

Unit outline for HSW115.9 Writer as Researcher

Name of unit
Writer as Researcher (HSW115.9)

Unit description
This unit develops advanced creative research skills to support candidates in the Master of Creative Writing & Communication through the sustained, high-level, independent work of the Major Creative Project. Through a series of guided seminars students consider the cultural and academic value of their creative practice through a consideration of practice-led research models. Within this framework they explore a substantial work that has influenced their own creative practice. By comparing and contrasting various critical and theoretical understandings of the work, students will pursue a guided exploration of the meaning of the work in relation to their own approach to writing and communication.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION (CORE)

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards (for example, Bachelor, Diploma)	Duration (for example, one semester, full year)	Level (for example, introductory, intermediate, advanced level, 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year)	Unit coordinator
Master of Creative Writing & Communication	One semester	Advanced	Dr James Cooper

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a:

core unit

elective unit

other (please specify below):

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points Example: 10 credit points	Total course credit points Example: 320 credit points
12	96

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week (1)	No. personal study hours per week (2)	Total workload hours per week (3)
3	12	15

(1) Total time spent per week at lectures, tutorials, clinical and other placements, etc.

(2) Total time students are expected to spend per week in studying, completing assignments, etc.

(3) Sum of (1) and (2) equals workload hours.

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: 0 hours per week

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Are students required to have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

Yes No

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS (CORE)

Learning outcomes for the unit On successful completion of this unit students will be able to:
(1) Explain the nature of research within the Creative Arts, as distinct from the natural and social sciences
(2) Critically evaluate the theoretical and critical predecessors to their own creative work
(3) Apply advanced practice-led research methods to communicate a critical contextual analysis of their own creative practice to a wider community of creative writing and communication professionals

Topics included in the unit
Research in the Humanities: Overview Qualitative versus Quantitative Research Methods Creative Writing as Research Practice-led Research Methodology Poetics and Creative Scholarship: Understanding and Communicating the Context & Value of Your Work

Assessment tasks			
Type (1) (see examples noted below this table)	When assessed – year, session and week (for example, year 1, semester 1, week 1)	Weighting (% of total marks for unit)	Cross reference to learning outcomes
1) Seminar Attendance & Participation (1200 words equiv). Attend all scheduled seminars and complete all set tasks, including 2 scheduled presentations of research work in progress.	Weekly/Fortnightly	10	1, 2, 3
2) Annotated Bibliography of key Readings (1800 words) Summarise at least 6 of the key readings relating to creative research methodologies and present these in the form of an annotated bibliography.	Week 8	30	1
3) Critical Exegesis 5000 words. Research and present a critical exegesis of a key work (creative or scholarly) that has influenced your own writing and communication practice. Include a detailed survey of other critical appraisals of the work and a discussion of your own interpretation and creative application of its inherent principles.	Week 14	60	2, 3

(1) Examples of types of assessment tasks include: assignments; examinations; group projects; online quizzes/tests; presentations; work-based projects; and reflective journals. Ensure that details of the types of assessment tasks are included such as specific topics, duration/length/word limit of assessment and any specific formats.

2.1 Prescribed and recommended reading

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended reading for the unit.

Required Text

Kroll, J. & Harper, G. (2013). *Research Methods in Creative Writing*. South Yarra, VIC: Palgrave McMillan

Recommended texts and readings

Arnold, J. (2007). *Practice Led Research: A dynamic way to knowledge*. Camberwell: Rock View Press.

Brady, T. (2000). 'A Question of Genre: de-mystifying the exegesis', *TEXT: The Journal of the Australian Association of Writing Programs*, Vol 4 No 1, Available at <http://www.griffith.edu.au/school/art/text/april00/brady.htm>.

Brundage, A. (2007). *Going to the Sources: A Guide to Historical Research and Writing*, 4th Edition. Harlan Davidson.

Flick, U. (2007). *Designing Qualitative Research*. Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore: Sage Publications.

Magee, P. (2006). 'Strange directions for future research (cultural studies as creative writing)', *TEXT: The Journal of the Australian Association of Writing Programs*, Vol 10, No 2, Available at <http://www.textjournal.com.au/>

Nelson, C. (2009). 'Best practice? The problem of peer reviewed creative practice research', *TEXT: Journal of Writing and Writing Courses*, Available at <http://www.textjournal.com.au/>

Pickering, M. (Ed.) (2008). *Research Methods in Cultural Studies (Research Methods for the Arts and the Humanities)*. Edinburgh, Scotland: University of Edinburgh Press.

Ryan, A. (2005). 'Connecting Two Research Strategies: A hybrid model', *TEXT: The Journal of the Australian Association of Writing Programs*, Vol 9, No 1, Available at <http://www.textjournal.com.au/>

Sutherland, E. (2008). 'Research, travel and creativity', *TEXT: The Journal of the Australian Association of Writing Programs*, Vol 12, No 2, Available at <http://www.textjournal.com.au/oct08/sutherland.htm>