs a reflective approach so you can understand how these authors' processes may be creatively applied to your own novel writing.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop – On campus tutorial/workshop for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	3hrs	Week 1	12 times
ONLINE 1			
Online – 3 hours online content for 12 weeks (or equivalent).	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Structural and stylistic principles of the novel; the novel across time and audiences; theoretical and pragmatic approaches to writing practice; pitching novels to publishers.

2. What level is this course?

300 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES		GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Enact the creative processes involved in the planning and production (in part) of a novel.	Creative and critical thinker Engaged
2	Critically interrogate, analyse and reflect upon creative practices in relation to literary texts.	Knowledgeable
3	Create original ideas and produce creative artefacts which respond to literary texts in alignment with publishing industry standards.	Creative and critical thinker Engaged

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

At the commencement of this course students are assumed to have foundational knowledge of and skills in narrative writing practice and its scholarship.

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Students will be provided with feedback on Assessment 1 during Weeks 3 and 4, and continuing feedback in relation to writing and tutorial participation activities.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Plan	Individual	20%	1000 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Oral	Individual	30%	5-10 minutes	Refer to Format	In Class
All	3	Artefact - Creative	Individual	50%	2500 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Project Plan

GOAL:	Your novel project plan will articulate your key creative concepts and how they connect to a selected aspect of the publishing industry context. Your plan will specify the relevance of your Case Study (Task 2) to your Novel Sample (Task 3).	
PRODUCT:	Plan	
FORMAT:	This written task must be presented in a professional/industry format with academic referencing. Guidelines for the plan structure are provided in course learning materials.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Application of theory to practice. 2
	2	Demonstration of original thinking. 3
	3	Selection of critical materials in relation to creative concepts. 2
	4	Professionalism of presentation (clarity of communication). 3

All - Assessment Task 2: Case Study

GOAL:	Conduct a case study on an aspect of writing practice relevant to your novel-in-progress. The case study will focus on a companion novel, an author or an issue of practice.	
PRODUCT:	Oral	
FORMAT:	The case study findings may be presented live or as a pre-recorded video. The findings must be underpinned by at least three academic references, and a written summary of your findings must be provided to the tutor before the presentation. Guidelines for the presentation are provided in course learning materials. Presentations will take place during weeks 8-10.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Application of theory to practice. 1 2
	2	Demonstration of original thinking. 3
	3	Analysis of novel form, content and/or writing practices in relation to specific contexts. 2
	4	Effectiveness of presentation (clarity of communication). 3
	5	Use of scholarly and/or practice-based reference materials. 2

All - Assessment Task 3: Novel Sample

GOAL:	Compose a sample of a novel-in-progress, in a genre selected by you.
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative
FORMAT:	This written task must be presented in a professional/industry format, as provided in course learning materials.

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Execution of genre conventions.	1 3
	2 Execution of structural elements.	1 3
	3 Execution of stylistic elements.	1 3
	4 Execution of ideas in relation to the critical context.	1 3
	5 Professionalism of presentation.	3

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

7.1. Schedule

PERIOD AND TOPIC	ACTIVITIES
n/a	n/a

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au