



ABST3040

Settler Colonialism, Decolonisation and Indigenous Futures

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2021

Department of Indigenous Studies

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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 activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face 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

Bronwyn Carlson

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides an overview and critical analysis of Indigenous–settler politics in Australia. Students will develop a nuanced, critically-informed understanding of settler colonialism as a political structure, and explore how it manifests through both policy and institutional cultures in Australia. The unit then turns to practices of decolonisation, unpacking the role of political protests, land claims and non-Indigenous allies in moving towards justice in the context of settler colonialism. It closes by exploring ‘Indigenous futurisms’—how Indigenous people are already both imagining and practicing a decolonised Australia—including through digital media, queer identities, and science fiction.

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: Demonstrate an understanding of settler colonialism as a political structure, and explore how it manifests through both policy and institutional cultures in Australia

ULO2: Demonstrate knowledge and scholarly understanding of practices of decolonisation

ULO3: Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the role of political protests, land

claims and non-Indigenous allies in moving towards justice in the context of settler colonialism

ULO4: Demonstrate ability to produce effective critically engaged arguments through rigorous engagement with academic resources

ULO5: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how Indigenous people are already both imagining and practicing a decolonised Australia—including through digital media, queer identities, and science fiction.

General Assessment Information

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

Terminology protocols for Indigenous Studies

In Australia there are two distinct Indigenous peoples: Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people.

When writing about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders do not use the acronym 'ATSI', write in full. Capital letters should always be used when referring to Aboriginal peoples and or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are acceptable terms to use, it should be recognised that these are collective terms and often used improperly to impose a single identity on the many different communities.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people generally prefer to be known by the language/cultural groups or communities, to which they belong, that is, own names rather than terms such 'the Aboriginals' or 'the Islanders'. For example, Aboriginal people in the area surrounding Macquarie University may refer to themselves as Dharug. It is important that you always check the correct name or terms to use for people in the area/region.

The use of incorrect, inappropriate or dated terminology is to be avoided as it can give offence. Many historical terms or those in common usage some years ago are now not acceptable, including terms such as 'aborigine' 'native', 'savage' and 'primitive'. Similarly, do not use the terms 'half-caste', 'part-Aborigine/Aboriginal' or any reference to skin colour or physical features, as they do not signify that a person is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and may cause offence. When quoting from academic or other sources that uses inappropriate, dated terminology or racists language, use (sic) directly after the inappropriate term of phrase, thus calling attention to the fact that it has been sourced from the original and that you understand it to be outdated, inappropriate or problematic in the contemporary context.

For more information please refer to the Terminology Guide available in iLearn.

Referencing

Referencing is an essential component of academic writing or presentation since it enables the reader to follow up the source of ideas and information presented in your work, and to examine the interpretation you place on the material discovered in your research. Reliable referencing clearly indicates where you have drawn your own conclusions from the evidence presented. Importantly, much of the material you will use is covered by copyright which means that you must acknowledge any source of information, including books, journals, newsprint, images and the internet. It is obligatory for students to reference all sources used in their written work including electronic material. Students should consult the University library website for a detailed explanation and examples of how to reference electronic material correctly. Different programs use different referencing styles to reflect the needs of their discipline. It is the student's responsibility to check which referencing style is used. Indigenous Studies use the Harvard referencing style.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Content Quizzes	30%	No	Weeks 5 (22/3/21), 9 (3/5/21) and 13 (31/5/21)
Minor Essay	30%	No	Week 7, Friday 23rd April 2021
Major Essay	40%	No	Week 12, Friday 28th May 2021

Content Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Weeks 5 (22/3/21), 9 (3/5/21) and 13 (31/5/21)**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will complete 3x quizzes (10% each) with 12 questions on the relevant theme, opening the week following the last week on that theme (weeks 5, 9, 13)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of settler colonialism as a political structure, and explore how it manifests through both policy and institutional cultures in Australia
- Demonstrate knowledge and scholarly understanding of practices of decolonisation
- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the role of political protests, land claims and

non-Indigenous allies in moving towards justice in the context of settler colonialism

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how Indigenous people are already both imagining and practicing a decolonised Australia—including through digital media, queer identities, and science fiction.

Minor Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 7, Friday 23rd April 2021**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will complete a minor 1500 word essay on settler colonialism. Students must articulate what constitutes settler colonialism and then discuss how it manifests in concrete ways in Australia (policy eras, income management, education, health).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of settler colonialism as a political structure, and explore how it manifests through both policy and institutional cultures in Australia
- Demonstrate knowledge and scholarly understanding of practices of decolonisation
- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the role of political protests, land claims and non-Indigenous allies in moving towards justice in the context of settler colonialism
- Demonstrate ability to produce effective critically engaged arguments through rigorous engagement with academic resources

Major Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Week 12, Friday 28th May 2021**

Weighting: **40%**

Students will complete a 2500 word essay. Questions will be provided on the iLearn site, but will focus on either decolonisation or Indigenous futures.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of settler colonialism as a political structure, and explore

how it manifests through both policy and institutional cultures in Australia

- Demonstrate knowledge and scholarly understanding of practices of decolonisation
- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the role of political protests, land claims and non-Indigenous allies in moving towards justice in the context of settler colonialism
- Demonstrate ability to produce effective critically engaged arguments through rigorous engagement with academic resources
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how Indigenous people are already both imagining and practicing a decolonised Australia—including through digital media, queer identities, and science fiction.

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

Online units can be accessed at: <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>.

Students are to listen to engage with all material on ilearn.

PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g. internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

Please consult teaching staff for any further, more specific requirements.

Unit Schedule

Available on the ABST3040 iLearn site

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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.