



ANTH1060

Weird Australia

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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By appointment

Convenor, lecturer, tutor

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

What are the origins of the Democracy Sausage and the Halal Snack Pack? Why are there so many roundabouts in Canberra? When did we start taking tents to the beach? This unit focuses on both the utterly ordinary and the unexpectedly surprising aspects of everyday life in contemporary Australia. Anthropology seeks to make the familiar strange and the strange familiar. This unique approach yields important and surprising insights into both the human condition and its local Australian variants, allowing us to better understand our shared humanity and to critically assess unexamined aspects of our quotidian lives from a reflexive perspective. Applying this approach to contemporary Australia, this unit covers topics such as beach etiquette, Anzac Day rituals, and the State of Origin rugby league rivalry. Students will examine their everyday lives with new eyes and learn about anthropology's distinctive methodologies and theoretical approaches.

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: Demonstrate an awareness of their own social and cultural perspectives to enable self-analysis and openness to diverse perspectives on Australia

ULO2: Apply anthropological theories to the analysis of their own and others' social, cultural and political practices in a range of contemporary Australian contexts.

ULO3: Articulate an understanding of the significance of cultural differences in shaping people's actions, using everyday ethnographic examples.

ULO4: Outline and describe broader historical and political contexts that have contributed to the development of varied and [extra]ordinary everyday lives in Australia.

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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Ethnographic essay	30%	No	30/08/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Report	50%	No	11/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Reflective video	20%	No	08/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Ethnographic essay

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **30/08/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

A creative/ethnographic exercise where students defamiliarise themselves with a familiar aspect of everyday life, in the vein of a classic anthropological parody.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of their own social and cultural perspectives to enable self-analysis and openness to diverse perspectives on Australia
- Apply anthropological theories to the analysis of their own and others' social, cultural and political practices in a range of contemporary Australian contexts.

Report

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **11/10/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

A 1500-word anthropological report that analyses select features of Australian life

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of their own social and cultural perspectives to enable self-analysis and openness to diverse perspectives on Australia
- Apply anthropological theories to the analysis of their own and others' social, cultural and political practices in a range of contemporary Australian contexts.
- Articulate an understanding of the significance of cultural differences in shaping people's actions, using everyday ethnographic examples.
- Outline and describe broader historical and political contexts that have contributed to the development of varied and [extra]ordinary everyday lives in Australia.

Reflective video

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Student film themselves responding to reflective prompts about the learning experience in the unit. Each video will be approx. 5 mins.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of their own social and cultural perspectives to enable self-analysis and openness to diverse perspectives on Australia
- Articulate an understanding of the significance of cultural differences in shaping people's actions, using everyday ethnographic examples.

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

All readings are available via the Leganto library and the iLearn site for this unit.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	Making the familiar.... weird.
Week 2	Food
Week 3	Gender and sport
Week 4	Sound
Week 5	The sun
Week 6	Weird Canberra
Week 7	More-than-human
Week 8	Religion
Week 9	Gambling
Week 10	Drugs
Week 11	The Pacific in Australia

Week 12	Mining
Week 13	Fair go?

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 an](#)

[d 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**