

CMN304 Writing Your Novel

School: School of Business and Creative Industries

2026 | Trimester 1

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 usc.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

This course explores the principles, theories and practices involved in writing a novel. With a foundation in fundamental narrative elements, you will learn to 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 |
|---|-------|----------------|-----------|
| BLENDED LEARNING | | | |
| Learning materials – Interactive online learning activities. | 1hr | Week 1 | 10 times |
| Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Scheduled face to face workshops. | 2hrs | Week 1 | 12 times |
| ONLINE | | | |
| Learning materials – Interactive online learning activities. | 1hr | Week 1 | 10 times |
| Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Scheduled online workshops (Recorded). | 2hrs | 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 | Demonstrate essential knowledge of narrative techniques and processes involved in novel writing | Knowledgeable |
| 2 | Demonstrate the ability to plan and execute a novel project that reflects knowledge of publishing and/or societal contexts | Empowered |
| 3 | Analyse novels using scholarly conventions, critical thinking and the application of theory to practice | Creative and critical thinker |
| 4 | Create creative writing artefacts in alignment with publishing industry standards of professional presentation and communication | Empowered |
| 5 | Deliver knowledge of novel writing practices through effective communication | Engaged |

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

Completion of 144 units of study

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

You will be provided with several feedback opportunities on your assignments throughout trimester.

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 | 30% | 7 minutes | Refer to Format | In Class |
| All | 2 | Written Piece | Individual | 20% | 1000 words | Week 9 | Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check |
| All | 3 | Artefact - Creative | Individual | 50% | 2500 words | Week 12 | Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check |

All - Assessment Task 1: Novel Case Study

| GOAL: | The goal is to conduct a case study on an aspect of writing practice relevant to your novel-in-progress. The case study will be a scholarly analysis of a companion novel of your own choosing. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PRODUCT: | Oral | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FORMAT: | <p>The case study findings must be submitted either live or as a video presentation in class. The findings must be underpinned by at least three academic references. Guidelines for the presentation are provided in course learning materials.</p> <p>This task is being used for measuring assurance of learning towards Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation. The following Program Competency will be assessed: PC1 Communication.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CRITERIA: | <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Demonstrating essential knowledge of narrative techniques and processes involved in the novel writing</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Analysing novels through critical thinking and the application of theory to practice</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Analysing novels through the use of scholarly/practice-based reference materials</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Analysing novels using scholarly conventions of communication (style and structure)</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Delivering knowledge of novel writing practices through effective communication</td><td>5</td></tr></tbody></table> | No. | | Learning Outcome assessed | 1 | Demonstrating essential knowledge of narrative techniques and processes involved in the novel writing | 1 | 2 | Analysing novels through critical thinking and the application of theory to practice | 3 | 3 | Analysing novels through the use of scholarly/practice-based reference materials | 3 | 4 | Analysing novels using scholarly conventions of communication (style and structure) | 3 | 5 | Delivering knowledge of novel writing practices through effective communication | 5 |
| No. | | Learning Outcome assessed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Demonstrating essential knowledge of narrative techniques and processes involved in the novel writing | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Analysing novels through critical thinking and the application of theory to practice | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Analysing novels through the use of scholarly/practice-based reference materials | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Analysing novels using scholarly conventions of communication (style and structure) | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Delivering knowledge of novel writing practices through effective communication | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

All - Assessment Task 2: Novel Plan

| GOAL: | The goal is to articulate your key creative concepts and how they connect to a selected aspect of the publishing industry context, while demonstrating your creative concepts in action through a novel beginning. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| PRODUCT: | Written Piece | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FORMAT: | <p>This written task must be presented in a professional/industry format. Guidelines for the plan structure are provided in course learning materials.</p> <p>This task is being used for measuring assurance of learning towards Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation. The following Program Competency will be assessed: PC1 Communication.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| No. | | Learning Outcome assessed | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Demonstrating the ability to plan a novel project that reflects knowledge of publishing and/or societal contexts | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Demonstrating the ability to execute creative concepts via a novel beginning | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Delivering emergent knowledge of novel writing practices and elements through effective communication | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | Communication, Problem solving, Organisation | | | | | | | | | | | | |

All - Assessment Task 3: Novel Sample

| GOAL: | Compose a sample of a novel-in-progress, accompanied by an industry-standard synopsis and explanation of potential publishing pathways. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PRODUCT: | Artefact - Creative | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FORMAT: | This written task must be presented in a professional/industry format, as provided in course learning materials. This task is being used for measuring assurance of learning towards Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation. The following Program Competency will be assessed: PC1 Communication. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| No. | | Learning Outcome assessed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Demonstrating essential knowledge of literary/genre conventions involved in novel writing | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Demonstrating essential knowledge of narrative structural elements involved in novel writing | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Demonstrating essential knowledge of narrative style elements involved in novel writing | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Demonstrating the ability to execute a novel project that reflects knowledge of publishing and/or societal contexts | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Creating artefacts in alignment with publishing industry standards of professional presentation and communication | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | Communication, Problem solving, Organisation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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.

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 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. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. 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.

10.6. 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.

10.7. 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.

10.8. 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>

10.9. 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.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

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

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au