ABST2060

Indigenous Histories and Knowledges

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2023

Department of Indigenous Studies

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff  
Zac Roberts  
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Credit points  
10

Prerequisites  
40cp at 1000 level or above and ABST1000

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are recognised as belonging to the oldest living culture on earth with over 60,000 years of histories and knowledges to draw upon. This unit explores Indigenous histories and knowledges from the big bang through to contemporary times. Students will develop an understanding of Indigenous relationships to land, water, fire, food and medicine and recognise the ways in which Indigenous knowledges are utilised in everyday activities. This unit will provide a significant understanding of how Indigenous knowledges about the world can inform future thinking about conservation, land management, climate change and sustainability.

## 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](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates)

## Learning Outcomes

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

**ULO1**: Identify Indigenous Australians’ contemporary and historical contributions to knowledge in scientific and community fields.

**ULO3**: Analyse and reflect on the on-going relationship of Indigenous and non-indigenous knowledges.

**ULO4**: Demonstrate a critical, self-reflective approach to the study of Indigenous
histories, based on respect and mutual responsibility.

**ULO2:** Recognise the diversity of Indigenous knowledges and in fields of science, technology, land and Country.

**ULO5:** Communicate effectively, in a range of written and spoken formats, within the conventions of the discipline of Indigenous Studies.

**General Assessment Information**

**Late Penalty**

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of 0 (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

**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 and APA referencing style.

### Assessment Tasks

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minor Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>8 September 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weeks 3, 6, 9, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>3 November 2023</td>
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**Minor Essay**

Assessment Type 1: Essay
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours
Due: **8 September 2023**
Weighting: **30%**

Students will produce an essay which responds to one of a choice of questions related to unit content.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify Indigenous Australians’ contemporary and historical contributions to knowledge in scientific and community fields.
- Analyse and reflect on the on-going relationship of Indigenous and non-indigenous
knowledges.
• Recognise the diversity of Indigenous knowledges and in fields of science, technology, land and Country.
• Communicate effectively, in a range of written and spoken formats, within the conventions of the discipline of Indigenous Studies.

Content Quizzes
Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task 2: 26 hours
Due: Weeks 3, 6, 9, 12
Weighting: 30%

Quizzes focused on content.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Identify Indigenous Australians’ contemporary and historical contributions to knowledge in scientific and community fields.
• Analyse and reflect on the on-going relationship of Indigenous and non-indigenous knowledges.
• Recognise the diversity of Indigenous knowledges and in fields of science, technology, land and Country.
• Communicate effectively, in a range of written and spoken formats, within the conventions of the discipline of Indigenous Studies.

Major Essay
Assessment Type 1: Essay
Indicative Time on Task 2: 40 hours
Due: 3 November 2023
Weighting: 40%

Students will choose a question related to a particular area of Indigenous histories and knowledges and produce a critical essay that is informed by relevant Indigenous Studies literature.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Analyse and reflect on the on-going relationship of Indigenous and non-indigenous knowledges.
• Demonstrate a critical, self-reflective approach to the study of Indigenous histories, based on respect and mutual responsibility.
• Communicate effectively, in a range of written and spoken formats, within the conventions of the discipline of Indigenous Studies.

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**

ABST2060 weekly material (weekly topic descriptions, weekly readings and weekly tutorial questions) can be accessed at: [http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/](http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/).

Students are required to watch online lectures via Echo online and respond to the weekly tutorial questions in online or face to face tutorials or on the unit forums. If you are unable to attend a tutorial please email your tutor and let them know about your situation, your tutor may decide to set you some work to catch up.

The library provides study skills support. Information about library resources and study skills is available at: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study)

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.

**Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central ([https://polices.mq.edu.au](https://polices.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
Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student 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) 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

**Academic Integrity**

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

**The Writing Centre**

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- **Workshops**
- **Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader**
- **Access StudyWISE**
- **Upload an assignment to Studiosity**
- **Complete the Academic Integrity Module**

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

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
- Student Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

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 since First Published

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20/07/2023</td>
<td>amended late penalty percentage</td>
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