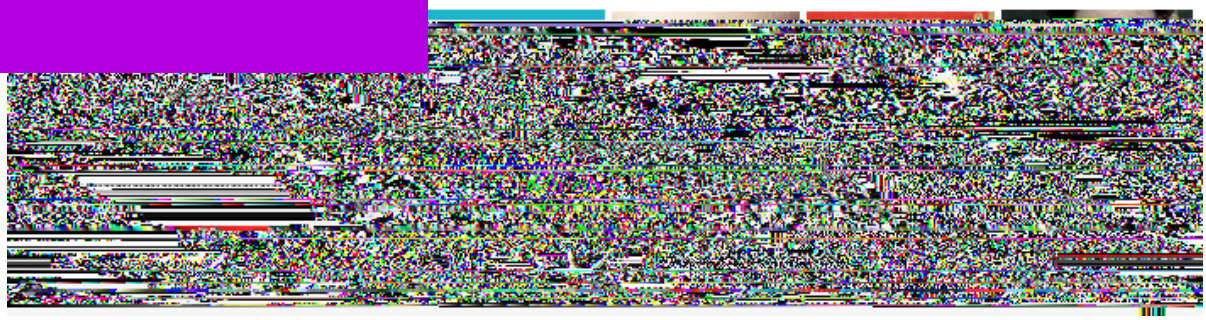

ARTS2040

Global Literatures: Adventures with the "Contemporary Classic"

Term One // 2020

School of the Arts and Media // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Fiona Morrison	f.morrison@unsw.edu.au	Wed 11-12	Webster 209	93855275

School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

When we read contemporary literature, how do we know what is valuable, good or lasting? Do we immediately recognise a ""classic"" work by its scope, complexity and challenge or its daring, beauty or dissidence? How and why does the ""classic"" text emerge in the present? Though ""contemporary classic"" sounds like a pitch used by publishers, is this a term that might enable discussion of rich and compelling literary works from the last thirty years?

The group of contemporary literary works that we might call ""classic"" is an intensely global one. Globalisation has had a huge impact on literary production: literary publishing and worldly reading are now richly globalised activities for those with first-world access. This course focusses on literary-aesthetic aspects of genre, narrative and literary language (including work in translation), as well as posing some wider questions about reception and reputation. In tandem with key forays into global literary theory, this course will provide practical critical resources for reading, discussing, writing, reviewing and teaching global/contemporary novels, poems and plays. We will think about prizes and we may even vote on our own contemporary ""super classic"". By the end of the course, we will have thought about Barthes' ""pleasures of the text"" and have tested Italo Calvino's claim that ""a classic is a work which constantly generates a pulviscular cloud of critical discourse around it, but which always shakes the particles off"".

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain a number of theoretical issues in global and transnational writing and analyse literary and film texts to locate the significance and operation of these issues
2. Analyse a range of ways in which the question of literary value and literary form emerges in the context of global literatures across a range of genres.
3. Employ a critical and theoretically informed approach to texts under discussion, appropriately supported by scholarly resources.
4. Construct lucid written arguments based upon close analysis of literary language, ethical use of scholarly resources, and the key theoretical concepts structuring the course.

Teaching Strategies

This course will introduce students to the field of global and world literary studies at second-year level. The course will be organised chronologically, so that students can identify and discuss the changing idea and importance of different kinds of literary value perceived in different literary texts over time.

Assessment

I have set two assessments. The log assessment will support some reading in theories of world literature, and form a scaffold for the major essay due at the beginning of Week 11.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Reading and Research Log	40%	11/03/2020 09:00 AM	1,2,3
Major Essay	60%	27/04/2020 05:00 PM	2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Reading and Research Log

Start date:

Length: 1500

Details: 1500 words in total.This task provides scaffolding for the essay.Feedback and numerical grade via LMS.

Additional details:

The reading log submission will comprise the 3 logs (of 500 words each) that are due at Wednesday 9am of weeks 2,3 and 4. The Week 4 submission will be a document that combines all three logs for written feedback. The logs for weeks 2 and 3 that are due at 9am on Wednesday of their respective weeks will only receive a little feedback. To repeat - the final log in week 4 will be added to logs 1 and 2 to make one document of 1500 words and this will receive sustained feedback.

Assessment 2: Major Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2000-2500

Details: 2,500 words. Written feedback and numerical grade via LMS.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Books can be found in the UNSW bookshop and from reputable retailers

Moodle and Leganto will provide other resources

Recommended Resources

Not available

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

- 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

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: