ABST1020

Dharug Ngurra

Session 1, Online-flexible 2025

School of Communication, Society and Culture

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor
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Lecturer
Venessa Starzynski
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit introduces students to Dharug perspectives about Ngurra (Country), spiritual concepts including human and non-human ancestors, and the importance of connecting to place and belonging. Students will learn valuable insights from a diverse group of Dharug community members, writers, thinkers and creative practitioners, telling their own stories about sites of significance. Students will be introduced to Dharug language, art and other cultural practices demonstrating the continuity of knowledges that Dharug people have maintained for over 65,000 years. Students will connect with contemporary Dharug people and learn about the impact of colonisation on the community and better understand how Dharug people and communities have resisted and survived. Dharug people will share stories of importance so students can better understand the politics of place.

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 who Dharug people are and their connection to place

ULO2: Explore the concept of 'Country' as a relational space

ULO3: Describe contemporary Dharug cultural practices and how these are connected to older knowledge systems

ULO4: Examine the politics of place and the impact of colonisation on Dharug people and Country

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 as '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 APA referencing style.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Blogposts on themes	30%	No	Due by Friday midnight at the end of weeks 2,4,6,8,10
Reflective Essay	40%	No	14/04/2025
Quiz	30%	No	08/06/2025

Blogposts on themes

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **Due by Friday midnight at the end of weeks 2,4,6,8,10**
Weighting: **30%**

Five short answer blogpost responses to the five themes.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Recognise who Dharug people are and their connection to place
- Explore the concept of 'Country' as a relational space

Reflective Essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay

Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **14/04/2025**
Weighting: **40%**

Write an essay on the essay topic – MAXIMUM 2000 WORDS

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise who Dharug people are and their connection to place
- Describe contemporary Dharug cultural practices and how these are connected to older knowledge systems
- Examine the politics of place and the impact of colonisation on Dharug people and Country

Quiz

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **08/06/2025**
Weighting: **30%**

Quiz based on readings and themes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise who Dharug people are and their connection to place
- Explore the concept of 'Country' as a relational space
- Describe contemporary Dharug cultural practices and how these are connected to older knowledge systems
- Examine the politics of place and the impact of colonisation on Dharug people and Country

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[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

See ilearn for details.

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
- 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). 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 connect.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.

- 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 the Service Connect Portal, 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.

Unit information based on version 2025.03 of the Handbook