



MECO702

Critical Enquiry and Creative Practice 1

S1 Day 2014

Dept of Media, Music & Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

John Potts

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Y3A 165J

Monday 3-4

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Learn how to produce, improve and demonstrate your creative imagination, reasoning and skills through an appreciation of texts (literary, music/sound, film, performative, theoretical) using critical reflection and analytic tools. This unit will provide opportunities for critical reflection and/or creative production relevant to specific disciplinary areas.

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, synthesise and analyse various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.

Demonstrate critical thinking and evaluation of the arguments of others and a development of their own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly literature in their field of knowledge.

Communicate (performative or oral and written) to present a clear and coherent

exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods utilised in their field of research.

Apply knowledge and ideas to new contexts and multiple mediums.

Attain advanced skills in the production (written, sound, filmic, performative, theoretical) of creative work relevant to their discipline.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Creative Practice Task</u>	40%	28 April
<u>Presentation</u>	20%	26 May
<u>Critical Enquiry Essay</u>	40%	2 June

Creative Practice Task

Due: **28 April**

Weighting: **40%**

The first assignment is a minor research paper, of 2000 words, written on a topic of your choice related to celebrity, fame or charisma.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate (performative or oral and written) to present a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods utilised in their field of research.
- Apply knowledge and ideas to new contexts and multiple mediums.
- Attain advanced skills in the production (written, sound, filmic, performative, theoretical) of creative work relevant to their discipline.

Presentation

Due: **26 May**

Weighting: **20%**

A presentation delivered in the seminar of approximately 15 minutes duration.

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, synthesise and analyse various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and

scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.

- Demonstrate critical thinking and evaluation of the arguments of others and a development of their own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly literature in their field of knowledge.
- Communicate (performative or oral and written) to present a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods utilised in their field of research.

Critical Enquiry Essay

Due: **2 June**

Weighting: **40%**

This essay is the major research paper on a topic of your choice within the domain of celebrity studies, including the study of fame and charisma. This essay must be on a different topic to the minor research paper. It should demonstrate wide reading, excellent research skills and in-depth critical analysis.

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, synthesise and analyse various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.
- Demonstrate critical thinking and evaluation of the arguments of others and a development of their own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly literature in their field of knowledge.
- Communicate (performative or oral and written) to present a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods utilised in their field of research.
- Apply knowledge and ideas to new contexts and multiple mediums.

Delivery and Resources

There is a set text for this unit:

Potts, John, *A History of Charisma* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan 2009.

This book is available in the Co-Op Bookshop for \$29.95.

It is also available in the Library as an e-book.

Other readings as listed in the Schedule will be provided by the convenor.

There are three books held in the **Library Reserve** pertaining to this unit:

Braudy, Leo, *The Frenzy of Renown: Fame and its History* New York: Oxford University Press 1986

Holmes, S. and Redmond, S. (eds), *Framing Celebrity: New Directions in Celebrity Culture* New York: Routledge 2006

Marshall, P. David (ed), *The Celebrity Culture Reader* New York: Routledge 2006

An e-book is available in the Library through MyiLibrary:

Burns, Kell S., *Celeb 2.0: How Social Media Foster Our Fascination with Popular Culture* Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio 2009

Issues of the journal *Celebrity Studies* are also available online through the Library catalogue. Recent themed issues have included sex and celebrity, the celebrity of David Bowie, and celebrity and female ageing.

Articles from a special issue on Charisma Medieval and Modern of *Religions* journal, 2014, are available online through Open Access at

www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/charisma_medieval

The bibliography lists other relevant books held in the library. Additional readings from these books are suggested in the weekly schedule. Various press, magazine, film, TV and web sources will be provided throughout the semester.

There is no web page for this unit.

Unit Schedule

Seminar Schedule

WEEK 1: **INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIT**

3 March

WEEK 2: **DEFINING CELEBRITY, FAME AND CHARISMA**

10 March John Potts, *A History of Charisma*, pp. 1-6, 23, 106-108, 159-160

Screenings: *A Star is Born*, William Wellman, 1937; *A Star is Born*, George Cukor, 1954; *The King of Comedy*, Martin Scorsese, 1983 (excerpts)

WEEK 3: **THE HISTORY OF FAME**

17 March *A History of Charisma*, Chapter 8 pp. 160-165

Leo Braudy, 'Introduction' in *The Frenzy of Renown*

Daniel Mendelsohn, 'But Enough About Me', *The New Yorker*, 25 January 2010

Additional Reading: Simon Morgan, 'Celebrity: Academic "Pseudo-Event" or a Useful Concept for Historians?' in *Cultural and Social History* 8:1 2011, pp. 95-114

WEEK 4: CHARISMA, PAST AND PRESENT

24 March *A History of Charisma*, Chapter 6 and Chapter 9

Additional Readings: Len Oakes, 'The Rise of the Charismatic Leader' from *The Charismatic Personality* (2010)

Max Weber, excerpts on charisma from *Economy and Society*

WEEK 5: THE HOLLYWOOD STAR SYSTEM

31 March *A History of Charisma*, 165-172

Richard deCordova, 'The Emergence of the Star System in America'

Additional Readings: Joshua Gamson, 'The Assembly Line of Greatness: Celebrity in Twentieth-Century America' in Redmond & Holmes 2007

Samantha Barbas, excerpt from *Movie Crazy: Fans, Stars and the Cult of Celebrity* in Redmond & Holmes 2007

Screening: 'The Star', *American Cinema*

WEEK 6: THE ADVENT OF CELEBRITY

7 April *The History of Charisma*, pp. 172-178

Daniel Boorstin, 'From Hero to Celebrity: the Human Pseudo-Event' in Marshall (ed) 2006

Edgar Morin, excerpts from *The Stars*

Additional Reading: Richard Dyer, *Stars*

Screening: *It Should Happen To You!* George Cukor, 1953

MID-SEMESTER BREAK

WEEK 7: **MODERN CELEBRITY**

28 April Presentation by Jennifer Corkin: *Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton: The Dawn of Modern Celebrity*

Kashner, Sam & Schoenberger, Nancy, 'Very Important People' in *Furious Love : Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton and the Marriage of the Century*, London: JR Books, 2010.

Additional Reading: Mann, William, J *How to Be a Movie Star : Elizabeth Taylor in Hollywood*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009.

WEEK 8: **CONTEMPORARY CELEBRITY, CHARISMA AND CELEBRITY STUDIES**

5 May *The History of Charisma*, chapter 10

Celebrity Studies journal issues available online, Library catalogue

Sean Redmond, 'Intimate Fame Everywhere' in Holmes & Redmond (eds) 2006

Additional Readings: Graeme Turner, Frances Bonner & P. David Marshall, 'Producing Celebrity' in Marshall (ed) 2006

Richard Johnson, 'Exemplary Differences: Mourning (and Not Mourning) a Princess' in Marshall (ed) 2006

Deborah Jermyn, 'Bringing Out the Star in You' in Holmes & Redmond (eds) 2006

WEEK 9 **CONTEMPORARY CELEBRITY: REALITY TV AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

12 May *The History of Charisma*, pp. 178-181

Burns, Kell S., *Celeb 2.0: How Social Media Foster Our Fascination with Popular Culture* – available online as e-book, Library catalogue

P. David Marshall, 'New Media – New Self: The Changing Power of Celebrity' in Marshall (ed) 2006

Additional Readings: Theresa M. Senft, 'Keeping it Real on the Web: Authenticity, Celebrity, Branding' in *Camgirls*

Ellis Cashmore, 'Televising/Reality' in *Celebrity/Culture*

Jay Rosen, 'The People Formerly Known as the Audience' in Michael Mandiberg (ed) *The Social Media Reader*, 2012

Alison Hearn, "'John, a 20-Year Old Boston Native...'" in Marshall (ed)

2006

WEEK 10 - 11: STUDENT SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

19 - 26 May

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.