



MECO703

Special Topics

S2 Day 2018

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

John Potts

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Contact via 9850 2163

Y3A 165J

Tuesday 11-1

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This is a unit in which students choose a special topic in their particular area of research interest. The special topic may be investigated through creative practice and/or production, critical writing or a combination of both.

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:

Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the literature in their field as it applies to the students' research topic.

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

Analyse and evaluate the arguments of others and revise and develop students' own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly work in their field of knowledge.

Communicate (either performative or oral, and written) a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods in their field of research.

Apply knowledge and theories to new contexts and multiple media.

Produce multi-modal creative work relevant to students' disciplines.

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (including weekends) after the original submission deadline.

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------|
| <u>Research Proposal</u> | 20% | No | Friday August 24 |
| <u>Research Project</u> | 60% | No | Friday October 26 |
| <u>Final Report</u> | 20% | No | Friday November 9 |

Research Proposal

Due: **Friday August 24**

Weighting: **20%**

This is a unit in which you can choose a special topic in your particular area of research interest.

Your research proposal (1500 words) should outline your topic, situate it within current inquiry in its field, outline your proposed approach and methodology, and summarise key references.

Your special topic may be investigated through creative practice and/or production, critical writing or a combination of both.

The Research Proposal should be submitted to the supervisor assigned to you for your special project.

The assessment criteria for this assignment include discipline specific relevance, topic relevance, academic conventions, writing and referencing. Detailed assessment criteria are provided in the iLearn site for MECO703.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the literature in their field as it applies to the students' research topic.
- Evaluate, synthesise and analyse various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.
- Analyse and evaluate the arguments of others and revise and develop students' own

ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly work in their field of knowledge.

- Communicate (either performative or oral, and written) a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods in their field of research.

Research Project

Due: **Friday October 26**

Weighting: **60%**

This is the project you create in your particular area of interest. The project may take the form of creative practice and/or production, in a form and duration to be approved by your supervisor in this unit. Written assignments take the form of an extended essay of 5,000-6,000 words, on a topic of your choice.

This assignment is to be submitted to the supervisor assigned to you for the Special Project.

The assessment criteria for this assignment include discipline specific relevance, topic relevance, academic conventions, writing and referencing. Detailed assessment criteria are provided in the iLearn site for MECO703.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate, synthesise and analyse various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.
- Analyse and evaluate the arguments of others and revise and develop students' own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly work in their field of knowledge.
- Communicate (either performative or oral, and written) a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods in their field of research.
- Apply knowledge and theories to new contexts and multiple media.
- Produce multi-modal creative work relevant to students' disciplines.

Final Report

Due: **Friday November 9**

Weighting: **20%**

This assignment (1500 words) is the final report on your Special Project.

It should encompass reflections on your completion of the Research Project, including critical reflections on any obstacles or difficulties you encountered and how you dealt with them in researching and completing your project. You may reflect on what you have learnt in undertaking this special project, and whether this knowledge will contribute to your future

research.

The Final Report is to be submitted to the supervisor assigned to you for the Special Project.

The assessment criteria for this assignment include discipline specific relevance, topic relevance, academic conventions, writing and referencing. Detailed assessment criteria are provided in the iLearn site for MECO703.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the literature in their field as it applies to the students' research topic.
- Analyse and evaluate the arguments of others and revise and develop students' own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly work in their field of knowledge.
- Communicate (either performative or oral, and written) a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods in their field of research.
- Apply knowledge and theories to new contexts and multiple media.
- Produce multi-modal creative work relevant to students' disciplines.

Delivery and Resources

The unit is designed to increase your understanding of critical inquiry and creative practice perspectives, and to develop and effectively communicate your own research.

Some aspects of this unit may require creative technologies such as media production or musical interests.

Students will be directed to production resources within MMCCS where appropriate.

There are no required readings for this unit.

Unit Schedule

Seminar classes begin in Week 2. In this seminar, the convenor will explain assignments to be completed in the unit, and allocate supervisors for each student. Supervision will be confirmed by the end of Week 2. For the rest of semester, each student will work closely with a supervisor to complete assignments.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)

- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

Graduate Capabilities

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

- Evaluate, synthesise and analyse various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.
- Communicate (either performative or oral, and written) a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods in their field of research.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Project
- Final Report

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

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the literature in their field as it applies to the students' research topic.
- Apply knowledge and theories to new contexts and multiple media.

- Produce multi-modal creative work relevant to students' disciplines.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Project
- Final Report

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

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the literature in their field as it applies to the students' research topic.
- Evaluate, synthesise and analyse various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.
- Analyse and evaluate the arguments of others and revise and develop students' own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly work in their field of knowledge.
- Apply knowledge and theories to new contexts and multiple media.
- Produce multi-modal creative work relevant to students' disciplines.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Project
- Final Report

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

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the literature in their field as it applies to the

students' research topic.

- Evaluate, synthesise and analyse various texts (music, media, literary, theoretical) and scholarly literature appropriate to their research topic.
- Analyse and evaluate the arguments of others and revise and develop students' own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly work in their field of knowledge.
- Communicate (either performative or oral, and written) a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods in their field of research.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Project
- Final Report

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 outcomes

- Analyse and evaluate the arguments of others and revise and develop students' own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly work in their field of knowledge.
- Communicate (either performative or oral, and written) a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods in their field of research.
- Apply knowledge and theories to new contexts and multiple media.
- Produce multi-modal creative work relevant to students' disciplines.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Project
- Final Report

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 outcomes

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the literature in their field as it applies to the students' research topic.
- Analyse and evaluate the arguments of others and revise and develop students' own ideas and arguments in relation to the scholarly work in their field of knowledge.
- Communicate (either performative or oral, and written) a clear and coherent exposition of the theoretical and analytical knowledge and methods in their field of research.
- Apply knowledge and theories to new contexts and multiple media.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
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- Final Report