MHPG916
Australian Popular Culture from the Fifties to Now
S1 External 2014

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Michelle Arrow
michelle.arrow@mq.edu.au
Contact via michelle.arrow@mq.edu.au
W6A 416
Fridays 2-3pm or other times by appointment

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
(12cp in AHST or POL or MHIS units at 300 level) or admission to MA in (History or Modern History) or PGDipArts in Modern History or PGCertArts in Modern History

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
A survey of Australian popular culture from the 1950s to now with an emphasis on its place in everyday life and its wider meanings. The unit examines the changing roles played by television, radio, popular music, film, print media and new media encouraging students to think about their own experiences of popular culture historically.

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
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources;
Find, analyse and apply historical information (especially self-located research materials);
Communicate effectively in written forms;
Understand some of the key developments in the historiography of popular culture;
Demonstrate how popular culture has reflected social and cultural change in postwar
Australia;
Analyse and explain the ways that consumerism, globalization and nationalism have shaped the production and consumption of postwar popular culture;
Discuss the relationships between popular culture, memory and history.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pop Culture Review</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Friday 11 April 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Assessed across semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Friday 6 June 2014, 5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pop Culture Review**

Due: **Friday 11 April 2014**
Weighting: 30%

The purpose of this assignment is twofold. First, it gives me an early opportunity to assess your writing and comprehension skills, so we can direct you to study skills and support services if necessary. Second, it allows you to closely engage with one particular item of popular culture in order to place it in its historical context. For this assignment, you need to choose one item of Australian popular culture, produced between 1945 and now - a television program, a film, a band or performer, a magazine, a technology (the transistor radio, the iPod), or a cultural figure (like the Bodgie, for example) - and write a short, analytical history of its significance and historical meaning. It is important to focus on the historical context here: this is not a detailed history of a musical form, or of the technological developments that made the item possible, but you are placing this item in its *historical* context.

To do well in this assignment, it is important to research your chosen item carefully – read issues of the magazine or view episodes of the television program – but also to research what other historians have said about your chosen item. Your aim is to explain what your chosen item can tell us about the history of Australia and the history of popular culture.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources;
- Find, analyse and apply historical information (especially self-located research materials);
- Communicate effectively in written forms;
Online participation

Due: **Assessed across semester**
Weighting: **20%**

Each week, you will be required to take an active and engaged part in online class discussions, hosted on the MHPG916 iLearn site. You will be assessed on the quality and regularity of your postings. A few guidelines for online participation:

1. keep your postings relatively brief and to the point - avoid overly digressive and anecdotal postings
2. be prepared: do the weekly readings, watch the film, and come to discussions ready to ask and answer questions
3. Always aim to move the discussion forward - add something that hasn't already been said (this means reading all the posts before you add your own)
4. try to respond to the postings made by others - the aim is to start and maintain a conversation!

Please note: if you are not able to participate in these weekly discussions, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss an alternative assessment task.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources;
- Communicate effectively in written forms;
- Demonstrate how popular culture has reflected social and cultural change in postwar Australia;
- Analyse and explain the ways that consumerism, globalization and nationalism have shaped the production and consumption of postwar popular culture;

Research Essay

Due: **Friday 6 June 2014, 5pm**
Weighting: **50%**

For this assignment, you are required to address a question that you have formulated, a question that relates to any of the ideas, issues or topics covered in the unit. You should clear your question with me **by Friday 9 May** at the latest and you should include some primary research in
your preparation for the essay. Your essay should reflect your ability to conduct wide-ranging primary and secondary research, it should address your question directly and it should mount an historical interpretation and provide evidence for its claims.

Your paper must be referenced in accordance with the conventions of the Department of Modern History (see the guide here: http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_arts/mhpir/modern_history/writing_essays_in_history/) ) and include a heading which identifies the question and a bibliography.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources;
- Find, analyse and apply historical information (especially self-located research materials);
- Communicate effectively in written forms;
- Understand some of the key developments in the historiography of popular culture;
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- Discuss the relationships between popular culture, memory and history.

**Delivery and Resources**

Technology used and required:

This unit is delivered and taught through Macquarie University's online learning management system, iLearn: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au. All weekly discussions will be conducted there and you will access to the internet in order to participate.

Teaching delivery:

This unit is taught through a combination of readings and online discussions. You need to participate in the online discussions every week: the discussions will run across the whole week so that everyone has a chance to participate. You will need to complete the required readings each week in order to participate in the discussions.

Resources:

All the required weekly readings for the unit are contained in two texts, both available for sale in the University Co-Op Bookshop: Michelle Arrow's book *Friday on Our Minds: Popular Culture in Australia since 1945* (UNSW Press, 2009), and the MHPG916 unit reader. You can also borrow
**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Online Discussion Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Welcome to MHPG916 - introductions and getting started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Welcome (continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Historical approaches to popular culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Popular culture and family life in postwar Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1950s youth cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Did the sixties swing in Australia?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mid-semester break</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pop culture and radical nationalism in the 1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>New voices, new themes part one: gender and sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>New voices, new themes part two: race and ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Postwar sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>No place like home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Popular culture and memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Research essay findings and wrapping up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning and Teaching Activities

Online discussions
weekly online discussions with peers

critical and engaged reading
careful reading of weekly texts to identify arguments and key themes

analysis of primary sources
finding and analyzing non-textual and textual primary sources and connecting them to the weekly themes and readings

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/

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](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

**Equity Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](http://disability.mq.edu.au) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**IT Help**


When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

**Graduate Capabilities**

**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**

- Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources;
- Find, analyse and apply historical information (especially self-located research materials);
- Understand some of the key developments in the historiography of popular culture;
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- Analyse and explain the ways that consumerism, globalization and nationalism have shaped the production and consumption of postwar popular culture;
- Discuss the relationships between popular culture, memory and history.
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**

- Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources;
- Find, analyse and apply historical information (especially self-located research materials);
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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**

- Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources;
- Find, analyse and apply historical information (especially self-located research materials);
- Understand some of the key developments in the historiography of popular culture;
- Demonstrate how popular culture has reflected social and cultural change in postwar Australia;
- Analyse and explain the ways that consumerism, globalization and nationalism have shaped the production and consumption of postwar popular culture;
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**

- Communicate effectively in written forms;
- Discuss the relationships between popular culture, memory and history.

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 how popular culture has reflected social and cultural change in postwar Australia;
- Analyse and explain the ways that consumerism, globalization and nationalism have shaped the production and consumption of postwar popular culture;

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**

- Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources;
- Understand some of the key developments in the historiography of popular culture;
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16/01/2014</td>
<td>The Prerequisites was updated.</td>
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