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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Mark Hearn
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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status
749/849

Unit description
This unit provides students with a comprehensive introduction to key themes in Australian historiography and cultivates critical research and teaching methodologies by revealing the constructed nature of historical practice and its relationship with crucial aspects of Australian experience - national identity and nation building, the experience of war, gender relations, and the treatment of Indigenous people.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes

Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources
Find, analyse and apply historical information (especially self-located research materials)
Communicate effectively in oral forms, and in a range of written forms
Engage effectively in group work with your peers; participate actively in group discussions
Understand the key historiographical debates in Australian history
Understand the broad ideologies and political or social movements that have helped to shape historiographical debate in Australia
Assessment Tasks

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<th>Weighting</th>
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<td>20%</td>
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<td>2. Research essay</td>
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1. Diagnostic task

Due: **Friday 23 August**
Weighting: **20%**

**Diagnostic task:** 1000 words (**20% of assessment**)

This task is related to the first topic: 'How have Australian historians helped shape the national story?' Select one Australian historian from the list below and outline how that historian's work has interpreted the history of the nation, and helped Australians either form or redefine a sense of national identity. External students please note that all written work must be submitted through COE.

- C.E.W. Bean
- Geoffrey Blainey
- C.M.H. (Manning) Clark
- Miriam Dixson
- Keith Hancock
- Marilyn Lake
- Henry Reynolds
- Russel Ward

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources
- Find, analyse and apply historical information (especially self-located research materials)
- Communicate effectively in oral forms, and in a range of written forms

2. Research essay

Due: **Friday 4 October**
Weighting: 60%

Write a 3,000 word essay by selecting a question from one of the Topic One to Eight discussion questions. Consult the reading lists included in the Unit Guide under 'Delivery and Resources', but you should also conduct your own research and seek out other relevant readings. Please also consult the advice below on writing an essay in history.

External students please note that all written work must be submitted through COE.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources
• Find, analyse and apply historical information (especially self-located research materials)
• Communicate effectively in oral forms, and in a range of written forms
• Understand the key historiographical debates in Australian history
• Understand the broad ideologies and political or social movements that have helped to shape historiographical debate in Australia

Online participation

Due: Across semester
Weighting: 20%

The online discussion and participation task, undertaken through the iLearn Online Website, tests your ability to communicate ideas, your appreciation and comprehension of the themes and concepts discussed in the course, your ability to critically assess and evaluate the arguments of others, and your ability to clearly articulate your thoughts. It is also a task that monitors your progress across the unit topics. Each week you will find recommended discussion readings, but you may of course have to find alternatives if those recommendations are not available to you. Each topic reading list, which may be found in the Unit Guide under 'Delivery and Resources', includes a number of alternative readings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Read and analyse different kinds of historical evidence, including visual and textual sources
• Find, analyse and apply historical information (especially self-located research materials)
• Engage effectively in group work with your peers; participate actively in group discussions
• Understand the key historiographical debates in Australian history
• Understand the broad ideologies and political or social movements that have helped to
shape historiographical debate in Australia

Delivery and Resources
Course Topics and Readings

Note: Below is a list of discussion topics and questions for your Unit Project. You should also conduct your own research and seek our other relevant readings. Students are required to cite at least 8 relevant books or journal articles in your essay discussion and in the bibliography. Web sites may be cited in addition to the books and articles minimum. PLEASE NUMBER THE PAGES OF YOUR ESSAY. Students must properly cite sources as per the guidelines found on the Department of Modern History website: http://www.modhist.mq.edu.au/essays.html

Introduction:
Welcome to Australian Historiography

Discussion Question: How have Australian historians helped shape the national story?

Recommended discussion reading (PDF copy available to download from the MHPG849/ MHIS749 web page in iLearn):

Topic One:
Frontier conflict and the European settlement of Australia

Week two question discussion question: How have historians assessed the consequences of the European settlement of Australia?

Week three question discussion question: How have historians assessed the historical evidence of violence on the nineteenth century Australian frontier?

Recommended discussion readings:
Alan Atkinson, ‘Honey and wax: a review of Keith Windschuttle, The Fabrication of Aboriginal


**Other Readings:**


Keith Hancock, *Australia*, Ernest Benn Ltd 1930.

David Kent, ‘Frontier conflict and Aboriginal deaths: how do we weigh the evidence’, *Journal of*
Unit guide MHIS749 Australian Historiography


Topic Two:

The federation of the Australian colonies

**Discussion Question:** How have historians assessed the federation of the Australian colonies in 1901, achieved despite strong forces of opposition?

**Recommended discussion readings:**

Patricia Grimshaw, ‘Federation as a turning point in Australian history’ *Australian Historical Studies*, 33:118, 2002, pp.25-41


**Other readings:**

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/21673/unit_guide/print


**Topic Three:**

**Gender and the Australian Legend**

**Discussion Questions:** How has the historical debate over Russel Ward’s Australian legend developed since its publication in 1958? How has a feminist revision of the legend changed historical constructions of gender?

**Recommended discussion readings:**

Richard Nile (ed.), *The Australian Legend and Its Discontents*, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia 2000


**Other readings:**


Graeme Davison, ‘Sydney and the Bush: an Urban Context for the Australian Legend’ *Historical Studies* Vol.18, no.71 October 1978


Susan Margarey, ‘History, Cultural Studies, and Another Look at First-Wave Feminism in Australia’, *Australian Historical Studies*, No.106 April 1996


Russel Ward ‘The Australian Legend Revisited’ *Historical Studies* Vol.18, no.71 October 1978

Topic Four:
White Australia

Discussion Question: How have historians assessed how White Australia has shaped Australian identity?

Recommended discussion readings:


Other Readings:


Laksiri Jayasuriya, David Walker and Jan Gothard, Legacies of White Australia: race, culture and nation, University of Western Australia Press, Perth 2003.


**Topic Five:**

**The Anzac Legend**

**Discussion Question:** How have historians assessed C.E.W.Bean’s representation of the motives and performance of the Australian soldier?

**Recommended discussion readings:**


**Other readings:**


Martin Ball, ‘Re-reading Bean’s last paragraph’, *Australian Historical Studies*, Volume 34 Issue 122 2003


Denis Winter, *Making the legend, the war writings of C.E.W. Bean*, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia 1992.

**Topic Six:**

**The Cold War**

**Discussion Question:** How have historians assessed the impact of the Cold War on Australian politics and society?

**Recommended discussion readings:**


David McKnight,’Rethinking Cold War History’, *Labour History*, No.95 November 2008.

John Murphy, *Imagining the fifties: private sentiment and political culture in Menzies’ Australia*, Pluto Press Sydney 2000.

**Other readings:**


https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/21673/unit_guide/print


**Topic Seven:**

**The History Wars**

**Discussion Questions:** Is Australian history ‘little more than a litany of sexism, racism and class warfare’ as former Prime Minister John Howard suggested? Can a narrative of suffering also be a story of progress?
Recommended discussion readings:


Other readings:


Graeme Davison, The Use and Abuse of Australian History, Allen and Unwin Sydney 2000


Ryan, Peter. "Is the uncivil war over?", Quadrant October 2006): 95(2)

Topic Eight:

Postmodernism and Poststructuralism

**Discussion Question:** Have postmodernism and poststructuralism degraded or invigorated Australian history writing?

**Recommended discussion readings:**


**Other readings:**


**Conclusion:**

**Reflections on the Historians’ purpose**

**Discussion Questions:** How successfully have Australian historians reconciled their ethical responsibilities with their desire to imaginatively construct a story? For your discussion, select one o
Recommended discussion reading (PDF copy available to download from the MHPG849/MHIS749 web page in iLearn):


**Journals** Below is a list of journals which you may find useful. Please note that the list is comprehensive, although not exhaustive – there may well be other journals useful or relevant for your research essay. Discovery is a vital part of the research process.

*Aboriginal History*
- *Australian Aboriginal Studies*
- *Australian Cultural History*
- *Australian Feminist Studies*
- *Australian Historical Studies*
- *Australian Journal of Political Science*
- *Australian Quarterly*
- *Environmental History*
- *Environment and History*
- *History Australia*
- *Journal of Australian Colonial History*
- *Journal of Australian Politics and History*
- *Journal of Australian Studies*
- *Journal of Religious History*
- *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*
- *Labour History*
- *Meanjin*
- *Overland*
- *Public History Review*
**Unit Schedule**

**Course Program**

Week One (29 July-2 Aug): Welcome to Australian Historiography

Week Two (5-9 Aug): Frontier conflict and the European settlement of Australia

Week Three (12-16 Aug): Frontier conflict and the European settlement of Australia

Week Four (19-23 Aug): The federation of the Australian colonies

Week Five (26-30 Aug): Gender and the Australian Legend

Week Six (2-6 Sept): White Australia

Week Seven (9-13 Sept): Preparation of Unit Project

*Mid-semester break* (16 Sept – 27 Sept)

Week Eight (30 Sept-4 Oct): The Anzac Legend

Week Nine (7-11 Oct): The Cold War

Week Ten (14-18 Oct): The History Wars

Week Eleven (21-25 Oct): Postmodernism and Poststructuralism

Week Twelve (28 Oct-1 Nov): Reflections on the Historians’ purpose
Week Thirteen (4-8 Nov): Revision

**Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- **Special Consideration Policy** [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html)

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy) of Policy Central.

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**UniWISE provides:**

- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops [http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/](http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/)
- Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions.
- The Learning Help Desk is located in the Library foyer (level 2).
- Online and on-campus orientation events run by Mentors@Macquarie.

**Student Enquiry Service**

Details of these services can be accessed at [http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/](http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/).

**Equity Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**IT Help**

If you wish to receive IT help, we would be glad to assist you at [http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/](http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/).

When using the university's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/acceptability/policy.html). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students and it outlines what can be done.