CUL 221

Australian Film and Television

S1 Day 2015

Dept of Media, Music & Cultural Studies

Contents

General Information ........................................ 2
Learning Outcomes ........................................ 2
Assessment Tasks ......................................... 3
Delivery and Resources ................................ 8
Unit Schedule .................................................. 10
Policies and Procedures ................................ 11
Graduate Capabilities .................................... 13
Changes from Previous Offering ....................... 18
Important Further Information for CUL221 ........ 18
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Anthony Lambert
anthony.lambert@mq.edu.au
Contact via anthony.lambert@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
12cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
What do we mean by 'being Australian'? In Australia, film and television are used by the creative industries and viewing public to create, share, critique and sustain ideas of identity and space, and to mediate associated cultural concerns. This unit focuses on constructions of 'Australianness' drawn from these Australian contexts, using cultural-critical frameworks to explore the production and consumption of Australian film and television locally and globally. In addition, by canvassing themes or representation, genre, style, policy, history and industrial practice, this unit explores the trajectories and texts of Australian film and television as well as the contemporary preoccupations of both. The production of identity, Indigeneity, gender, sexuality, race, religion and politics from an Australian perspective is explored through a number of Australian feature films, documentaries and television programs. These are filtered through critical perspectives from across the broad range of Cultural Studies to interrogate how 'being Australian' is performed as a complex phenomenon.

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:

- Develop scholarly and thematic familiarity (contemporary and historical) of Cultural Studies with respect to Australian film and television.
- Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces,
media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).

Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how
definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen
representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.

Identify the production of 'Australianness' through discourses of nationalism and social
inclusion.

Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as
facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.

Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written
and spoken form.

Identify issues specific to Cultural Studies practice, including ethical relations to others,
social justice and equity, and the appreciation of diversity.

### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surveys</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>02/03/15 and 2/06/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21/04/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12/05/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30/3/15 and 29/5/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Surveys

Due: **02/03/15 and 2/06/15**

Weighting: 5%

**Outline**

Students complete short answers to a series of reflective suggestions and factual questions at
the beginning and the end of the semester.

**Submission Requirements**

The first survey will be distributed in the week one lecture and will be due for submission in the
first tutorial. The second survey will be completed online and will respond to material from the
second half of the course.

**Criteria**
This is a pass/fail exercise based on completion to a satisfactory level by the due dates. The first survey is used as an early assessment exercise to help identify students who may require extra help. The second survey is used to gauge overall comprehension and the effectiveness of teaching exercises and content.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop scholarly and thematic familiarity (contemporary and historical) of Cultural Studies with respect to Australian film and television.
- Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form.
- Identify issues specific to Cultural Studies practice, including ethical relations to others, social justice and equity, and the appreciation of diversity.

Presentation

Due: Ongoing
Weighting: 20%

Outline

An oral presentation analysing one film and one television program that speaks to the weekly themes. You will lead the tutorial for fifteen minutes. Your tutor will allocate weeks and dates in the first tutorial and the exercises will begin in the second week.

Submission Requirements

This is an in-class exercise and there are no written components. You should use visual aids and/or clips to assist in your exploration of film, television and the weekly themes and concepts. You will be marked solely on what you do in class and individual grades/feedback will be provided via the iLearn site on a rolling basis.

Criteria

You must present the weekly themes creatively by offering an analysis of two texts one Australian film, and one Australian television program - (think creatively about what constitutes an Australian film or TV text – think about the broad range of genres and styles within each). Your choice of screen texts must;

1) offer both industrial historical contexts of each, and 2) place each text in a relationship with the critical materials and concepts of the specific week. At the end you will allow at least five minutes for the group to ask questions and respond to what you have done. Your tutor will grade you on a series of criteria including conceptual understanding (use the readings and your own research), analytical skills, originality, presentation and group engagement.

Seek assistance from your tutor as soon as possible if you have any problems.
On successful completion you will be able to:

• Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).

• Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.

• Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.

• Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form.

**Essay**

Due: **21/04/15**  
Weighting: **25%**

**Outline**

(1200 Words) This scholarly piece of written work will take the form of a critical analysis that will investigate a particular topic from the first half of the course, with respect to one of the set questions provided by your tutor.

**Submission Requirements**

Submission is online only - via the turnitin link labelled 'Essay Submission' on the iLearn page, no later than 6pm, 21/04/15. Essays submitted after this time without a valid extension will incur a 5% penalty per day, including weekends.

**Criteria:**

• Extent to which the essay is focused on the specific question selected

• Structure: statement of aims in introduction, organisation of material (logical order and flow of discussion), conclusion

• Clarity of argument, quality of analysis and fluency in cultural studies terms

• Identification of appropriate themes and concepts from the set texts and further reading and their usefulness in the analysis of examples – this is VITAL to Cultural Studies

• Use of appropriate evidence to support claims

• Adequate and appropriate citation of sources

• Presentation: format, spelling, syntax, grammar and expression, WORD LENGTH

**You cannot work on theme that you have presented on.** The assessment will require you to explore a theme, and a theoretical framework with respect to an Australian text shown in the screenings, along with your own texts and independent research. You will use theoretical frames
to analyse the texts AND their social/cultural contexts. The analysis will be tied together by a coherent introduction and conclusion. Your analysis will explore constructions of Australian nationalism and identity with respect to film and television representation and/or viewing practices in Australia.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop scholarly and thematic familiarity (contemporary and historical) of Cultural Studies with respect to Australian film and television.
- Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.
- Identify the production of 'Australianness' through discourses of nationalism and social inclusion.
- Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form.
- Identify issues specific to Cultural Studies practice, including ethical relations to others, social justice and equity, and the appreciation of diversity.

**Journal**

**Due:** 12/05/15  
**Weighting:** 20%  

**Outline**

Students will keep a written weekly journal documenting their own responses to the three major film or television texts screened in the lectures from weeks 7 through to (and including) week 9, using the criteria in iLearn and the weekly questions under each banner. Each entry is to be no longer than 250 words.

**Submission Requirements**

The full journal is due online on May 12th, as one document submitted via the 'journal' link on the unit iLearn page, no later than 6pm.

**Criteria**

Your journal response will offer -

1) an understanding of the content/narrative
2) an understanding of important industrial and/or social contexts that shape the text

3) any noticeable textual/stylistic features and

4) an account of the relationship between the screening and the weekly themes from the lectures and the readings.

If you quote/cite specific material you must reference appropriately. All weekly screenings from weeks 7-9 must be included.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.
- Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.
- Identify issues specific to Cultural Studies practice, including ethical relations to others, social justice and equity, and the appreciation of diversity.

**Test**

Due: 30/3/15 and 29/5/15

Weighting: 20%

**Outline**

Students will sit two twenty minute in-class tests throughout the course of the semester.

**Submission Requirements**

The tests are administered in class only, in the final tutorial before the mid semester break (March 30), and in the final lecture of the semester (May 29). Students must complete the test in person, or contact the tutor if any disruption to attendance presents itself.

**Criteria**

The tests comprise a range of true/false responses, factual answers, and short responses to critical propositions and observations. The first test covers material from the first half of the semester, and the second test covers topics examined from the break until the final week. The test will be timed and students will not be able to confer in any way or consult notes, devices or materials of any kind.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop scholarly and thematic familiarity (contemporary and historical) of Cultural Studies with respect to Australian film and television.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.
• Identify the production of 'Australianness' through discourses of nationalism and social inclusion.
• Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.

Participation
Due: Ongoing
Weighting: 10%

Outline
You are required to attend and participate in all of your scheduled tutorials.

Submission Requirements
Your participation is graded on your presence and involvement in class activities.

Criteria
In addition to your own exercises, you should explicitly engage with, respond to, and initiate discussion around the weekly themes and concepts. You should notify your tutor as soon as possible if you believe you may be absent. Absence on days where tests are administered, or you are required to present on the weekly topic, may adversely affect grades unless you have received appropriate approvals and extensions.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Develop scholarly and thematic familiarity (contemporary and historical) of Cultural Studies with respect to Australian film and television.
• Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
• Identify the production of 'Australianness' through discourses of nationalism and social inclusion.
• Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.
• Identify issues specific to Cultural Studies practice, including ethical relations to others, social justice and equity, and the appreciation of diversity.

Delivery and Resources
Unit guide CUL 221 Australian Film and Television

Delivery: Daytime, Internal

Technologies Used: iLearn, Echo360

Times and Locations for Lectures and Tutorials

For current updates, lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetables website: http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au.

Lectures and Screenings: Fridays 1pm-4pm W5A T1
Tutorials: The Monday after each lecture (times as per enrollment).

Required and recommended resources

CUL 221 uses the following prescribed course reader which you must purchase:

CUL221: Australian Film and Television Reader 2015.

Recommended further reading includes:


Cambridge University Press.


Verhoeven, Deb. (Ed) (1999) Twin Peaks : Australian and New Zealand Feature Films, Melbourne : Damned,

Journals:

Australian Humanities Review
Journal of Australian Studies
Journal of Australian Popular Culture
Media International Australia
Metro Magazine
Studies in Australasian Cinema

Unit Schedule

UNIT LEARNING AND TEACHING SCHEDULE - AS PER THE iEARN WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Week 1 Screening Australianness
Week 2 Screening National Identity
Week 3 Screening Indigeneity
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)
Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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).

Additional information


Information is correct at the time of publication

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

IT Help


When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.
Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form.

**Assessment tasks**

- Presentation
- Journal
- Test
- Participation

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Develop scholarly and thematic familiarity (contemporary and historical) of Cultural Studies with respect to Australian film and television.
- Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
- Identify the production of 'Australianness' through discourses of nationalism and social inclusion.
- Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.
- Identify issues specific to Cultural Studies practice, including ethical relations to others,
Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.
- Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form.
- Identify issues specific to Cultural Studies practice, including ethical relations to others, social justice and equity, and the appreciation of diversity.

Assessment tasks

- Surveys
- Presentation
- Essay

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where
relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Develop scholarly and thematic familiarity (contemporary and historical) of Cultural Studies with respect to Australian film and television.
- Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.
- Identify the production of 'Australianness' through discourses of nationalism and social inclusion.

**Assessment tasks**

- Surveys
- Presentation
- Essay
- Test
- Participation

**Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Develop scholarly and thematic familiarity (contemporary and historical) of Cultural Studies with respect to Australian film and television.
- Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.
representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.
• Identify the production of 'Australianness' through discourses of nationalism and social
  inclusion.
• Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written
  and spoken form.

**Assessment tasks**

• Presentation
• Essay
• Journal
• Test
• Participation

**Problem Solving and Research Capability**

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing
data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and
they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in
order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative
in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

• Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces,
  media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
• Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how
definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen
  representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.
• Identify the production of 'Australianness' through discourses of nationalism and social
  inclusion.
• Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as
  facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.

**Assessment tasks**

• Surveys
• Essay
• Test
Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.
- Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form.

**Assessment tasks**

- Presentation
- Essay
- Journal
- Test
- Participation

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Identify the production of 'Australianness' through discourses of nationalism and social inclusion.
• Identify issues specific to Cultural Studies practice, including ethical relations to others, social justice and equity, and the appreciation of diversity.

**Assessment tasks**

• Surveys
• Essay
• Journal
• Participation

**Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible**

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

• Demonstrate an understanding of the politicised aspects of Australian life: how definitions of Australian culture and identity work with respect to on-screen representation, texts, technologies, industries and lived realities.
• Review critically, analyse and synthesise findings in written and creative form, as well as facilitate and participate in discussions and presentations.
• Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form.
• Identify issues specific to Cultural Studies practice, including ethical relations to others, social justice and equity, and the appreciation of diversity.

**Assessment task**

• Surveys

**Changes from Previous Offering**

The order of assessments has been amended with a view to balancing the workload and a more effective scaffolding of content and skills.

**Important Further Information for CUL221**

**Further criteria for all written and presented work:**

1. Extent to which the work/analysis is focused on the specific question, theme or topic.

2. Structure: statement of aims in introduction, organisation of material (logical order and flow of discussion), conclusion
3. Clarity of argument, quality of analysis and fluency in cultural studies terms
4. Identification of appropriate themes and concepts from the set texts and further reading and their usefulness in the analysis of examples
5. Use of appropriate evidence to support claims
6. Adequate and appropriate citation of sources
7. Presentation: format, spelling, syntax, grammar and expression

Attendance

Lectures: Fridays 1pm-3pm  W5A T1
Tutorials: As per timetable (1hr per week, compulsory attendance)

There will be 1 x 3 hour lecture each week. The lecture will run for approximately 1-1.5 hrs, with 1.5 to 2 hrs of screening time. There will be 1 x 1 hour tutorial each week. It is compulsory to attend tutorials and participation and attendance will be assessed (see assessment section further on). For each tutorial you are required to read the set readings in the Reader. The tutorials involve discussion of the ideas presented in the lectures, readings, and screenings, as well as the development of critical and writing skills. There will be tutorial questions to guide your discussion of the topic under each banner on the iLearn page.

Examination(s)

Final tests and submissions are in lieu of examinations, and must be attended and or completed as stated unless you have made a VALID application for special consideration through the Disruption to Studies link at ask.mq.edu.au

Assignment submission

To be submitted online via the appropriate links. You must structure and reference reports/journals and essays appropriately, including a full and correct bibliography. See this guide and university and faculty websites for explicit details with respect to plagiarism and academic writing services.

Extensions and penalties

Work submitted late without a valid and authorised extension will incur a penalty of 5% of the total mark for each day after the due date including weekends.

Plagiarism/ Academic Honesty

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: "Plagiarism involves using the work of another
person and presenting it as one's own." Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University's practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found in the Handbook of Undergraduate Studies or on the web at: http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/ The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure of components within the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

Returning assignments
Marking in CUL221 is done/returned online via iLearn and turnitin/Grademark.

MMCCS Re-mark Procedure
MMCCS Session Re-mark Application http://www.mq.edu.au/pubstatic/public/download/?id=167 914