



MMCS261

Photo Media

S2 Day 2018

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Jane Simon

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Contact via jane.simon@mq.edu.au

10HA 165K

by appointment

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

12cp at 100 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the practice of photography across diverse cultural contexts and media platforms. It will introduce critical debates about the practice of photography and a number of key themes in the history of photography. The unit will consider a range of genres, texts and practices including snapshots and online photo sharing, family albums, fashion photography, photography as art and photojournalism. The unit will include the following topics: street photography and ethics; the photograph as evidence and instrument of organisation; domestic photography and amateurism; photography and otherness; and the place of photography in contemporary digital media cultures.

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:

Identify key themes, ideas and concepts in theories of photography.

Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic practices and texts.

Analyse and critically evaluate photographs according to themes, genres, and forms.

Research independently in the discipline, including identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.

Communicate ideas in a range of genres including short reviews, online forums, class discussions and research essays.

Communicate ideas verbally, and facilitate and participate in group discussion.

Evidence engagement with and reflection on contemporary photographic media.

General Assessment Information

Assessment standards

Assessment standards in this unit align with the University's grade descriptors, available at: <http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment>

Late submission / Special Consideration

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved:

1. 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
2. no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (including weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests, online participation.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Engagement	20%	No	Ongoing, Week 2-13
Online Quiz	25%	No	11:59 pm, Sunday 9 Sept
Final Essay	45%	No	11:59pm, Monday 29th October
Reading Summaries	10%	No	Weeks 2-8, 11-13

Engagement

Due: **Ongoing, Week 2-13**

Weighting: **20%**

You are expected to actively engage, contribute and discuss ideas in all tutorials as well as the online exhibition review forum. During the semester all students are required to actively engage

with photo media and photographic theory by:

- listening to the weekly lecture and completing the weekly readings **before** each tutorial
- bringing relevant examples of photos to tutorials and contributing discussion questions (each student will be designated a specific week & topic where they are expected to provide a photographic example and two discussion questions for the group to consider - this activity is worth 5% and contributes to your overall engagement mark worth 20%).
- participating in class discussion and activities
- engaging with your classmates during tutorial discussion and group activities
- visiting a photographic exhibition during the semester
- posting a short review of the exhibition online and engaging with your classmates' reviews by providing feedback to each other online.

A list of current local photographic exhibitions will be posted on iLearn. Each student will be asked to post a short response (400-500 words) to the exhibition they have seen and to read and give feedback on reviews written by other students in their tutorial group via the iLearn Forum. You must submit this post and engage with your classmates' reviews on iLearn before 11pm Monday 15th October. Responses posted after this date will not contribute to your engagement mark. The forum will be open from 9am Monday 8th October. This assessment is worth 5% and contributes to your overall engagement mark (worth 20%).

You must notify your tutor as soon as possible if you believe you may be absent from tutorials at any stage and you should provide your tutor with evidence of a medical or personal emergency.

Marking Criteria

- Preparation for class and active engagement across the semester (by contributing to large and small group discussions and participating in class activities, including the online exhibition review forum)
- Ability to engage with key concepts and themes covered in readings and lectures across the semester (your engagement grade is not about simply attending class - you need to demonstrate your understanding of the weekly lecture and readings). *You receive no marks for attendance, only for engagement and participation.*

A rubric for grading your engagement is posted on iLearn and will be discussed in class during the first tutorial in Week 2.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key themes, ideas and concepts in theories of photography.

- Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic practices and texts.
- Analyse and critically evaluate photographs according to themes, genres, and forms.
- Communicate ideas in a range of genres including short reviews, online forums, class discussions and research essays.
- Communicate ideas verbally, and facilitate and participate in group discussion.
- Evidence engagement with and reflection on contemporary photographic media.

Online Quiz

Due: **11:59 pm, Sunday 9 Sept**

Weighting: **25%**

This is an open book multiple choice test that will be accessed via iLearn. The test will require students to answer a series of multiple choice questions relating to the key readings from Weeks 1- 6. The test will open on Friday 7th September at 5pm and close on Sunday 9th September at 11:59pm. The correct answers to the test will be made available after the test has closed.

This test is designed to provide early feedback for students. Key concepts covered in the Week 1-6 readings will inform subsequent topics in the unit. Therefore the test will give students the opportunity to consider which concepts and ideas they have understood, as well as identify areas for improvement in understanding.

Marking criteria

- understanding of key concepts in photographic theory as covered in Week 1-6
- evidence of reading set texts from Week 1-6

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key themes, ideas and concepts in theories of photography.
- Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic practices and texts.

Final Essay

Due: **11:59pm, Monday 29th October**

Weighting: **45%**

2000 word research essay. Essay topic, marking rubrics and detailed instructions will be distributed in class and posted on iLearn. This essay is due on Monday the 29th of October at 11:59pm.

Marking Criteria

- Understanding and critical engagement with key readings in the unit
- Comparison and analysis of key concepts in the unit

- Critical analysis of relevant photographs
- Independent research within the discipline
- Use of research and reading to support the argument
- Organisation of argument including clear addressing of the question
- Clarity of communication
- Accurate and appropriate referencing

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key themes, ideas and concepts in theories of photography.
- Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic practices and texts.
- Analyse and critically evaluate photographs according to themes, genres, and forms.
- Research independently in the discipline, including identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.
- Communicate ideas in a range of genres including short reviews, online forums, class discussions and research essays.
- Evidence engagement with and reflection on contemporary photographic media.

Reading Summaries

Due: **Weeks 2-8, 11-13**

Weighting: **10%**

You must submit a short (200 word) reflective summary of the set weekly readings for each week between Weeks 2-8 and 11-13. There will be no set readings for Week 9 (exhibition visit & review week) and Week 10 (dedicated to essay planning). Each summary must be posted to the blog on iLearn by 11am on Friday, just **before** classes in which the reading will be discussed. Students must submit ten summaries over this period.

The aim of these summaries is to encourage careful preparation for tutorial classes. As the purpose of summaries is to ensure that students are prepared for tutorials, summaries will not be accepted late, without documented medical or personal difficulties. Summaries will be submitted online via iLearn. Each summary is worth 1% of the overall grade.

Marking criteria

- timely completion of summaries on designated text
- evidence of reading designated texts

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key themes, ideas and concepts in theories of photography.
- Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic

practices and texts.

- Communicate ideas in a range of genres including short reviews, online forums, class discussions and research essays.
- Evidence engagement with and reflection on contemporary photographic media.

Delivery and Resources

CLASSES

Please consult the MQ timetable website for up to date timetabling of lectures and tutorials:

<https://timetables.mq.edu.au/2017/>

Tutorials:

Please note, you **must** attend the tutorial you are enrolled in. If you wish to change your tutorial time you can do so via e-student. Your tutor/lecturer will **not** be able to change your tutorial enrolment.

Tutorials begin in Week Two.

ATTENDANCE

This unit has a one hour lecture and a one hour tutorial every week. Lectures are recorded and available through iLearn, however students are strongly encouraged to attend lectures. Lectures are often interactive and some material shown in lectures can't be recorded through Echo360. Tutorial attendance is compulsory. Students are required to prepare for tutorials by having attended or listened to the lecture and having done the week's readings and prepared questions and notes. It is expected that students dedicate some of their study time to attending photographic exhibitions, looking at photographic collections in libraries, archives and online galleries. If you miss tutorials without medical certification or other evidence of disruption this will impact on your 'Engagement' mark for the unit.

Outside of class attendance students should expect to spend approximately seven hours each week reading, preparing for tutorials and researching and planning for assignments.

REQUIRED READING

Required readings are available online through the MQ Library website. To access readings you need to click on the "Unit Readings" tab on the library's home page.

RECOMMENDED READING

There is a list of further recommended reading for each topic - please refer to iLearn.

TECHNOLOGIES USED AND REQUIRED

Lectures will be recorded and available on iLearn. Details on readings, assessments and links to relevant material will be available on iLearn. Students are expected to regularly check iLearn and their MQ email addresses for announcements.

FEEDBACK

During the semester you will receive feedback in many forms. Sometimes this feedback will be verbal and informal and will come from your tutor such as during tutorials or lectures when you offer up ideas or questions. At times your tutor and lecturer will also offer more general feedback about the group's progress during tutorials. At other times feedback will be more formal, in the case of written feedback on your final essay or the posted correct responses to the questions in the online quiz.

You will also receive valuable feedback from your peers through the semester. This will take the form of written comments on the exhibition review forum on ilearn and through responses to the 'lead the discussion' assessment during tutorials.

Unit Schedule

Week One: Photographs, practices, contexts

Week Two: Photographic Seeing

Week Three: Photo-journalism & documentary photography

Week Four: Street photography & documentary ethics

Week Five: Photography, identity & the self portrait .

Week Six: Evidence, race, crime

Week Seven: Photography, landscape, place

SEMESTER BREAK

Week Eight: Photography as Art

Week Nine: Reviewing exhibitions

Week Ten: Final Essay planning and consultations

Week Eleven: Family photography

Week Twelve: Photography and belonging: *Sadness*

Week Thirteen: Open topic

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)

- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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.

Additional information

MMCCS website https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_arts/departments_of_media_music_communication_and_cultural_studies/

MMCCS Session Re-mark Application <http://www.mq.edu.au/pubstatic/public/download/?id=167914>

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/>

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

- Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic practices and texts.
- Analyse and critically evaluate photographs according to themes, genres, and forms.
- Evidence engagement with and reflection on contemporary photographic media.

Assessment tasks

- Engagement
- 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

- Identify key themes, ideas and concepts in theories of photography.
- Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic practices and texts.
- Analyse and critically evaluate photographs according to themes, genres, and forms.
- Communicate ideas in a range of genres including short reviews, online forums, class discussions and research essays.
- Communicate ideas verbally, and facilitate and participate in group discussion.

Assessment tasks

- Engagement
- 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 outcome

- Evidence engagement with and reflection on contemporary photographic media.

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

- Identify key themes, ideas and concepts in theories of photography.
- Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic practices and texts.

- Analyse and critically evaluate photographs according to themes, genres, and forms.
- Research independently in the discipline, including identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.
- Communicate ideas in a range of genres including short reviews, online forums, class discussions and research essays.

Assessment tasks

- Engagement
- Online Quiz
- Final Essay
- Reading Summaries

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

- Identify key themes, ideas and concepts in theories of photography.
- Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic practices and texts.
- Analyse and critically evaluate photographs according to themes, genres, and forms.
- Research independently in the discipline, including identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.
- Communicate ideas in a range of genres including short reviews, online forums, class discussions and research essays.

Assessment tasks

- Engagement
- Online Quiz
- Final Essay
- Reading Summaries

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

- Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic practices and texts.
- Analyse and critically evaluate photographs according to themes, genres, and forms.
- Research independently in the discipline, including identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.
- Communicate ideas in a range of genres including short reviews, online forums, class discussions and research essays.

Assessment tasks

- Engagement
- 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

- Distinguish between and critically evaluate theoretical positions on photographic practices and texts.
- Analyse and critically evaluate photographs according to themes, genres, and forms.
- Communicate ideas in a range of genres including short reviews, online forums, class discussions and research essays.
- Communicate ideas verbally, and facilitate and participate in group discussion.

Assessment tasks

- Engagement
- Final Essay
- Reading Summaries

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 outcome

- Evidence engagement with and reflection on contemporary photographic media.

Changes from Previous Offering

The assessment structure has been changed to include reflective reading summaries, to encourage students to prepare for tutorial discussions and activities. The order of topics has been changed and readings have been updated.