MAS 215
Theorising Media
S2 Day 2016

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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http://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/57747/unit_guide/print
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Ian Collinson
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Contact via ian.collinson@mq.edu.au
Y3A 191G
By appointment

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
15cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit introduces students to some of the major theories and movements, including marxism, psychoanalysis, feminism, structuralism, deconstruction, post-colonialism, ecocriticism etc., that have framed and continue to frame the way we understand the production and consumption of media, its meaning and its affect.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify a range of theories that frame our encounters with media texts and practices (1,2)
2. Understand key issues in a wide and far ranging theoretical, historical and cultural debate about media texts and practices (1,2,3)
3. Analyse different media texts using different theories (1,2,3)
4. Communicate in written academic discourse (4,5)
5. Communicate in oral academic discourse (2,5)
General Assessment Information

Written work must be submitted via Turnitin. You do not need to attach a cover sheet to your essays.

Late Penalties

Essays that are submitted late will be penalised 10% per day late unless the student has organised an extension of time beforehand. Students will be expected to provide a completed Professional Authority Form (PAF) or other written evidence of serious misadventure. **Weekends count towards the late period.**

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7th September (Week 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 3</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>2nd November (Week 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 4</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Week 13 Tutorial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 1

Due: **7th September (Week 6)**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will analyse a set text through one of the following foundational media/cultural theories—Marxism, Psychoanalysis, Feminism. The set texts for each theory will be made available through Ilearn during the first weeks of semester.

In this assignment students will be assessed on their critical engagement with unit and individually researched reading material, their undertaking of the task, their knowledge of theory, their critical and relational thinking and their use of academic writing conventions like structure, academic english and referencing.

**Minimum Research Requirement:** At least **two** unit readings from the relevant week plus at least **two** other relevant and appropriate academic publications.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Identify a range of theories that frame our encounters with media texts and practices (1,2)
- Understand key issues in a wide and far ranging theoretical, historical and cultural debate about media texts and practices (1,2,3)
Task 2
Due: Continuous
Weighting: 20%

Students are expected to read the material in the unit reader prior to tutorials, to take part in class discussion and group work, and attend lectures. Participation will be graded twice (2 X 10%) during the semester (in weeks 7 and 13).

Students will be assessed on their informed participation in the group work that features in each week's tutorial.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Identify a range of theories that frame our encounters with media texts and practices (1,2)
• Understand key issues in a wide and far ranging theoretical, historical and cultural debate about media texts and practices (1,2,3)
• Analyse different media texts using different theories (1,2,3)
• Communicate in oral academic discourse (2,5)

Task 3
Due: 2nd November (Week 12)
Weighting: 40%

Students will analyse a set text, or a small range of texts, through one of the following theories—Postcolonialism, Ecocriticism, Psychogeography. As with essay one, the set texts will be circulated via iLearn during the semester.

In this assignment students will be assessed on their critical engagement with unit and individually researched reading material, their undertaking of the task, their knowledge of theory, their critical and relational thinking and their use of academic writing conventions like structure, academic english and referencing.

Minimum Research Requirement: At least three unit readings from the relevant week plus at least three other relevant and appropriate academic publications.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Identify a range of theories that frame our encounters with media texts and practices (1,2)
• Understand key issues in a wide and far ranging theoretical, historical and cultural debate about media texts and practices (1,2,3)
• Analyse different media texts using different theories (1,2,3)
• Communicate in written academic discourse (4,5)

Task 4
Due: Week 13 Tutorial
Weighting: 20%

A closed-book multiple-choice class test. The questions will be based on lecture and tutorial material from Weeks 2, 6, 7, 11 and 12. Questions will test students' knowledge of the key concepts of that week's particular theory.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Identify a range of theories that frame our encounters with media texts and practices (1,2)
• Understand key issues in a wide and far ranging theoretical, historical and cultural debate about media texts and practices (1,2,3)
• Communicate in written academic discourse (4,5)

Delivery and Resources
The MAS215 unit reader will be available 'on demand' from the Printery. There will be a link in iLearn to facilitate this procedure.

Lectures will be available through Eco360. Tutorials will be held at various times on Thursday and Friday.

Essays must be submitted to Turnitin. Students must ensure that they upload the correct file as Turnitin will only accept a single submission.

Unit Schedule
Introduction
1 -- Doing Theory

Part One: Foundations & roots
2 -- Scientists of the text: Structuralism
3 -- Media & Society: Marxism

4 -- The Return of the Repressed: Psychoanalysis


5 -- Media and the Other: Feminism


**Part Two: Developments & branches**

6 -- Distracting Distractions: Mass Culture Theory


7 -- The Society of the Spectacle: Situationism


8 -- The Empire Writes Back: Postcolonialism


**Part Three: Contemporary Concerns**

9 -- Tales from the Natural World: Ecocriticism


10 -- Writing the City/the City as Writing: Psychogeography


11 -- Ethical Reading: the ethical turn


**Conclusion**

12 -- Theory After theory? Theory in the post-theoretical moment

Brian Boyd (2006) 'Theory is Dead--Like a Zombie', *Philosophy & Literature*, 30:1, 289-298

13 -- No lecture

Please Note: full details of all the weekly readings are available in ilearn.
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


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/

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.

Additional information

MMCCS website https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_arts/department_of_media_music_communication_and_cultural_studies/

MMCCS Session Re-mark Application http://www.mq.edu.au/pubstatic/public/download/?id=167914

Information is correct at the time of publication

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/
Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Identify a range of theories that frame our encounters with media texts and practices (1,2)
- Understand key issues in a wide and far ranging theoretical, historical and cultural debate about media texts and practices (1,2,3)
- Analyse different media texts using different theories (1,2,3)
Assessment tasks

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3
- Task 4

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify a range of theories that frame our encounters with media texts and practices (1,2)
- Understand key issues in a wide and far ranging theoretical, historical and cultural debate about media texts and practices (1,2,3)
- Analyse different media texts using different theories (1,2,3)
- Communicate in oral academic discourse (2,5)

Assessment tasks

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3
- Task 4

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand key issues in a wide and far ranging theoretical, historical and cultural debate about media texts and practices (1,2,3)
Analyse different media texts using different theories (1,2,3)

**Assessment tasks**

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Analyse different media texts using different theories (1,2,3)

**Assessment tasks**

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Communicate in written academic discourse (4,5)
- Communicate in oral academic discourse (2,5)

**Assessment tasks**

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3
Changes from Previous Offering

In the 2016 iteration of MAS215 the only significant change is to the class-test assessment: a short-answer format has been replaced by multiple-choice.

Research Requirements

There are minimum research requirements for both essay assignments:

- **Essay One Minimum Research Requirement**: At least two unit readings from the relevant week plus at least two other relevant and appropriate academic publications.

- **Essay Two Minimum Research Requirement**: At least three unit readings from the relevant week plus at least three other relevant and appropriate academic publications.

When looking for relevant publications outside the unit reader don't place your trust in online sources of doubtful provenance. To help you in your research you'll find in ilearn a brief list of 'suggested reading', including some reliable online material: please use this list as a starting point for your independent research. The quality of your research will be reflected in the quality of your analysis.

Referencing

For this unit the Harvard referencing style should be used. For a comprehensive referencing style guide please go to http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/tutorials/citing/harvard.html. Please note that footnote-style referencing is not acceptable for this unit.

Turnitin

All written assignments must be processed through the Turnitin anti-plagiarism software. Essays are to be uploaded via ilearn.