FOAR7000
Research Paradigms
Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2021
Arts Faculty level units

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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
Greg Downey
greg.downey@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit provides a broad overview of the research paradigms that characterize the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Through this unit, the Faculty of Arts seeks to provide students with a constructive framework to recognise the possible contribution of diverse theoretical and disciplinary approaches. By concentrating on a core problem that crosses disciplinary boundaries in their final assessment task, demonstrating how that problem might be confronted under different paradigms, students will become conversant in a range of analytical techniques and theoretical perspectives. Students will learn to better recognise the assumptions that underwrite diverse approaches, their strengths, and their relations to each other, especially to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of ideas. Although much of scholarship today requires focused specialisation, being able to communicate our ideas, recognising the significance of new research, and building meaningful collaborations all require an understanding of the diversity of approaches available in the Arts.

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: refer to and use key texts and intellectual paradigms in the context of a range of Arts disciplines.

ULO3: communicate a clear and coherent explanation of ideas to different audiences, including within their own discipline and across cognate disciplines.
ULO4: analyse a model text and identify broad paradigms being deployed by another theorist.

ULO5: devise model research projects, on a single topic, demonstrating command of multiple theoretical paradigms.

ULO6: describe and evaluate diverse theoretical paradigms in general and in relation to a particular research topic.

### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research design paper</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>8/6/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textual analysis essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>19/4/2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Research design paper**

Assessment Type¹: Essay  
Indicative Time on Task²: 30 hours  
Due: 8/6/2021  
Weighting: 60%

The research design paper is an essay in which the student will lay out the initial proposal for three different project designs, all on a single topic, demonstrating how the project would be articulated under three different research paradigms.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- refer to and use key texts and intellectual paradigms in the context of a range of Arts disciplines.
- communicate a clear and coherent explanation of ideas to different audiences, including within their own discipline and across cognate disciplines.
- devise model research projects, on a single topic, demonstrating command of multiple theoretical paradigms.
- describe and evaluate diverse theoretical paradigms in general and in relation to a particular research topic.

**Textual analysis essay**

Assessment Type¹: Essay  
Indicative Time on Task²: 20 hours
Based on target texts selected by the unit convenors, students are responsible for an analytical essay detailing where at least two (preferably three or more) of the research paradigms discussed in the unit have been employed. Students should be able to cite specific passages, concepts and terminology from the target text to demonstrate where and how a paradigm is being used, and relate them to readings, lectures, and key concepts from the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- refer to and use key texts and intellectual paradigms in the context of a range of Arts disciplines.
- communicate a clear and coherent explanation of ideas to different audiences, including within their own discipline and across cognate disciplines.
- analyse a model text and identify broad paradigms being deployed by another theorist.

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 Learning Skills Unit 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**

All unit readings will be made available through Leganto, online at the Library homepage. All lectures will be either prerecorded or done live so that you can watch them on the Thursday of each week, from 1 to 3 pm. If they are prerecorded, you will have access earlier if you choose to watch them in advance. In our experience, if they are available earlier, many students benefit from watching them early so as not to have so much material in a single block at one time.

**Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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
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 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.

Changes from Previous Offering
The unit guest lecturers have been changed from previous years in some cases, and new weekly paradigm focuses have been added on Historical Narrative and Decolonisation & Indigenous Studies.