



# WPHL1037

## Critical Thinking

MQUC Term 5, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2023

*Macquarie University College*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Senior Teacher

Peter Jackson

[peter.jackson@mq.edu.au](mailto:peter.jackson@mq.edu.au)

Contact via By email

Macquarie University College

Contact staff member

Teacher

Selina Springett

[selina.springett@mq.edu.au](mailto:selina.springett@mq.edu.au)

Contact via By email

Macquarie University College

Contact staff member

Teacher

John Fairley

[john.fairley@mq.edu.au](mailto:john.fairley@mq.edu.au)

Contact via By email

Macquarie University College

Contact staff member

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit aims to teach the fundamentals of critical thinking and reasoning. Students learn how to construct, analyse and critically evaluate arguments; how to detect common fallacies in reasoning; and how to think logically and creatively. Students will learn these skills by developing practical techniques for the evaluation of reasoning, and applying them to arguments from different areas such as business, law, science, politics, philosophy and the media. Critical thinking skills are invaluable across all disciplines, and will benefit students in academic contexts and in life beyond university.

## 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:** Recognise the structure of arguments, and represent that structure in a clear standardised form.

**ULO2:** Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.

**ULO3:** Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear and standardised form.

**ULO4:** Construct well-reasoned arguments of their own.

**ULO5:** Apply the skills of critical analysis to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

**ULO6:** Communicate disciplinary knowledge using appropriate academic discourses.

## General Assessment Information

### Requirements to Pass

To successfully complete this unit, a student must obtain a numerical overall mark of 50 or more for the unit. For further details about grading, please refer to Part F of the [Assessment Procedure](#).

**Students must also pass any hurdle assessments as stipulated in the Assessment Section of this Unit Guide.**

### Grading

Students will be awarded common result grades as specified in the [Assessment Policy](#).

Students will receive criteria and standards for specific assessment tasks, which will be aligned with the grading descriptors given in [Part F](#) of the [Assessment Procedure](#).

**Note** – Other grades, such as I, IS, UD, UJ may be allocated and these grades are outlined in [Appendix A](#) of the [Assessment Policy](#).

### Where to find information about assessments

General assessment information, such as the number and nature of assessments, due dates and weightings, has been provided in this unit guide.

Specific assessment information including assignment instructions, questions, marking criteria and rubrics as well as examples of relevant and related assessment tasks and responses will be

available in the Assessment section on iLearn.

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assessments must be submitted in accordance with instructions provided in this Unit Guide and via iLearn. Any tasks that are not submitted as per the assessment instructions may be considered a non-submission and a zero mark may be awarded for the task.

### Late Submissions and Penalties (applicable to non-time limited assessment tasks)

Late submissions are allowed but they will attract a late submission penalty unless the student has an approved special consideration application (see the [Special Consideration Policy](#)).

Late penalties are calculated based on the total possible marks allocated to the specific assessment task. The penalty for late submission is as follows:

- 5% of the total possible marks will be deducted if it is late by up to 24 hours.
- A further 5% of the total possible marks will be deducted for each 24-hour period up to 3 days (including weekends).
- 100% of the marks will be deducted after 3 days and zero marks will be awarded.

Please note that online submissions are time stamped and this is used to determine late penalties which means that submitting an assessment even a few seconds after the deadline results in a late submission penalty as noted above. There is no flexibility regarding the application of the late submission penalties. **It is students' responsibility to allow sufficient time for submission of their work and uploading any documents.**

Examples:

#### If the assessment task is due on a Friday at 11.55pm

Submission day/time	Deduction penalty
Before/at 11:55pm Friday	0%
After 11:55pm Fri to 11:55pm Saturday	5%
After 11:55pm Sat to 11:55pm Sunday	10%
After 11:55pm Sun to 11:55pm Monday	15%
After 11.55pm Monday	100%

#### If the assessment task is due on a Wednesday at 11.55pm

Submission day/time	Deduction penalty
Before/at 11:55pm Wednesday	0%
After 11:55pm Wed to 11:55pm Thursday	5%

Submission day/time	Deduction penalty
After 11:55pm Thurs to 11:55pm Friday	10%
After 11:55pm Fri to 11:55pm Saturday	15%
After 11.55pm Saturday	100%

Please see “In-class assessments” section for further information on assessments that take place during class time.

The above late submission penalties do not apply to time-limited assessment tasks. A time-limited assessment task must be submitted by its deadline. Any time-limited task that is not submitted as required will be considered a non-submission and a zero mark will be awarded for the task.

## Extensions (applicable to non-time limited assessment tasks)

Extensions are allowed only if the student is granted a special consideration. To apply for an extension, students must submit their application via [ask.mq.edu.au](https://ask.mq.edu.au).

An **approved** extension will not incur late penalties. However, where a student has been granted an extension and then submits late, i.e., after the stipulated new due date following extension, late penalties will be applied.

## Resubmissions (applicable to non-time limited assessment tasks)

It is students' responsibility to upload their assessments as per the instructions provided on iLearn. Following an initial submission, students may resubmit their work up to 3 days after the due date\* if, for example, they have submitted the incorrect document or forgotten to include information.

\*If you make a resubmission after the due date, your submission will be counted as late, and penalties will be applied.

## Retention of Originals

It is students' responsibility to retain a copy of any work submitted. Students may be required to produce these documents upon request.

Requests for original documentation will be sent to the student's Macquarie University email address. Students must retain all original documentation for a six (6) month period and must supply original documents to the University within ten (10) working days of such a request being made.

## In-Class Assessments (time-limited assessments)

Assessments could be administered during scheduled lessons and students may be asked to produce their Macquarie University Student ID Card or any other official photo ID if required.

Students may not be allowed sit an in-class assessment task if they cannot produce a valid photo ID.

Students are expected to be in class for the whole duration of their scheduled lesson to take the assessment task. No additional time or adjustment will be made for late arriving students or students not ready to submit an assessment at the start of the lesson. Any time-limited task that is not submitted as per assessment instructions will be considered a non-submission and a zero mark will be awarded for the task.

For example, if a one-hour test or quiz is due to take place in a 2-hour lesson, the test or quiz may start at any time in the first hour or at the start of the second hour, so students must be ready to take the test at the beginning of the lesson. No additional time will be given, or adjustment made for students who arrive late. While they may still be permitted to take the assessment, depending on the task, the student will only have the remaining time to complete the task.

## Final Examinations

The final examinations will be held during the Macquarie University College Final Examination period. Students must be available to sit final exams or submit assessments throughout this period.

## Final Examination Timetable

The University will publish the [Final Examination Timetable](#) before the commencement of the final examination period.

## Final Examination Requirements

Details of the structure and format of the final examination will be made available to students via iLearn prior to the start of the final examination period.

For additional information regarding examination requirements refer to the Assessment Policy, [Assessment Procedures](#), Section 3, Part E - Examinations.

## Missed assessments and examinations

For any missed assessment tasks, please refer to the [Special Consideration Policy](#).

## Supplementary Tests and Examinations

When a student is granted a supplementary test or examination, they will be advised of the time, date and location for the supplementary task.

**Supplementary interim assessments**, i.e., assessments held during the Term, will be held throughout the Term and students who are to sit a supplementary exam will be informed of times and dates via [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

**Supplementary final examination** period for formal, end-of-term examinations will be the fortnight following Week 7. Students who need to sit a supplementary final examination are required to be available to undertake examinations during the supplementary examination

period.

No more than one (1) supplementary assessment will be offered to a student in each affected unit, so it is essential that students make themselves available for alternative assessment activities. Please refer to the [Special Consideration Policy](#) for further details.

Results for supplementary final examinations may not be available for up to two weeks following the supplementary examination.

Due to the timing and administration of the supplementary final exams, students in their final Term of study should note that formal completion of their studies at the College may not be possible until supplementary results are released. Similarly, students who are enrolled in a unit which is a prerequisite to another unit should note that they may not be able to enrol in subsequent unit/courses/program of study on time.

## Hurdle Assessments

A hurdle assessment mandates a minimum level of academic performance as a condition of successful completion of a unit. A student who has obtained a numerical mark of at least 50 yet failed all available attempts of a hurdle, fails the unit and receives a FH grade.

## Accessing your Results

Students will be able to view their results for interim assessments via the Grades section in iLearn.

Marks for all assessment tasks will be released to students once marking and all relevant checks are concluded. Students will be able to view their overall result of a unit via eStudent when results are ratified.

## Calculating your WAM

Weighted Average Mark (WAM) will be the average of the actual marks students achieved in all units of their program/course and is a mark out of 100. WAM also incorporates ALL marks, including those from a fail grade. For more information, please refer to the [Understanding your WAM page](#).

## Obtaining Feedback

Feedback is an important part of student development and opportunities for feedback are built into the curriculum at key points throughout the Term. Students who complete the homework and classwork assigned to them will receive constructive feedback from teaching staff about their academic progress and performance in assessment tasks or a unit of study. When relevant, other staff such as Senior Teachers, Program Managers and members of the Student Administration and Services Team will provide feedback and advice to students about their academic performance in a course/program of study. Feedback may be provided to individual students, a group of students or a whole class and it may be written or verbal in nature.

Some examples of feedback include:

- A teaching staff member reviewing a draft submission and giving a student advice on

how to improve their work before making a final submission

- A teaching staff member telling a class that they need to improve their editing of grammar in their recently submitted assignment
- A teaching staff member discussing progress of an individual student before census date to allow the student to decide whether they should remain enrolled in the unit
- Online feedback via announcements or forums, an online marking rubric or various iLearn activities employed in a unit. Please note that feedback on written assessments is usually provided via Feedback Studio in iLearn
- Written marks and comments on a marking sheet or essay
- Recorded voice comment in iLearn provided in response to an essay submitted online
- A student receiving advice that they should consider withdrawing from a unit because they have missed too many classes / too much work to be able to catch up or for other reasons

It is a student's responsibility to:

- attend sessions, be present and actively engaged during times when feedback is provided in scheduled class times
- organise an alternative time with the teacher so that they can receive their feedback if absent from an in-class feedback session due to unavoidable circumstances
- ensure that they have received sufficient feedback prior to their next assessment task and/or final assessment in the unit
- act promptly on feedback provided, e.g., incorporate advice provided into their work and study habits)

Students who are unsure how or when feedback was or will be provided, or feel that feedback provided is not sufficient, should approach relevant teaching or administrative staff and request additional feedback in a timely manner during the Term and prior to any subsequent assessment task or the final assessment task. Claims that not enough feedback was provided are not grounds for a grade appeal, especially when a student did not make any effort to approach staff about obtaining additional feedback in a timely manner. Students may seek general feedback about performance in a unit up to 6 months following results release.

If a student has any problems contacting their teacher, they should seek help from a member of the Student Administration and Services team.

## Contacting Teaching Staff to Obtain Help

For all University-related correspondence, students must use their official Macquarie University student email account. Students may contact teaching staff at any time during the Term by using the teacher contact details provided in this G



## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Online Quizzes</a>	20%	No	Friday-Sunday Weeks 1 and 2, Lesson 1 Week 4
<a href="#">Critical Reflection</a>	15%	No	11:55 pm Sunday, Week 3
<a href="#">Panel Discussion</a>	25%	No	Lesson 2 and 3 Week 5
<a href="#">Argument Brief</a>	40%	No	11:55 pm Friday, Week 6

### Online Quizzes

Assessment Type **1**: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 20 hours

Due: **Friday-Sunday Weeks 1 and 2, Lesson 1 Week 4**

Weighting: **20%**

Students are required to complete two online quizzes outside of class and one in-class invigilated online quiz. The quizzes will cover any of the topics studied until the date on which the quiz is held.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise the structure of arguments, and represent that structure in a clear standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Apply the skills of critical analysis to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.
- Communicate disciplinary knowledge using appropriate academic discourses.

### Critical Reflection

Assessment Type **1**: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 5 hours

Due: **11:55 pm Sunday, Week 3**

Weighting: **15%**

The critical reflection task consists of two stages. In stage 1, students are required to write a

written response to a number of scenarios in Week 1 before any of the unit content is covered. In stage 2, later in the term, students are required to write a critical self-reflection on their scenario responses to evaluate the effectiveness of their responses in light of what they have learned in the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise the structure of arguments, and represent that structure in a clear standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Construct well-reasoned arguments of their own.
- Apply the skills of critical analysis to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

## Panel Discussion

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 15 hours

Due: **Lesson 2 and 3 Week 5**

Weighting: **25%**

Students will work in groups of 2-3 to present arguments on a contemporary public issue. Each student in the group will individually present an argument on the issue from a different perspective. The group will then offer an evaluation and consensus on the arguments and field questions on them.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise the structure of arguments, and represent that structure in a clear standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear and standardised form.
- Construct well-reasoned arguments of their own.
- Apply the skills of critical analysis to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.
- Communicate disciplinary knowledge using appropriate academic discourses.

## Argument Brief

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 25 hours

Due: **11:55 pm Friday, Week 6**

Weighting: **40%**

The students are required to write a brief of an argument on a public issue. The brief must be written from the perspective of a researcher who is writing an analysis and recommendation of the argument for their employer.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise the structure of arguments, and represent that structure in a clear standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear and standardised form.
- Construct well-reasoned arguments of their own.
- Apply the skills of critical analysis to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.
- Communicate disciplinary knowledge using appropriate academic discourses.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

### Term Dates & Calendar

Details of key dates during the term can be found on the [Important Dates](#) calendar.

### Enrolment and Timetables

General timetable information is available via Macquarie University's [Timetable page](#).

Students will be able to enrol and register for classes via [eStudent](#) and view their personal timetable. It is a student's responsibility to ensure that classes they have registered for do not clash.

Students are only permitted to attend classes in which they have registered via eStudent unless they have written approval. To seek approval, students must contact Macquarie University College Student Services, or speak to a member of the Student Administration and Services Team at The College Student Desk (Ground Floor, 8 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue). Approval will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

The last day to enrol, add or change units is the Sunday, 9.00 pm (AEST) before the start of the term. Changing groups is not possible after the enrolment period has concluded.

### **Attendance Requirements – All Students**

Attendance will be monitored in each lesson and students are able to see their current attendance percentage to date and potential attendance percentage for each unit they have enrolled in via [iLearn](#).

- **Current Attendance Percentage** will reflect the percentage of classes a student has attended so far (based only on the lessons held to date).
- **Potential Attendance Percentage** will reflect the percentage of classes a student can potentially attend by the end of the term, taking into consideration lessons attended and assuming the student also attends all future lessons scheduled (based only on the total number of lessons in the Term).

When a student is present for a part of a lesson (for example arrives late, leaves early, leaves the class frequently, particularly for lengthy periods), the teacher reserves the right to mark a student absent for that part of the lesson.

### **Public Holidays and Make-up Lessons**

If any scheduled class falls on a public holiday, a make-up lesson may be scheduled. Please check the iLearn announcements and your emails for details of the make-up lessons.

### **In Term 5, 2023 Monday 2 October is a public holiday.**

### **Technology Used and Required**

- Access to internet
- [AppStream](#) is a fully managed application streaming service that provides MQ users both staff and students with instant access to their applications from anywhere enabling students to use Microsoft Windows applications they require to do their university work from anywhere, anytime, on any device (BYODs).
- Access to [iLearn](#).
- Access to Macquarie University [Library catalogue \(MultiSearch\)](#); and
- Macquarie students can download Microsoft Office Suite software from MS Office portal.

For instructions, please visit [IT Service Desk - Microsoft](#).

### **[Using your Own Device](#)**

Macquarie University students are entitled to free access to the Microsoft Office Suite, which can be accessed [here](#). For any problems related to this link and Microsoft Office Suite please contact [OneHelp](#).

Students are required to use Windows or Mac devices to study. They will need to have access to Office applications (Word, Excel and PowerPoint) and [Internet browsers](#).

### **iLearn**

[iLearn](#) is Macquarie's online learning management system and a principal teaching and learning resource which will be used throughout the term.

For any resource-related iLearn questions contact your teacher. For any technical or support issues using iLearn, please contact the IT helpdesk (Ph. 02 9850 4357) or lodge a ticket using [OneHelp](#).

### **Useful Study Resources**

[StudyWise](#) is an iLearn resource created by the Academic Literacies Unit. This resource is specifically designed to help you to manage your studies, strengthen your study techniques, write effective assignments and improve your English language proficiency. Once you enrol in StudyWise, you can access it from your iLearn course list under the category "Student Support".

[Lib Guides](#) provide students with links to electronic sources and websites that are good starting points for research in different fields or disciplines.

[MultiSearch](#) will connect you to Macquarie University Library and allow you to search library resources, databases, unit readings and past exam papers.

Macquarie University Library has released a mobile device app called libMQ. The app allows students to easily access MyLibrary (be notified about loans, renewals, holds and fees owing), book a computer, Library floor maps, see new books lists and search MultiSearch.

It can be downloaded from either Google Play or the App Store.

[Assignment and Study Support](#) provide information about:

- [Researching for your assignments](#)
- How to [manage your references](#)
- [Referencing style guides](#)
- [Subject and research guides](#)

Numeracy Support is provided by the [Numeracy Centre](#). Students can attend these support classes on a drop-in basis as required.

[Studiosity](#) is a one-to-one personal study support service that may be made available via iLearn. If available, students may use this service to get online study help and/or feedback on an assignment usually within 24 hours. Students who are unsure whether this service is available in

their unit or how to use this service should check with their teacher. Please note that this is an external service and feedback provided is generic in nature (for example comments on grammar and cohesion) and may not be specific to the requirements of the task. If students require specific feedback on how their work aligns with the expectations of the unit or marking criteria, they should consult their teacher.

## Unit Schedule

Week	Lesson	Topic / Content Covered	Required reading per week –	Assessment Task (if applicable)
1	1	Introduction to critical thinking and identifying arguments	Key notes 1.1	
	2	Basic and advanced standardisation	Key notes 1.2	
	3	Standardisation practice	Key notes 1.3	Complete the first stage of the critical reflection.  Quiz 1 (5%) (Friday to Sunday, Week 1)
2	1	Deductive arguments	Key notes 2.1	
	2	Types of deductive arguments	Key notes 2.2	
	3	Inductive generalisations	Key notes 2.3	Quiz 2 (5%) (Friday to Sunday, Week 2)
3	1	Critical thinking and the human mind	Key notes 3.1	
	2	Causal thinking and correlation	Key notes 3.2	
	3	Social thinking and critical reasoning	Key notes 3.3	Critical Reflection due on 11:55 pm Sunday, Week 3 (15%)
4	1	Online Quiz three and the power of language 1	Key notes 4.1	Quiz 3 Lesson 1 Week 4 (10%)
	2	Power of language continued	Key notes 4.2	
	3	Power of language 2	Key notes 4.3	

5	1	Fallacies and pseudo reasoning, and panel discussion	Key notes 5.1	
	2	Panel Discussion		Panel Discussion (Lesson 2, Week 5)
	3	Argument briefing instructions – major assessment, and panel discussion	Key notes 5.3	Panel Discussion (Lesson 3, Week 5)
6	1	Abductive Reasoning		
	2	Course Review		
	3	Major Assessment		Argument Briefing (40%) due on 11:55pm Friday, Week 6

## 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## 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/](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.

## Unit Specific Texts and Materials

There are no prescribed textbooks for this unit. All materials and resources will be provided via iLearn or in class.

## Unit contact Hours

Weekly face-to-face contact for this unit will be 6 hours (36 hours per term).

There will be 3 lessons per week consisting of 3x2 hour lessons.