Master of Research in English – 2018

BACHELOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Master of Research is a two-year program and is the main pathway to Macquarie’s Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programs.

In Year 1 (BPhil) you will undertake advanced coursework units including the study of research frontiers in your area of study.

Year 2 (MRes) is a masters-level postgraduate research training program. You will specialise in research preparation and focus on a specific research topic, and will be required to submit a research thesis of 20,000 words.

2018 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

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FOAR701 – RESEARCH PARADIGMS

Compulsory – Session 1, Day & External

This unit provides a broad overview of the research paradigms that characterise the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Through FOAR701:

- The Faculty of Arts seeks to provide students with a constructive framework to recognise the possible contribution of diverse theoretical and disciplinary approaches.
- Students will learn to better recognise the assumptions that underpin diverse approaches, their strengths, and their relations to each other, especially to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of ideas.
- Students will have a strong grasp of the intellectual terrain across Arts disciplines, having become familiar with some of the core paradigms that have persisted in our fields, including through multiple variants over time.

ENGL704 – LITERARY THEORY

Compulsory – Session 1, Day – A/Prof Paul Sheehan & Dr Ryan Twomey

This unit considers some of the major issues in contemporary literary theory, following its development from Romanticism to postmodernism. It is designed to draw on and encourage students’ research abilities. Topics have been selected for their relevance to literature and literary enquiry, and where possible the seminars will be oriented towards showing how theory is related to these matters. Students will develop their own research projects that address this relationship between literary theory and literary works.

ENGL702 – 20TH CENTURY LITERATURE

Session 1, Day – A/Prof Paul Sheehan

This unit offers a detailed overview of the key issues and movements that have shaped -- and been shaped by -- the poetry, fiction and non-fiction of the last century. Students will pursue their own research projects that aim to situate literary works in their fullest possible context. They will do this by following developments from the radical formal innovations in the early decades of the century through to the more pensive, ethically responsive texts of the post-war years.

ENGL710 – CHILDREN’S LITERATURE: CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

Session 1, Evening – Dr Ryan Twomey

This unit introduces students to contemporary literary and cultural theories pertinent to reading and analysing texts produced for children. Students will develop their own research projects that address a key analytical aspect of children’s literature. Research topics include social and historical contexts for the production and reception of children’s literature; constructions of childhood; semiotics of visual and verbal texts; critical approaches to children’s texts; ideology and value; and classics, canons and postmodernity.

ENGL712 – CREATIVE WRITING SEMINAR I

Session 1, Evening – A/Prof Jane Messer

This unit offers students the opportunity to develop their writing across a number of writing genres, and through structured discussions and related creative and reflective assignments, to extend their skills both in the crafting and the analysis of the craft of writing and research. Students reflect upon and interrogate their writing and writing practices, explore new research methods in relation to craft and technique or genre, and link this work to consideration of published creative works and contemporary narrative studies. Writing workshops and discussion of the readings are structured so that students can make productive links between concepts in narrative studies and their own writing and research.

ENGL720 – 19TH CENTURY LITERATURE

Session 1, Day – Dr Lee O’Brien

The 19th century was a period of rapid urbanisation, industrialisation and imperial expansion that redefined concepts of gender, class, the nature of work and the domestic. Writers responded with energy and passion to social and political change,
creating in the process increasingly diverse literary forms. The kinds of literary writing that emerged radically redefined the cultural and public sphere. This was also the age of emerging mass readerships and literary celebrities. Taking a selection of literary texts as a starting point, this unit explores nineteenth-century literary culture as dynamic, diverse and self-consciously modern.

**FOAR708 – GLOBALISING CULTURES**
*Session 1, Day – Dr Alys Moody*
Faced with an increasingly interconnected world, disciplines across the humanities and social sciences have taken a “transnational turn” in recent decades. This unit introduces students to transnational and global approaches to the study of global cultural texts. We will examine the competing theoretical frameworks associated with the study of texts and cultures across national borders, including globalisation, postcolonialism, transnationalism, internationalism, diaspora, and world literature. It will be taught by scholars from across the faculty.

**MRES700 – RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS**
*Compulsory – Session 2, Day – Faculty Staff*
This unit aims to enable students to:
- Communicate research effectively in different modes for different audiences;
- Understand what it means to conduct and report responsibly in their discipline;
- Participate in academic peer review practices; and
- Appreciate the uses and relative merits of traditional and contemporary research communication practices.

**FOAR700 – RESEARCH FRONTIERS 1**
*Compulsory – Session 2, Day – English Staff*
This unit is delivered by departments and provides an opportunity for students to engage with leading-edge research in their discipline. Students will acquire advanced disciplinary knowledge, know about how research is carried out in a disciplinary area and will demonstrate competence in the application of research skills to the disciplinary area.

**ENGL733 – TEXTUAL ANALYSIS**
*Compulsory – Session 2, Day – Prof Louise D’Arcens*
This unit will explore the development and practice of textual analysis, ranging from ideas of the canon and interdisciplinarity in literary reception and interpretation, to formal, linguistic, cultural and cognitive approaches to textual meaning making. This unit will provide a suitable grounding in research and conceptual framing for students undertaking advanced studies in English and writing. Students will be introduced to, and encouraged to practice, a range of different types of textual analysis on a small group of renowned recent novels.

**ENGL701 – SHAKESPEARE AND THE RENAISSANCE**
*Session 2, Day – Prof Tony Cousins*
This unit studies poems and plays by Shakespeare and other writers of the English Renaissance in relation to notions of gender, sexuality, identity and power. Students are encouraged to develop their own research projects around these themes, and to consider the unit’s primary texts in the context of the unorthodox, the heretical and the alien.

**ENGL706 – YOUNG ADULT FICTION**
*Session 2, Evening – Dr Victoria Flanagan*
This unit examines some major themes and concerns associated with young adult fiction as a field of study: self-definition and subjectivity; exploring sexuality and writing the body; social power and social responsibility; representations of self and society; and relationships with dominant ideologies of twentieth century children’s literature. Students will explore these themes through research that will give shape to their own individual projects.

**ENGL713 – CREATIVE WRITING SEMINAR II**
*Session 2, Evening – A/Prof Jane Messer*
This unit offers students the opportunity to develop their writing across poetry, short story, novel and writing for younger readers. Through both creative and reflective writing, students extend their skills in craft and analysis, and in their research abilities; reflect upon their writing and research practices, explore new methods in relation to technique, and link this work to consideration of published works and narrative studies and theory. Weekly workshops of work-in-progress enable students to make productive links between reading, revision, and audience.

**ENGL714 – WRITING CREATIVE NON-FICTION: AN INTRODUCTION**
*Session 2, Evening – A/Prof Jane Messer*
In this practical introduction to writing creative non-fiction, students research and write a number of creative (narrative) non-fiction pieces such as memoir, personal essay, and writing about place. We consider what creative non-fiction is, looking at the varied cultural contexts in which these very popular and influential texts are currently being written and published, with a focus on the Australian scene. This introductory course assists students in devising their own topics and developing their skills in primary research methods and narrative techniques. Assessment is based on participation, practical research tasks and the students’ creative non-fiction writing.

**ENGL718 – SHORT FORM WRITING – SHORT STORY, NOVELLA, POETRY CYCLE**
*Session 2, Evening – A/Prof Jane Messer*
This unit focuses on the short story in its evolving forms, including the long short story and novella, the short story sequence and cycle, and micro and ‘short short’ stories. In addition to the weekly writing workshops, we read works by Australian and international writers; we investigate technique and craft, and consider the forms history and current scholarly debates, reader response theory, publishing trends, new media and book futures. Students develop a critical awareness of the broader national and international contexts in which their writing is to take place; devise a project of their own choice; and are encouraged towards publication.

**CONTACTS**

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