MHIS3030

Screening the Past: History on Film and Television

Session 2, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

Contents

Disclaimer

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Notice

As part of Phase 3 of our return to campus plan, most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to timetable viewer. To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Michelle Arrow
michelle.arrow@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
130cp at 1000 level or above OR (20cp in HIST or MHIS or POL or POIR or MHIX or POIX units at 2000 level)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Recent surveys of popular historical awareness have demonstrated that most people find out about the past from film and television, yet visual histories are often criticised for the ways they present the past. This unit will consider the limitations and possibilities of history on screen. Do filmic histories represent a more 'authentic' engagement with the past, or do they peddle false versions of history to a gullible public? How might we read historical films and television programs carefully and critically to understand diverse historical interpretations? This unit will develop student's understandings of the critical study of history on film, examining the ways that all historical texts (including films) make arguments about the past. The unit will examine cinematic and televisual representations of Australian, American and British histories.

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:

ULO1: Locate historical films and television programs within the context of their production.

ULO2: Demonstrate understanding of the ways that films and television programs produce interpretations of the past.

ULO3: Conceptualise and create an original research project by presenting a coherent

historical argument that is situated in the relevant historiography.

ULO4: Successfully undertake independent primary and secondary historical research.

ULO5: Develop and apply a critical vocabulary for the analysis of film and televisual materials as primary sources.

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 (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Note: written assessment tasks are always due by **midnight** on the specified date.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Active class participation	10%	No	assessed across semester
Weekly Reading Journal	20%	No	complete throughout semester, submit 10/11/20
Research essay	50%	No	6/11/20
Research Project Proposal	20%	No	11/9/20

Active class participation

Assessment Type [1]: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 13 hours
Due: **assessed across semester**
Weighting: **10%**

students will be assessed on their engaged and active contributions to class discussions and activities, either in iLearn discussion forums or in zoom video conference tutorial sessions. Students will be assessed on the quality of their contributions and their willingness to productively engage with the views and ideas of others.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Locate historical films and television programs within the context of their production.

- Demonstrate understanding of the ways that films and television programs produce interpretations of the past.
- Develop and apply a critical vocabulary for the analysis of film and televisual materials as primary sources.

Weekly Reading Journal

Assessment Type [1]: Report
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 5 hours
Due: **complete throughout semester, submit 10/11/20**
Weighting: **20%**

This task evaluates your understanding of the weekly film and the essential readings. Each week, students will complete a short (approx 250-300 words) outlining the core argument of the essential readings and analysing the way the set screen text represents history. The reading journal must be completed for 11 of the 13 weeks of the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Locate historical films and television programs within the context of their production.
- Demonstrate understanding of the ways that films and television programs produce interpretations of the past.
- Develop and apply a critical vocabulary for the analysis of film and televisual materials as primary sources.

Research essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 50 hours
Due: **6/11/20**
Weighting: **50%**

This assessment task evaluates student's ability to construct an argument in response to a self-devised research question, based on primary and secondary sources. This task is the culmination of the assessment tasks in this unit; all previous assessments provide "scaffolding" for this final task.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Locate historical films and television programs within the context of their production.

- Demonstrate understanding of the ways that films and television programs produce interpretations of the past.
- Conceptualise and create an original research project by presenting a coherent historical argument that is situated in the relevant historiography.
- Successfully undertake independent primary and secondary historical research.
- Develop and apply a critical vocabulary for the analysis of film and televisual materials as primary sources.

Research Project Proposal

Assessment Type [1]: Plan
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 23 hours
Due: **11/9/20**
Weighting: **20%**

This task will assess your ability to develop a research question and approach, as well as your ability to locate and analyse primary and secondary sources. You will respond to a series of questions to prepare the proposal.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Locate historical films and television programs within the context of their production.
- Demonstrate understanding of the ways that films and television programs produce interpretations of the past.
- Conceptualise and create an original research project by presenting a coherent historical argument that is situated in the relevant historiography.
- Successfully undertake independent primary and secondary historical research.
- Develop and apply a critical vocabulary for the analysis of film and televisual materials as primary sources.

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Delivery:

this unit is taught through a combination of a lecture, a film screening and a tutorial - the lecture and film screening will be available online, and you must listen to the lecture and watch the film before you before you attend the tutorial.

Resources:

All the required readings for MHIS3030 are available via the MHIS3030 iLearn site or directly through the University Library. You do not require any textbooks.

The library holds most of the required films for this unit, as well as a large number of other films you will find useful or relevant. You can also access many films through your local video store (if you still have one!) or streaming services. You may have to purchase access to one or two of the film texts we study in the unit.

Unit Schedule

1. Introduction
2. Genre, Humour and the Holocaust: *Life is Beautiful*
3. Fabrications, Inventions and historical 'truth': *JFK*
4. Slavery and Abolition I: *Amazing Grace*
5. Slavery and Abolition II: *Django Unchained*
6. Early Modern Political Biography I: *Elizabeth*
7. Early Modern Political Biography II: *Elizabeth R*
8. Australia at War I: *Paradise Road*
9. Australia at War II: *Gallipoli*
10. WWII I: *Saving Private Ryan*
11. WWII II: *Dunkirk*
12. Women's Liberation and the Sixties I: *Mad Men*
13. Women's Liberation and the Sixties II: *Paper Giants: The Birth of Cleo*

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). 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.)*

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the 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 (https://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 published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment

- Workshops

- StudyWise

- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides

- Ask a Librarian

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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.