



MHIS3040

Who the Bloody Hell Are We?: Story and Citizenship in Australian History

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of Humanities

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Tutor

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above OR (20cp in HIST or MHIS or MHIX units at 2000 level)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Ideas about Australian identity have always been expressed and contested in popular culture. These stories of 'us' have also meant that some people are seen to belong, and others are excluded from the full exercise of citizenship. This unit will examine Australian history through an examination of 10 key moments when the nation and its citizens were re-imagined in films, songs, novels, poetry, advertisements, sporting contests and plays. Each week we will examine a key turning point in Australian history and the popular culture that was produced to grapple with its consequences. When and why did the bushman become a central figure in the Australian imagination? How did 'Muriel's Wedding' reimagine mateship in the wake of feminist protest? In what ways did advertisements featuring Rhonda and Ketut envisage the relationship between Australia and Asia? Students who complete this unit will develop a critical understanding of the relationship between storytelling and citizenship, master a chronology of the struggles over citizenship that shaped twentieth century Australian political history, and engage widely with the cultural institutions and archives in which our national memory is stored. They will also engage in a wide variety of historical research, classroom debate, and develop an original research topic to investigate. If you have already studied some Australian history, the unit offers a fresh perspective. It will be particularly useful for students who are intending to teach Australian history in schools.

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: Understand the ways that Australian culture articulates ideas about Australian citizenship, and explain how these ideas have changed over time.

ULO2: Analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources.

ULO3: Conceptualise and create an original research project by presenting a coherent historical argument that is situated in the relevant historiography

ULO4: Communicate effectively in a range of written forms.

General Assessment Information

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.

Information about special consideration applications can be found here: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Research Proposal	20%	No	11/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Research Essay	50%	No	06/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Weekly Quiz	30%	No	30/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Research Proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **11/09/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students will submit a research proposal for the major essay that includes an annotated bibliography and also sketches out an approach to the question.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the ways that Australian culture articulates ideas about Australian citizenship, and explain how these ideas have changed over time.
- Analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources.
- Conceptualise and create an original research project by presenting a coherent historical argument that is situated in the relevant historiography
- Communicate effectively in a range of written forms.

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

The research essay forms the major assessment task of the course and requires a high degree of thought, effort and preparation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the ways that Australian culture articulates ideas about Australian citizenship, and explain how these ideas have changed over time.
- Analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources.
- Conceptualise and create an original research project by presenting a coherent historical argument that is situated in the relevant historiography
- Communicate effectively in a range of written forms.

Weekly Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **30/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

A set of two short answer quiz questions that will be embedded in the online lecture and should be completed before the weekly discussion activities.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the ways that Australian culture articulates ideas about Australian citizenship, and explain how these ideas have changed over time.
- Analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources.
- Communicate effectively in a range of written forms.

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

This unit consists of 1 online lecture per week, reading, a selection of other audio and visual material + a 120 min tutorial. You must attend weekly tutorials (either online or in class) and they start in the first week of semester.

The unit is supported by an iLearn site. Please login and familiarise yourself with this site which contains comprehensive information about all aspects of the unit, including assessments and weekly topics. There is also a FAQ page.

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 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/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)