CUL 221
Australian Film and Television
S1 Day 2014
Dept of Media, Music & Cultural Studies

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Disclaimer
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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Anthony Lambert
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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://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes

1. Develop scholarly and thematic familiarity (contemporary and historical) of Cultural Studies with respect to Australian film and television.
2. Analyse Australian screen texts and associated cultural practices (Australian spaces, media, scholarly work, social and historical phenomena).
3. 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.

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

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

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

7. 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveys</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>March 4 June 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>April 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>June 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Participation

**Due: Ongoing**  
**Weighting: 10%**

You are required to **attend** and **participate** in all of your scheduled tutorials. In addition to your own exercises, you should explicitly engage with, respond to and initiate discussion around the weekly themes and concepts. You must notify your tutor as soon as possible if you believe you may be absent at any stage.

This Assessment Task relates to the following 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, social justice and equity, and the appreciation of diversity.

Survey
Due: **March 4 June 5**
Weighting: **5%**

Students complete answers to a series of reflective suggestions and factual questions at the beginning and the end of the semester. The first will be distributed in the week one lecture and will be due for submission in the first tutorial. This is used as an early assessment exercise to help identify students who may require extra help. The second survey will be completed in the final lecture and will respond to material from the second half of the course.

This Assessment Task relates to the following 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).
- 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%**

This Assessment Task relates to the following 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.

Journal

Due: April 10
Weighting: 20%

Students will keep a written weekly journal documenting their own responses to each major text film or television text screened in the lectures from weeks 1 through to (and including) week 6.

This Assessment Task relates to the following 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.
• Identify issues specific to Cultural Studies practice, including ethical relations to others, social justice and equity, and the appreciation of diversity.

Test

Due: April 10
Weighting: 15%

At the end of the first half of the semester (before the break) students will sit a twenty minute in-class test drawing on all topics and screenings from across the first half of the semester.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• 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.

Essay
Due: **June 11**  
Weighting: **30%**

(1500 Words) The final piece of work will take the form of an essay/ critical analysis that will investigate a particular topic from the second half of the course, with respect to one of the set questions provided by your tutor.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Develop scholarly and thematic familiarity (contemporary and historical) of Cultural Studies with respect to Australian film and television.
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**Delivery and Resources**

**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: Tuesdays 3pm-6pm Y3A 212
Required and recommended resources

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

*CUL221: Australian Film and Television Reader 2014.*

Recommended further reading includes:


https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/589/unit_guide/print
Unit Schedule

UNIT LEARNING AND TEACHING SCHEDULE

Week 1  Screening Australianness

Set Readings:


Set Screening: Newsfront (dir. Phil Noyce, 1977)

Week 2  Screening National Identity

Set Readings:


Set Screening: Kenny (dir. Clayton Jacobson, 2006)

Week 3  Screening Indigeneity

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offers/589/unit_guide/print
Set Readings:


**Set Screening:** *Mabo* (dir. Rachel Perkins, 2012)

**Week 4** Screening Multiculturalism

**Set Readings:**


**Set Screening:** *Temple of Dreams* (Tom Zubrycki, 2007)

**Week 5** Screening *Australia*

**Set Readings:**


**Screening:** *Australia* (Baz Luhrmann, 2008)

**Week 6** Screening *Space*

**Set Readings:**


**Screening:** *Bra Boys* (Sunny Aberton, Macario De Souza, 2007)

**SEMESTER BREAK/ EASTER BREAK**

**Week 7 - CUL221 Reading Week (No face to face classes)**
Week 8  Screening Gender

Set Readings:


Set Screening: *Suburban Mayhem* (Paul Goldman, 2006)

Week 9  Screening Sexualities

Set Readings:


Set Screening: *Strange Bedfellows* (2004, Dean Murphy)

Week 10  Screening Religion

Set Readings:


Set Screening: *The Devil’s Playground* (Fred Schepsisi, 1976)

Week 11 Screening Diaspora and Detention

Set Readings:


Set Screening:

*Go Back to Where You Came From*, Season 1, Episodes 1 and 2 (2011, SBS Television)
Week 12 Screening Badlands

Set Readings:


Set Screenings:

Crime Investigation Australia, Season 1, Episode 9 – ‘Snowtown: Bodies in the Barrels’ (2005, Crime and Investigation Network)


Week 13 Screening Futures/ Essay Preparation

Set Reading:


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:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html


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/)

**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 Enquiry Service**

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

**Equity Support**

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

**IT Help**


When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

**Graduate Capabilities**

**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**

- Participation
- Surveys
- Presentation
- Test
- Essay

**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.
• 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

• Participation
• Presentation
• Journal
• Test
• Essay

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
• Test
• Essay
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**

- Participation
- Presentation
- Journal
- 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

• Participation
• Presentation
• Journal
• Test
• Essay

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

• Participation
• Surveys
• Journal
• Essay

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

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.
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Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Presentation
- Journal
- Test
- Essay
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.
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Assessment tasks

- Surveys
- Presentation
- Essay

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: Tuesdays 3pm-6pm Y3A 212

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 hour, with 2 hours 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 at the end of this Unit Outline.

Examination(s)

Final essays are in lieu of examinations, therefore late essays will not be marked unless you have made a formal application for special consideration through the Registrar's Office with supporting documentation. Contact Student Enquiry Services on telephone 02 9850 6410 or email: sesinfo@mq.edu.au or visit http://www.arts.mq.edu.au/current_students/undergraduate/admin_central/special_consideration

Assignment submission

To be submitted in boxes, ground floor W6A. Ensure you have provided your tutor's name and class time on the coversheet. You must structure and reference reports 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 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 in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.
Returning assignments

Assignments unable to be returned to students in class, and the final assessment, will be available from the department after grades have been processed. If you believe that your assessment task has been lost, please contact the Student Enquiry Office on the Ground Floor of W6A. Your claim will be logged and tracked in a database of lost assignment claims and kept on file for up to five years.