



MECX120

Living Culture

SP3 OUA 2016

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Co-ordinator

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Friday 12:00 - 2:00pm

Convenor

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Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Cultural studies analyses the way people represent themselves to one another. Whether it's your national identity that gives you the sense of who you are, your religion, your gender or sexuality; whether your medium is film, writing or multimedia or, for that matter, graffiti or clothes, cultural studies aims to reveal the complex, dynamic and political ways in which representation makes and unmakes human relationships. From the intimate to the global, from personal practice to institutional power, critical and cultural studies reveals how images, meanings and identities influence the way our lives are organised. This unit draws on the textbook 'Cultural Theory in Everyday Practice' to provide a broad and accessible introduction to what cultural studies is and what it does. Throughout the unit, you will develop critical skills to help you reconsider and better evaluate the signs and cultural markers that surround daily life, both on a personal and on a global level. Students are given primary tools to continue to be thoughtful consumers, critics or creative participants in contemporary culture. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Understand and recall key cultural studies terms and theoretical concepts

Synthesise and apply key methods of theoretical and textual analysis in relation to texts/
images and culture

Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural
politics

Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

General Assessment Information

In this unit, students must submit original work. If you have previously been enrolled in this unit, please note that you cannot submit the same piece of work. Please contact your convenor for an alternative task.

If students require assistance with their assessments, they should contact their tutor and consult the resources on referencing and essay writing in the 'Assessments' section on ilearn. Students can also contact the Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) team for advice on academic writing, study strategies and planning. Additional support services are listed here: <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>.

Late Submissions:

Tasks 10% or less: No extensions will be granted. Students who have not submitted the task prior to the decline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved.

Tasks above 10%: No extensions will be granted. Students who submit late work without an extension **will receive a penalty of 10% per day**. This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Essay One	30%	Wed. Week 4 11:59pm (AEST)
Activities Reflection Task	30%	Wed. Week Eight 11:59pm (AEST)
Final Essay	40%	Wed. Week 12 11:59pm (AEST)

Essay One

Due: **Wed. Week 4 11:59pm (AEST)**

Weighting: **30%**

Students are required to write a 1,000 word essay that responds to the statement below:

- In his essay 'Culture Is Ordinary,' Cultural Studies Scholar Raymond Williams writes: 'the questions I ask about our culture are questions about our general and common purposes, yet also questions about deep personal meanings. Culture is ordinary, in every society and in every mind' (1985/2002, p. 93). Drawing on an example from your everyday life, discuss Williams' understanding of 'culture' and explore why mundane, ordinary and seemingly routine aspects of everyday life may be worthy of analysis.

In their essays, students are required to draw on the unit readings and their own experience in order to explain Williams' understanding of 'culture.' They should also aim to identify why our everyday lives are an important site of study; what can analysis of the mundane tell us?

Students are also required to develop academic writing skills in their essays. If you have any questions about the structure of an academic essay, please ask your tutor, raise questions on the general discussion board and use the resources available at mq.edu.au/learningskills. You should also include in-text referencing and attach a reference list at the end of their essay. For more information on referencing please follow the link to Macquarie University Library's Referencing Guide here: <http://libguides.mq.edu.au/Referencing>.

Essays will be marked according to the following **assessment criteria**:

1. Demonstrates a clear and effective grasp of relevant key concepts
2. Demonstrates engagement with the unit readings and material
3. Demonstrates thoughtful reflection on the importance of analysing the 'ordinary' and everyday life
4. Stages a well-supported analysis of relevant key concepts and their own experience
5. Effective use of writing skills to present academic research, including consistent and accurate use of in-text referencing

Submission: Students will submit Essay One via the Turnitin link on the unit iLearn Site.

Disruptions to Studies: In this unit, extensions will only be granted in line with the university's [Disruption to Studies Policy](#). If you experience a serious and unexpected disruption to your studies and would like to seek an extension of 1-7 days, please contact your unit convenor. If you are seeking an extension of more than 7 days, please submit a disruption to studies notification via ask.mq.edu.au. Extensions will not be granted on the grounds of work commitments. For more information about this process, please read the section below on policies and procedures.

Late Penalty: Students who submit late work without an extension will receive a penalty of 10% per day. This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and recall key cultural studies terms and theoretical concepts
- Synthesise and apply key methods of theoretical and textual analysis in relation to texts/ images and culture
- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Activities Reflection Task

Due: **Wed. Week Eight 11:59pm (AEST)**

Weighting: **30%**

For this assessment, students are required to select **two** of their own responses to the weekly activities undertaken in the discussion forms between weeks one to eight. They are required to complete a 400-500 word scholarly reflection task for each post.

In these scholarly reflections, students are required to (a) outline the context of their post on the discussion forum, (b) demonstrate how it enhances their understanding of the key concepts or methods explored in the unit, and (c) discuss how their thoughts have developed since writing their post.

Students can find a template for this assessment task in the Assessments and Guides Section on the iLearn page. Each post they include should be 150-300 words in length (about a paragraph). This means you may either use a full post, or an extract. The posts are not included in the word count.

This assessment task will be marked according to the following **assessment criteria**:

1. Well-selected sample of two of the student's weekly responses to the activities
2. Demonstrates a clear grasp of relevant key theoretical concepts and their context
3. Demonstrates the ability to identify the significance and implications of relevant key concepts
4. Demonstrates a critical engagement with relevant unit readings, cultural studies scholarship and debates
5. Stages a thoughtful reflection on the process of learning and engaging with cultural studies scholarship
6. Effective use of writing skills to present academic research, including consistent and accurate use of in-text referencing.

Submission: Students will submit this task via the Turnitin link on the unit iLearn Site.

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Final Essay

Due: **Wed. Week 12 11:59pm (AEST)**

Weighting: **40%**

Examine Amanda Palmer's 'The Art of Asking,' available to stream and download here: http://www.ted.com/talks/amanda_palmer_the_art_of_asking.html

Discuss the ways in which Palmer's argument is aligned with Hall's claim that cultural studies provides us with: 'a way of thinking, a strategy for survival, and/or a resource for resistance' (Hall, "The Emergence of Cultural Studies and the Crisis of the Humanities", October, v 53, 1990, p22). Your explanation should draw directly on material we have covered in the course, including drawing on key theorists, theories or approaches, as well as any additional research you have done to help support your argument.

This assessment task will be marked according to the following **assessment criteria**:

1. Demonstrates the ability to deploy analytical skills in order to develop a scholarly and well-supported argument
2. Demonstrates a clear and effective grasp of relevant key concepts
3. Demonstrates critical and sustained engagement with the unit readings
4. Demonstrates knowledge and critique of key issues and methods within cultural studies
5. Ability to stage a well-supported analysis of texts and culture
6. Effective use of writing skills to present academic research, including consistent and accurate use of in-text referencing.

Submission: Students will submit this task via the Turnitin link on the unit iLearn Site.

Disruptions to Studies: In this unit, extensions will only be granted in line with the university's [Disruption to Studies Policy](#). If you experience a serious and unexpected disruption to your studies and would like to seek an extension of 1-7 days, please contact your unit convenor. If you are seeking an extension of more than 7 days, please submit a disruption to studies notification via ask.mq.edu.au. Extensions will not be granted on the grounds of work commitments. For more information about this process, please read the section below on policies and procedures.

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- Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural politics
- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Delivery and Resources

Students will complete this unit online. At the beginning of the study period, they will find the weekly schedule listed sequentially down the ilearn page from week 1 to week 13. Listed underneath each week, they will find details about the content and a link to the lecture (downloadable PDF document), a link to the unit readings and a link to the weekly activity and discussion forum.

Unit Lectures: The lectures in this unit are available as downloadable PDF documents. They are written by many of the cultural studies staff in the Media, Music, Communications and Cultural Studies Department at Macquarie University.

Unit Readings: The readings for each week are available via online 'Unit Readings,' a service provided by the [Macquarie University Library](#). A link to the readings is provided in the listing for each week. If you have trouble finding and/or accessing the readings, please search the library's online database and consult your tutor.

Weekly Activities and Discussion: At the beginning of each week, your tutor will send an announcement that introduces the weekly topic and highlights any upcoming tasks. Following the announcement, they will also post an activity for you to complete in the weekly listing. These activities are designed to help you develop your understanding of the unit content. They also aim to provide a space to ask questions and interact with your peers.

The General Discussion Forum: If you have any general questions about the unit or an assessment, and would like to share them with your peers, please start a conversation in the general discussion forum. This forum is open for everyone to start discussions, share resources and ask questions.

The Dialogue Module: This module is available for students who would like to have private conversations with their tutor.

Planning the study period: The OUA Weekly Calendar can be used to plan both your assessment tasks and weekly activities. It can be found here: <http://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/weekly-calendars>

Policies and Procedures

Late Submission - applies unless otherwise stated elsewhere in the unit guide

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Extension Request

Special Consideration Policy and Procedure **(<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>)**

The University recognises that students may experience events or conditions that adversely affect their academic performance. If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration.

You need to show that the circumstances:

1. were serious, unexpected and unavoidable
2. were beyond your control
3. caused substantial disruption to your academic work
4. substantially interfered with your otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of the unit requirements
5. lasted at least three consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period and prevented completion of an assessment task scheduled for a specific date.

If you feel that your studies have been impacted submit an application as follows:

1. Visit [Ask MQ](#) and use your OneID to log in
2. Fill in your relevant details
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'Browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'Submit Form' to send your notification and supporting documents
4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the

future as part of the assessment process

Outcome

Once your submission is assessed, an appropriate outcome will be organised.

OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

Withdrawal from a unit after the census date

You can withdraw from your subjects prior to [the census date](#) (last day to withdraw). If you successfully withdraw before the census date, you won't need to apply for Special Circumstances. If you find yourself unable to withdraw from your subjects before the census date - you might be able to [apply for Special Circumstances](#). If you're eligible, we can refund your fees and overturn your fail grade.

If you're studying Single Subjects using FEE-HELP or paying up front, you can [apply online](#).

If you're studying a degree using HECS-HELP, you'll need to [apply directly to Macquarie University](#).

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

New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016 http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html. For more information visit http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

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/

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](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (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

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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.

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

- Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural politics
- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Assessment tasks

- Activities Reflection Task
- Final Essay

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

- Synthesise and apply key methods of theoretical and textual analysis in relation to texts/ images and culture
- Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural politics
- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Assessment tasks

- Activities Reflection Task
- Final 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

- Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural politics

- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Assessment task

- Final 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

- Understand and recall key cultural studies terms and theoretical concepts
- Synthesise and apply key methods of theoretical and textual analysis in relation to texts/ images and culture
- Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural politics
- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Assessment tasks

- Essay One
- Activities Reflection Task
- Final 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

- Understand and recall key cultural studies terms and theoretical concepts
- Synthesise and apply key methods of theoretical and textual analysis in relation to texts/ images and culture

- Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural politics
- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Assessment tasks

- Essay One
- Activities Reflection Task
- Final 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

- Understand and recall key cultural studies terms and theoretical concepts
- Synthesise and apply key methods of theoretical and textual analysis in relation to texts/ images and culture
- Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural politics
- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Assessment tasks

- Essay One
- Activities Reflection Task
- Final Essay

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

- Synthesise and apply key methods of theoretical and textual analysis in relation to texts/

images and culture

- Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural politics
- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Assessment tasks

- Essay One
- Activities Reflection Task
- Final 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

- Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural politics
- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Assessment task

- Final 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

- Evaluate a number of the key theories, issues and debates in contemporary cultural politics
- Apply key concepts to everyday practices in an appropriate academic form

Assessment tasks

- Activities Reflection Task
- Final Essay