



MECO700

Disciplinary Contexts

S1 Day 2014

Dept of Media, Music & Cultural Studies

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6

Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Andrew Alter

andrew.alter@mq.edu.au

Contact via andrew.alter@mq.edu.au

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In this unit students will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of their discipline. To facilitate this knowledge students will explore a range of key thinkers and approaches that dominate, as well as distinguish, their discipline. Students will also become familiar with the genealogical trajectory and historical contexts in which their discipline has been formed.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Gain advanced knowledge of the literature in their field as it applies to their research topic.

Evaluate, synthesize and analyze various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.

Think critically and evaluate the arguments of others, while developing their own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly literature in their field of knowledge.

Communicate clear and coherent ideas (in both oral and written formats) as related to the theoretical and analytical knowledge utilized in their field.

Apply knowledge and ideas to new contexts and multiple mediums.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Creative Practice Task	40%	30 April or earlier
Oral Presentation	20%	Weeks 8, 9 and 10
Critical Enquiry Essay	40%	June 16

Creative Practice Task

Due: **30 April or earlier**

Weighting: **40%**

There are two options for this assignment. Choose either Option 1 or Option 2.

Option 1

Choose a film or dramatic work. Start your essay by situating yourself in the first person as an individual witnessing the film/drama. (Try to make this brief but interesting! Draw the reader into the imagined audience space with you.) Then change the register of your essay to provide a synopsis of the story (about 750 words). This should be in the third person. Finally, provide a critique any underlying ideological or humanist intentions you feel are intended by the auteur/author. Again, in this part of the essay avoid the first person.

In short: be aware of your reader while you write.

Option 2

Create a work of art: a sculpture, painting, drawing, musical work, short story or audio/video work. Because of the size of this assignment, it probably won't be a lengthy or large work. Design your work to be directly modelled on the style/techniques of someone else who is in the public 'imagination' ('imagination' here just means someone who is known by a number of people).

Thereafter write a 300-500 word description of your work that outlines 1) who inspired your work, 2) what techniques were used in the creation of the work (also how did your model use those same techniques), and 3) any statement about your underlying intentions in creating the work.

Submission for option 2 is your summary statement but to this you may wish to add digital files or website addresses where the work can be viewed/heard. If you write a short story - obviously this will be very short, but yes, you may go beyond the word limit. However, as an exercise: try to limit yourself to 3000 words maximum.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate, synthesize and analyze various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.
- Communicate clear and coherent ideas (in both oral and written formats) as related to the theoretical and analytical knowledge utilized in their field.
- Apply knowledge and ideas to new contexts and multiple mediums.

Oral Presentation

Due: **Weeks 8, 9 and 10**

Weighting: **20%**

Identify your discipline area by summarizing:

- 1) at least three (more is good) major academic journals in your discipline.
- 2) at least one (more is good) major reference tool (bibliographic survey, encyclopedia, dictionary, etc...) in your discipline.
- 3) an early book that may have helped define your 'discipline' but may now be slightly outdated.
- 4) a recent book within the last 12 years (the more recent the better - could be a single author book or a multi-author monograph) that has shifted the discipline in a new direction or challenged older thinking.
- 5) Choose two works (journal articles or book chapters) for the class identifying its author/s and the key ideas within it. Provide the rest of the class with these articles/chapters the week before your presentation so that they can form the basis of discussion.

Submit a bibliography of the sources you have discussed - no need to submit anything else.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Gain advanced knowledge of the literature in their field as it applies to their research topic.
- Communicate clear and coherent ideas (in both oral and written formats) as related to the theoretical and analytical knowledge utilized in their field.
- Apply knowledge and ideas to new contexts and multiple mediums.

Critical Enquiry Essay

Due: **June 16**

Weighting: **40%**

Select a subject, phenomenon or 'text' - (it need not be in your specific discipline). Ensure it is somewhat bounded such that it may be fairly clearly described and/or identified. It may be a historical event from some time ago, an event from the recent past that you have witnessed, an event from the recent past that has been covered by the media in a number of locations, a series

of documents, a performance, or a 'text' of any kind. Analyze and interpret your subject within the framework of two differing theories. Illustrate how different perspectives emphasize different aspects of the one phenomenon.

Your essay should illustrate your grasp of the theories you have chosen to use as the framework for your two analyses. The choice of your subject may be determined by the fact that it is easy to examine from two different vantage points - that's OK.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Gain advanced knowledge of the literature in their field as it applies to their research topic.
- Evaluate, synthesize and analyze various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.
- Think critically and evaluate the arguments of others, while developing their own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly literature in their field of knowledge.
- Communicate clear and coherent ideas (in both oral and written formats) as related to the theoretical and analytical knowledge utilized in their field.
- Apply knowledge and ideas to new contexts and multiple mediums.

Delivery and Resources

There is no on-line component to this unit.

A preliminary reader will be given out in the first class. Specific readings for the remainder of the classes will be given out as needed.

Unit Schedule

Week 1: Introduction: What is a Discipline and What Does it Matter?

Week 2: Embodiment and the Senses

Week 3: Guest Lecture (Details to be confirmed)

Week 4: Postmodernism, Orientalism and Ethnography

Week 5: Guest Lecture - Prof. Catharine Lumby (Media Studies)

Week 6: Situating a Discipline within and amongst others - the Example of Ethnomusicology (Andrew Alter)

Break

Week 7 To be confirmed

Week 8: First Student Presentation Session

Week 9: Second Student Presentation Session

Week 10: Third Student Presentation Session

Week 11: Guest Lecture (To be Confirmed)

Week 12: TBC

Week 13: No class

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)

- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.