



HGEO806

The Production of Knowledge: Using Theory in Geography and the Social Sciences

S1 External 2014

Dept of Environment & Geography

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Fiona Miller

fiona.miller@mq.edu.au

Contact via fiona.miller@mq.edu.au

E7A 619

Mondays 12:00-1:00pm

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MA in Human Geography or PGDipArts in Human Geography or PGCertArts in Human Geography or MEnv or PGDipEnv or PGCertEnv or MDevCult or PGDipDevCult or PGCertDevCult or PGDipSIA or MSusDev or PGDipSusDev or MSc in Environmental Health or PGDipSc in Environmental Health or PGCertSc in Environmental Health

Corequisites

Co-badged status

This unit is being taught in conjunction with ENVG700

Unit description

A unit providing an introduction to major concepts and theories that have shaped the social sciences and exploring how theory is used in contemporary social science research. It explores how the work of key thinkers in philosophy and social theory has been taken up and transformed by social scientists, focusing on human geography and related disciplines such as development studies, environmental studies, planning and anthropology. The unit is flexible and responsive to the interests and specialities of students enrolled in any given semester. It is designed for students with an interest in social theory and those undertaking research.

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:

Understanding of core topics and frontiers within Human Geography.

Awareness and appreciation for the breadth of research perspectives within the

Discipline and the Department.

Progress in understanding of how your own research interests relate to your learning in HGEO806.

Ability to contribute to academic discussion and present ideas.

Ability to assess seminars and identify research processes.

An understanding of the range of conceptual tools used in contemporary geographic research and discourse.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Understanding Theory</u>	15%	4 April 2014
<u>Key Thinker /Key Theory paper</u>	25%	23 May 2014
<u>Oral or web-based presentation</u>	20%	Weeks 11 and 12
<u>Frontiers Essay</u>	40%	10 June 2014

Understanding Theory

Due: **4 April 2014**

Weighting: **15%**

Write a brief paper (1000 words) that explores the questions: what is theory and why does it matter? Your paper should discuss social theory and theory in human geography in particular. The paper should be reflective, discussing your interest in theory and why you consider it important to your own learning and/or professional objectives. Key references to assist with this paper will be provided in the first week of classes and made available online.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Progress in understanding of how your own research interests relate to your learning in HGEO806.

Key Thinker /Key Theory paper

Due: **23 May 2014**

Weighting: **25%**

Either:

Taking the body of work of a key thinker of interest in your field, prepare a paper that reviews the development of their thinking, the value of their contribution to social theory, and the questions they open for you in relation to your learning and/or research directions and ambitions. Please

confirm with the convenor your selected thinker is appropriate for this paper.

Or:

Taking the body of work developed in a coherent body of social theory (eg 'feminism'), provide a short account of the development of the framework, its current value in research, policy or practice and its relevance to your own intellectual development. Please confirm with the convenor your selected theory is appropriate for this paper.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understanding of core topics and frontiers within Human Geography.
- Progress in understanding of how your own research interests relate to your learning in HGEO806.
- An understanding of the range of conceptual tools used in contemporary geographic research and discourse.

Oral or web-based presentation

Due: **Weeks 11 and 12**

Weighting: **20%**

This task requires students to give a brief oral presentation (10-15 minutes) or web-based equivalent which reflects on the research frontiers in geography they have found most interesting and comment on how it is informing their ideas for future research and/or practice. Presentation times will be confirmed in class.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understanding of core topics and frontiers within Human Geography.
- Awareness and appreciation for the breadth of research perspectives within the Discipline and the Department.
- Progress in understanding of how your own research interests relate to your learning in HGEO806.
- Ability to contribute to academic discussion and present ideas.
- Ability to assess seminars and identify research processes.
- An understanding of the range of conceptual tools used in contemporary geographic research and discourse.

Frontiers Essay

Due: **10 June 2014**

Weighting: **40%**

In this 2500 word essay students are expected to provide a detailed analysis on one of the Lecture or Dialogue topics introduced during semester and apply it to their field of research

interest. Essays will explore how the topic is being approached within the discipline of human geography and how it relates to their particular field of interest. The topic of this essay must be different to that of Assessment Task 2.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Awareness and appreciation for the breadth of research perspectives within the Discipline and the Department.
- Progress in understanding of how your own research interests relate to your learning in HGEO806.
- Ability to assess seminars and identify research processes.
- An understanding of the range of conceptual tools used in contemporary geographic research and discourse.

Delivery and Resources

Study Modes

This unit is available in both internal and external study modes.

Internal (D1)

HGEO806 is based on a two-hour weekly class on Mondays **from 3:00-5:00pm in room W5C 302**, from Monday 3 March. Please note: for weeks 6, 8 and 10 (only) classes will be held in EMCG230, i.e. on Monday 7 April, 5 May and 19 May only). Classes will run as a combination of both lectures, dialogues, students discussions and presentations. All internal students are expected to attend all classes and the roll will be taken.

External (X1)

External students will be expected to access recordings of the sessions online via *iLearn*.

Submitting your assignments

To successfully complete HGEO806 students must complete **all** assessment tasks. **All students** must keep a clean electronic copy of all assignments submitted for assessment.

For Internal (D1) students all assignments in HGEO806 must be submitted on (or before) **2:00pm** on the due date listed. Assignments must be delivered to the assignment box in the reception area of the Faculty of Science Student Centre (E7A102). The Faculty of Science Student Centre is on the ground floor at the western end of building E7A, and opens from 9.00am to 2.00pm on Monday to Friday. Your assignment must be submitted with a cover sheet. Please use the barcoded coversheets which can be downloaded from the web at :

http://web.science.mq.edu.au/new_and_current_students/undergrad/assignments_and_coversheets/

Students must complete all the details on the cover sheet and sign the declaration regarding academic honesty that is part of the cover sheet. The afterhours submission box located at the entrance to E7A is cleared daily at 9.00am, so placing assignments in this box after the due date will incur a late penalty unless previously approved by the unit convener. You must attach a copy of the email approval or medical certificates to justify any late submission.

For External (X1) students assignments must be submitted via Turnitin. Please include an electronic copy of the cover sheet in your submission or in a separate email to the convener:

http://web.science.mq.edu.au/new_and_current_students/undergrad/assignments_and_coversheets/

Turnitin

All assessment tasks for HGEO806 must be submitted to Turnitin as part of the submission process, and the Turnitin receipt number recorded on the coversheet of each assignment. You will be able to access the result of the Turnitin scan and be able to review your assignments in light of this result. Not everything that Turnitin picks up as comparable to other work is plagiarised. Use this process constructively to ensure you are referencing correctly and effectively. Instructions for submitting assignment to Turnitin can be found at:

http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/assignments.htm

Late Penalties and Grading

Please note that the penalty for late submission of assignments is 10% per day or part thereof, calculated from **2:00pm** on the due date listed. This penalty will be applied unless you are granted an extension by the unit convener (Fiona Miller) and provide appropriate supporting documentation. Please talk to (or email) Fiona about any circumstances that affect your assignments before the due date.

Each assignment will be marked and commented upon before return to you. The mark will be in the form of a graded letter as shown on the table below and as consistent with University policy.

Graded letter	Meaning	% equivalent
F	Fail	<50
P	Pass	50-64
Cr	Credit	65-74
D	Distinction	75-84
HD	High Distinction	85-100

Technology used and required

HGEO806 provides all students with web-based support using *iLearn*, Macquarie University's learning management system. If you need help with *iLearn* please refer to http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/index.htm or contact the unit convenor as soon as possible. The unit website will be maintained regularly, providing you with copies of lecture PowerPoint slides immediately before each lecture. Digital audio recordings of the lectures will be available via *Echo360* (formerly *iLecture*) linked to the unit's *iLearn* site.

Changes since the last offering of the Unit

Since the 2013 offering of HGEO806 the topics of the Dialogues has changed slightly. The convenor has also included new content on human geography theory through a series of lectures on key concepts. The readings have been revised and the assessments have been revised.

Unit Schedule

Program - Mondays 3:00-5:00pm

Wk	Date	Topic	Staff	Location
1	3/3	Introduction	AM / FM	W5C302
2	10/3	<i>Dialogue – Sustainability</i>	VS / WG	W5C302
3	17/3	Lecture on Key Concepts in Human Geography 1 –Nature	AM / DH	W5C302
4	24/3	<i>Dialogue – Risk</i>	FM / MT	W5C302
5	31/3	<i>Dialogue – Climate</i>	KC / SF	W5C302
6	7/4	*Lecture on Key Concepts in Human Geography 2 – Marxism and post-structuralism	BF	EMCG230

		Mid-semester break		
7	28/4	<i>Dialogue – Place</i>	SS-P / PD	W5C302
8	5/5	*Lecture on Key Concepts in Human Geography 3– Identities	RD	EMCG230
9	12/5	<i>Dialogue – Scale</i>	KF / RH	W5C302
10	19/5	*Lecture on Key Concepts in Human Geography 4 – Post-colonialism	FM	EMCG230
11	26/5	Student Presentations	AM / FM	W5C302
12	2/6	Student Presentations	AM /FM	W5C302
13	4/5	Queen’s Birthday	No class	

AM – Andrew McGregor; FM – Fiona Miller; VS – Vlad Strezov; WG – Wendy Goldstein; DH – Donna Houston; MT – Mark Taylor; KC- Kevin Cheung; SF – Sara Fuller; BF – Bob Fagan; SS-P – Sandie Suchet-Pearson; PD- Peter Davies; RD – Robyn Dowling; KF – Kirstie Fryirs; RH – Richie Howitt;

* Please note: Room change from usual room

Learning and Teaching Activities

Lectures

A series of lectures on key concepts in human geography

Dialogues

A series of dialogues on key concepts in environment and geography research.

Personal reading

Required and recommended readings

Student led discussions

Based on the lectures, dialogues and readings.

Student presentations

Based on student reflections of research frontiers in geography

Assessment tasks

Series of assessments tasks based upon review and analysis of relevant literature and student led research.

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.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understanding of core topics and frontiers within Human Geography.
- Awareness and appreciation for the breadth of research perspectives within the Discipline and the Department.
- Ability to assess seminars and identify research processes.
- An understanding of the range of conceptual tools used in contemporary geographic research and discourse.

Assessment tasks

- Understanding Theory
- Key Thinker /Key Theory paper
- Oral or web-based presentation
- Frontiers Essay

Learning and teaching activities

- A series of lectures on key concepts in human geography
- A series of dialogues on key concepts in environment and geography research.

- Required and recommended readings
- Series of assessments tasks based upon review and analysis of relevant literature and student led research.

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Progress in understanding of how your own research interests relate to your learning in HGEO806.
- Ability to contribute to academic discussion and present ideas.
- Ability to assess seminars and identify research processes.
- An understanding of the range of conceptual tools used in contemporary geographic research and discourse.

Assessment tasks

- Understanding Theory
- Key Thinker /Key Theory paper
- Oral or web-based presentation
- Frontiers Essay

Learning and teaching activities

- A series of lectures on key concepts in human geography
- A series of dialogues on key concepts in environment and geography research.
- Required and recommended readings
- Based on the lectures, dialogues and readings.
- Based on student reflections of research frontiers in geography
- Series of assessments tasks based upon review and analysis of relevant literature and student led research.

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and

problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Progress in understanding of how your own research interests relate to your learning in HGEO806.
- An understanding of the range of conceptual tools used in contemporary geographic research and discourse.

Assessment tasks

- Key Thinker /Key Theory paper
- Frontiers Essay

Learning and teaching activities

- Required and recommended readings
- Based on the lectures, dialogues and readings.
- Based on student reflections of research frontiers in geography
- Series of assessments tasks based upon review and analysis of relevant literature and student led research.

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Ability to contribute to academic discussion and present ideas.

Assessment tasks

- Understanding Theory
- Key Thinker /Key Theory paper
- Oral or web-based presentation
- Frontiers Essay

Learning and teaching activities

- Based on the lectures, dialogues and readings.
- Based on student reflections of research frontiers in geography

- Series of assessments tasks based upon review and analysis of relevant literature and student led research.

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Understanding of core topics and frontiers within Human Geography.

Assessment task

- Oral or web-based presentation

Learning and teaching activity

- Based on the lectures, dialogues and readings.
- Series of assessments tasks based upon review and analysis of relevant literature and student led research.

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Awareness and appreciation for the breadth of research perspectives within the Discipline and the Department.
- Progress in understanding of how your own research interests relate to your learning in HGEO806.
- Ability to assess seminars and identify research processes.

Assessment tasks

- Oral or web-based presentation
- Frontiers Essay

Learning and teaching activities

- Series of assessments tasks based upon review and analysis of relevant literature and student led research.