



MMCC3240

Natures-Cultures

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lecturer and tutor

Ian Collinson

ian.collinson@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

10HA 191G

Please email to make an appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

While we often think of culture as something that distinguishes humans from the natural world, today the lines between nature and culture, biology and technology, humans and other species are increasingly difficult to draw. Bringing together perspectives from the environmental humanities, media and cultural studies, and the creative arts, this unit gives students a vocabulary to reflect on their entanglements with a more-than-human world. How are other species, environments and planetary processes, such as climate change, represented by different cultures, the media and before the law? Is culture a uniquely human phenomenon, or are there non-human modes of agency, community, language, technology and artistic expression? How might these nature-culture-technology entanglements come to matter - ethically, imaginatively and ecologically? Students will explore key concepts of the environmental humanities and will engage in ideas about human-environment relations and environmental justice.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates>

Learning Outcomes

ULO1: communicate an understanding of the value of environmental humanities and cultural studies.

ULO2: apply key concepts, methods and arguments from the environmental humanities to contemporary social, cultural, and ethical issues and debates.

ULO3: reflect on the relationship between humans and the non-human world around them.

ULO4: evaluate the different ways of relating to, conceptualizing, narrating and imagining nature-culture-technology entanglements.

ULO5: analyse the ethical issues in human-environment relations and articulate a position on environmental justice.

General Assessment Information

Important: Be sure to keep a copy of all your work submitted. Keep these copies until the unit is over and you have received your final grade from the University.

Late Assessment Penalty

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. No late submission will be accepted for timed assessments -- e.g. quizzes, online tests etc.

Assessment Standards

All work submitted for this unit will be graded according to standards outlined in the following table.

GRADE	RANGE	STATUS	DESCRIPTION
HD	85-100	Pass	Provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality, insight or creativity in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions and their implications; creativity in application as appropriate to the program.
D	75-84	Pass	Provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality or creativity in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the program and the audience.
CR	65-74	Pass	Provides evidence of learning that goes beyond replication of content knowledge or skills relevant to the learning outcomes. There is demonstration of substantial understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of study and the ability to apply these concepts in a variety of contexts; convincing argumentation with appropriate coherent justification; communication of ideas fluently and clearly in terms of the conventions of the program.

P	50-64	Pass	Provides sufficient evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes. There is demonstration of understanding and application of fundamental concepts of the program; routine argumentation with acceptable justification; communication of information and ideas adequately in terms of the conventions of the program. The learning attainment is considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in relation to the specified outcomes.
F	0-49	Fail	Does not provide evidence of attainment of learning outcomes. There is missing or partial or superficial or faulty understanding and application of the fundamental concepts in the field of study; missing, undeveloped, inappropriate or confusing argumentation; incomplete, confusing or lacking communication of ideas in ways that give little attention to the conventions of the program.

Remark Policy

The Department of Media, Music, Communication & Cultural Studies has an assignment remark policy. Please find the relevant information/application form here: <http://www.mq.edu.au/pubstati c/public/download/?id=167914>

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Ecological Companions</u>	50%	No	3rd June (Week 13)
<u>Active Participation</u>	20%	No	Continuous during semester
<u>Nature-Culture Entanglements</u>	30%	No	9th April (Week 7)

Ecological Companions

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **3rd June (Week 13)**

Weighting: **50%**

Reflective Task

In this assessment students will be asked to find an ecological companion to think with, it may be living or non-living – a plant, a water way, an insect, a microbe, a machine, a mountain, a weather event, a physical phenomenon such as electricity, a geologic process, a familiar walk way, a new technology, or an urban environment. Throughout the semester, students will keep a journal, where they research their ecological companion, and experiment to find ways to think and write in their company.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- communicate an understanding of the value of environmental humanities and cultural

studies.

- apply key concepts, methods and arguments from the environmental humanities to contemporary social, cultural, and ethical issues and debates.
- reflect on the relationship between humans and the non-human world around them.
- evaluate the different ways of relating to, conceptualizing, narrating and imagining nature-culture-technology entanglements.
- analyse the ethical issues in human-environment relations and articulate a position on environmental justice.

Active Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Continuous during semester**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will be assessed on their active and ongoing contribution to learning activities and classes. This includes: engaging with the weekly readings and lectures, listening to peers and collaborating with them, and undertaking class activities designed to help students prepare for the other two assessments. Students will be assessed on the quality of their ongoing and active engagement evident during class discussions and learning activities.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- communicate an understanding of the value of environmental humanities and cultural studies.
- apply key concepts, methods and arguments from the environmental humanities to contemporary social, cultural, and ethical issues and debates.
- reflect on the relationship between humans and the non-human world around them.
- evaluate the different ways of relating to, conceptualizing, narrating and imagining nature-culture-technology entanglements.
- analyse the ethical issues in human-environment relations and articulate a position on environmental justice.

Nature-Culture Entanglements

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **9th April (Week 7)**

Weighting: **30%**

Essay

In this essay, students will be asked to identify a particular entanglement between nature and culture which matters to them. Why is this entanglement important, and what new ways of thinking, acting and imagining ecologically are needed in response?

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- communicate an understanding of the value of environmental humanities and cultural studies.
- apply key concepts, methods and arguments from the environmental humanities to contemporary social, cultural, and ethical issues and debates.
- reflect on the relationship between humans and the non-human world around them.
- evaluate the different ways of relating to, conceptualizing, narrating and imagining nature-culture-technology entanglements.
- analyse the ethical issues in human-environment relations and articulate a position on environmental justice.

¹ If you need guidance or support to understand or complete this type of assessment, please contact the Learning Skills Team

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

The unit will run as a weekly one-hour lecture and one-hour tutorial. Both the lecture and the tutorials will be held on **Tuesday 11-1 in room 210, 4 Western Road.**

Lectures begin in week 1; tutorials start in week 2.

Remember to check on the day of the first class to make sure that there are no last minute room changes to the lecture and tutorial venue!

Class Attendance

Listening to different perspectives and actively discussing important and provocative issues and ideas is an essential component of MCCS3240. It is something we value highly and we think you will get a lot out of it too. For this reason, regular ongoing face-to-face attendance of weekly lectures and tutorials is essential if you are going to get the most from the unit.

Keep in mind, that in 'Active Participation' (assignment 1), you will be assessed on the quality of your ongoing contributions to class discussion and activities. So attending regularly throughout the semester will give you the best opportunity to undertake this assignment task.

Required and Recommended Readings

It is essential that you come to class prepared (by having done the readings) and ready to participate in class activities and discussions.

The readings are chosen to be engaging and challenging. If you find some sections tricky, when you first do the reading don't worry, there will be lots of opportunity in the lectures and tutorials to unpack things further. Often it is helpful to reread pieces you find particularly interesting, difficult or provocative after the weekly tutorial and lecture, to gain a deeper understanding.

Accessing Readings and Resources

All reading will be available online via the Leganto link in Ilearn,

Unit Schedule

The schedule of lectures will be made available via ilearn. However, here are some of the topics that are likely to be addressed in lectures: what is culture? What is nature?; thinking beyond the culture/nature binary; nature before and after Romanticism; the environmental humanities; the Anthropocene; thinking about climate change; animal rights and worlds; Indigenous perspectives; ecomedia, etc

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.*)

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](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>).

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 improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Enquiry Service

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

Equity 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.

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.