

CMN260

Writing the Short Story

School: School of Business and Creative Industries

2026 | Trimester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

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

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

Please go to unisc.edu.au 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

In this course you will read a range of canonical and contemporary short stories. You will gain understanding of the practices of writing a short story. You will write and present your own original short stories and enrich your creative practice through critical reflection and discussion.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Interactive online learning activities.	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Scheduled face to face workshops.	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Interactive online learning activities.	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Scheduled online workshops.	2hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

What is the short story?

Plot and structure

Character, Setting and Point of View

Voice, Style and Theme

Genre(s)

Form

Publishing your work

1.4. Mature Content

Sex/Sexual references, Coarse Language, Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

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	Demonstrate knowledge of a range of essential narrative elements and techniques used in short story writing practice	Knowledgeable Engaged
2	Analyse short stories using scholarly conventions, critical thinking and application of theory to practice	Creative and critical thinker Empowered
3	Create written artefacts in alignment with industry standards in professional presentation and communication	Creative and critical thinker Ethical
4	Create short story artefacts that utilise concepts in course content and respond to canonical and/or contemporary exemplars.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC 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

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

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

Presentations in class and engagement with the presentations of peers will be assessed across trimester and formally graded from Week 4. Feedback will be provided early and regularly.

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	Oral	Individual	20%	Min. three mins.	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	In Class
All	2	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	30%	total 1500 words	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	50%	Short Story and Critical Analysis: 2500 words.	Week 12	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Presentation and Engagement

GOAL:	Short Story analysis																
PRODUCT:	Oral																
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																	
FORMAT:	Oral presentation or written piece: your assessment will be delivered in an informal setting and will be based on engagement with the course readings materials and the work of your peers.																
CRITERIA:	<table> <tr> <th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Identify and discuss short story conventions.</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Demonstrate critical analysis skills in discussion of short story conventions and characteristics</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Demonstrate knowledge of short story writing and related narrative elements and techniques</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>Apply relevant theoretical concepts to an examination of a short story</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Identify and discuss short story conventions.	2	2	Demonstrate critical analysis skills in discussion of short story conventions and characteristics	1	3	Demonstrate knowledge of short story writing and related narrative elements and techniques	1	4	Apply relevant theoretical concepts to an examination of a short story	2	
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3	Demonstrate knowledge of short story writing and related narrative elements and techniques	1															
4	Apply relevant theoretical concepts to an examination of a short story	2															
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy																

All - Assessment Task 2: Short Story

GOAL:	Craft an original short story and a short critical analysis.																
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece																
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																	
FORMAT:	Compose a 1000-1200 word short story that aligns with learning materials on the course. You must accompany your short story with 300-500 words of critical analysis that focuses on a narrative element or technique or related concept employed in your short story.																
CRITERIA:	<table> <tr> <th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental narrative elements and techniques in relation to short story writing practice</td><td>①</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Create a short story that addresses and meets publishing industry standards and expectations</td><td>③</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Create a short story that responds to and employs narrative elements and concepts discussed in class and in the course learning materials</td><td>④</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>Develop and deliver a critical analysis of a small number of aspects related to the writing and theory of the short story form</td><td>②</td></tr> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental narrative elements and techniques in relation to short story writing practice	①	2	Create a short story that addresses and meets publishing industry standards and expectations	③	3	Create a short story that responds to and employs narrative elements and concepts discussed in class and in the course learning materials	④	4	Develop and deliver a critical analysis of a small number of aspects related to the writing and theory of the short story form	②	
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy																

All - Assessment Task 3: Short Story

GOAL:	Craft an original short story and or excerpt of an original short story and deliver critical analysis reflecting an understanding of theory and practice.																
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece																
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																	
FORMAT:	Compose an original short story, or excerpt of a short story. Word length 1500 - 2000 words. You must accompany your short story with 500- 1000 words of Critical Analysis that focuses on narrative elements and related theoretical concepts employed in your short story.																
CRITERIA:	<table> <tr> <th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Demonstrate understanding of and engagement with essential narrative elements employed in short story writing.</td><td>①</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Create a short story that employs writing techniques, concepts, and theories examined in course learning materials.</td><td>④</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Apply relevant theory and practical short story writing skills in the production of a short story ready for submission for publication</td><td>③</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>Develop and deliver an in-depth critical analysis of a small number of aspects related to the writing and theory of the short story form</td><td>②</td></tr> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Demonstrate understanding of and engagement with essential narrative elements employed in short story writing.	①	2	Create a short story that employs writing techniques, concepts, and theories examined in course learning materials.	④	3	Apply relevant theory and practical short story writing skills in the production of a short story ready for submission for publication	③	4	Develop and deliver an in-depth critical analysis of a small number of aspects related to the writing and theory of the short story form	②	
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy																

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. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

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 Canvas 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 Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

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

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. 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
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- [UniSC Student Central](#)
- [UniSC Adelaide Student Central](#)