



## COURSE OUTLINE

# CMN304 Writing Your Novel

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

2022 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast  
USC 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.

*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 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
<b>BLENDED LEARNING</b>			
<b>Learning materials</b> – Asynchronous online delivery of learning material.	1hr	Week 1	13 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – Synchronous and scheduled face to face workshops.	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
<b>Seminar</b> – Synchronous, face to face seminars (Recorded).	2hrs	Week 1	2 times
<b>Information session</b> – Synchronous online Task Information Sessions (Recorded/ All cohort/ Shared with Online).	1hr	Week 1	2 times
<b>ONLINE</b>			
<b>Learning materials</b> – Asynchronous online delivery of learning material.	1hr	Week 1	13 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – Synchronous online workshops (Recorded).	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
<b>Seminar</b> – Synchronous, face to face seminars (Recorded).	2hrs	Week 1	2 times
<b>Information session</b> – Synchronous online Task Information Sessions (Recorded/ All cohort/ Shared with Blended).	1hr	Week 1	2 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 [USC 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 semester. Early feedback will take place in Weeks 4 and 5. Task 1 is a formative task that will assist in the development of Tasks 2 and 3.

### 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 6	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Oral	Individual	30%	7 minutes	Week 9	Online Submission
All	3	Artefact - Creative	Individual	50%	2500 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

#### All - Assessment Task 1: Novel Plan

<b>GOAL:</b>	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.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Plan	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	This written task must be presented in a professional/industry format. Guidelines for the plan structure are provided in course learning materials.	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Demonstrating the ability to plan a novel project that reflects knowledge of publishing and/or societal contexts <b>2</b>
	2	Demonstrating the ability to execute creative concepts via a novel beginning <b>4</b>
	3	Delivering emergent knowledge of novel writing practices and elements through effective communication <b>5</b>

#### All - Assessment Task 2: Novel Case Study

<b>GOAL:</b>	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.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Oral	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	The case study findings must be submitted as a video. The findings must be underpinned by at least three academic references. Guidelines for the presentation are provided in course learning materials.	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Demonstrating essential knowledge of narrative techniques and processes involved in the novel writing <b>1</b>
	2	Analysing novels through critical thinking and the application of theory to practice <b>3</b>
	3	Analysing novels through the use of scholarly/practice-based reference materials <b>3</b>
	4	Analysing novels using scholarly conventions of communication (style and structure) <b>3</b>
	5	Delivering knowledge of novel writing practices through effective communication <b>5</b>

### All - Assessment Task 3: Novel Sample

<b>GOAL:</b>	Compose a sample of a novel-in-progress, accompanied by an industry-standard synopsis and explanation of potential publishing pathways.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Artefact - Creative	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	This written task must be presented in a professional/industry format, as provided in course learning materials.	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	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

## 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 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

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. SafeUSC

USC 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 SafeUSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email [safe@usc.edu.au](mailto:safe@usc.edu.au).

The SafeUSC 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

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

## 10.9. Student Charter

USC 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:

- **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](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)