School of Humanities Creative Industries SocialSci

HASS2000: BA Practice
Callaghan
Semester 2 - 2023

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Humanities knowledge is essential to the world around us. Disciplines and fields of studies in the Humanities contribute to understanding people's lives in the past and present, with an eye to the future. How does this happen? Where does knowledge come from? This course considers how knowledge is made, starting with types of evidence. Through taking apart and comparing methods of finding evidence and working with it, students will discover the checks and balances for ensuring knowledge is proven, or supportable as true, and ethical. Methods are a map and compass for countering misinformation and for putting research skills into action. Students completing this course will gain a research skills toolkit, be introduced to digital technologies in research and presentation, and build towards designing a project.

Assumed Knowledge   HASS1000

Contact Hours
Callaghan
Lecture
Face to Face On Campus
1 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 1

Workshop
Face to Face On Campus
1 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 1

Unit Weighting   10

Workload
Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator

Callaghan
A/Pr Julie McIntyre
Julie.Mcintyre@newcastle.edu.au
(02) 4921 7029
Consultation: Mondays during semester 3:00pm-5:00pm. You're welcome to make an appointment to discuss any aspect of the course!

Teaching Staff

Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office

School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences
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SYLLABUS

Course Content

This course offers a new methods framework suited to all Humanities students. Topics will include working with documents, objects, media, statistics, interview transcripts, formal modes of observation and informal approaches such as eavesdropping. Specialists will discuss Indigenous research in the academy and the principles of the scientific method from Humanities experiments to creative practice. Topics will also include ethics, the levels of complexity in critical thinking, and project feasibility. Workshops cover a variety of practical encounters with methods across the Humanities.

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Evaluate approaches to evidence in the Humanities.

2. Discuss intermediate undergraduate concepts in methods of conducting Humanities research.

3. Apply practical and transferable skills to enhance work readiness in Humanities disciplines.

4. Demonstrate presentation skills in digital as well as traditional formats at an intermediate level.

Course Materials

Required Reading:
- **All required readings are available online in Course Readings on Canvas.** Each workshop's reading relates to the previous week's lecture. It can be helpful to print out readings and make notes on hard copies to focus your reading and notetaking time. Workshops and assessments are centred on the required reading so please complete set readings ahead of workshops, make notes, complete Workshop Notes as instructed, and be prepared to contribute to class discussions based on what you have read. Additional reading material for assessment preparation is also available on Canvas.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Lecture	Laboratory/Workshop	Assessment Due
1	17 Jul	1. What is practice in the Humanities?	0. How-to guide. Readings: Course Outline and Canvas site.	No assessments due.
2	24 Jul	2. Types of evidence: existing knowledge or scholarship.	1. Reflecting on your present explanatory frameworks . Readings: Hirst (2004); ABC Podcast: How We Make Up Our Minds (2022).	Assessment 1 - Workshop Notes due weekly, on paper, at the start of class.
3	31 Jul	3. Types of evidence: texts to make new knowledge.	2. Peer-reviewed publications (and experiments). Reading: Weber et al (2018).	Workshop Notes due at the start of class.
4	7 Aug	4. Types of evidence: projects with texts, numbers or both.	3. Close reading. Reading: Saunders (2022).	Workshop Notes due at the start of class.
5	14 Aug	5. Types of evidence: studying people.	4. Case studies. Readings: Alexander (2014); Stopher (2012).	Workshop Notes due at the start of class.
6	21 Aug	6. Methods: connecting the selection and interpretation of evidence.	5. Ethnographic listening versus creative eavesdropping. Readings: Greet (2017); Schensul & LeCompte (2012).	Workshop Notes due at the start of class.
7	28 Aug	7. Why be ethical in Humanities practice?	6. More on methods. Reading: Choose-your-own from the Week 6 Workshop List in Course Readings.	Workshop Notes due at the start of class. Assessment 2 - Methods Literature Review
8	4 Sep	8. What is critical thinking for humanists?	7. Doing no harm in the Humanities. Readings: National Ethical Standards (2018); Stenmark et al (2010).	Workshop Notes due at the start of class.
9	11 Sep	9. A final facet of good practice: equity and standpoints.	8. Critical reasoning in practice. Readings: Stokes (2012); Katz (2020).	Workshop Notes due at the start of class.
10	18 Sep	10. Different Humanities approaches to one scenario.	9. Indigeneity, knowledge and power. Ray Kelly Interview Podcast (2019).	Workshop Notes due at the start of class. Assessment 3 - Online Essay.
Mid Term Break				
Mid Term Break				
11	9 Oct	11. What is a Humanities research proposal?	10. Research design principles. Readings: Murchison (2010).	Workshop Notes due at the start of class.
12	16 Oct	12. Taking stock of your Humanities practice toolkit.	11. Assessment 4 Preparation. Reading: Choose-your-own from your Assessment 4 reference list.	Workshop Notes due at the start of class.
13	23 Oct	No coursework.	No coursework.	Assessment 4 - Research Proposal
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Workshop Notes (20%)	Weekly, from Week 2.	Individual	20%	1, 2
2	Methods Literature Review (20%)	Friday 1 September, 10pm.	Individual	20%	1, 2, 4
3	Online Essay (30%)	Friday 22 September, 10pm.	Individual	30%	2, 3, 4
4	Research Proposal (30%)	Friday 27 October, 10pm	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4

Late Submissions	The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Workshop Notes (20%)

Assessment Type	Presentation
Description	A focus question will be provided in each week's lecture. Use this question to guide your Notes preparation for the following week's workshop. Each week handwrite or type and print a response that is 150-200 words IN TOTAL and referring to all of the week's required readings. Hand in Notes at the start of your timetabled workshop.
Weighting	20%
Length	Approx. 1500-2000 words by the end of semester.
Due Date	Weekly, from Week 2.
Submission Method	In Class
	Hard copy Notes only will be accepted. Ensure you include your name on Notes. Write your Notes in meaningful prose. Avoid dot points. Refer to author surnames. This task rewards diligence across the semester.
Assessment Criteria	Full marks awarded (2 marks per week for a maximum of 10 weeks) for meeting all task requirements as explained above and in Lecture 1.
Return Method	In Class
Feedback Provided	Returned Work - No more than two weeks after submission. Brief comments and encouragement.

Assessment 2 - Methods Literature Review (20%)

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	Locate 2 peer-reviewed journal articles in the online Library catalogue. Guided by coursework up to Week 6 read these articles carefully to identify and then compare and contrast what is being studied in each article and the types of evidence and methods (of selecting and interpreting evidence) described by the article authors.
Weighting	20%
Length	1000 words incl. references and reference list.
Due Date	Friday 1 September, 10pm.
Submission Method	Online
	See Assessment 2 portal on Canvas.
Assessment Criteria	Submissions are assessed for skill in following instructions, working with course concepts, and presentation. See rubric on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - No more than three weeks after submission.

Assessment 3 - Online Essay (30%)

Assessment Type	Online Learning Activity
Description	What constitutes "good" practices of "finding out" in your branch of the Humanities? This task is in two parts: a reflective essay-style explainer researched from a suggested reference list and a reformatting of this essay (word-for-word) into an online publishing portal with

	hyperlinked references.
Weighting	30%
Length	1000 words incl. references and reference list.
Due Date	Friday 22 September, 10pm.
Submission Method	Online
	See Assessment 3 on Canvas. There are two submission portals. One is for the essay-explainer as a Word document (File Entry). The essay will be referenced in a style of the student's choosing (Chicago, Harvard or APA, etc) and include a reference list/bibliography. The second portal is where you copy your essay text and then reformat references to suit an online publishing environment (Text Entry).
Assessment Criteria	This task is assessed for the quality of research and reflection on practice and also for demonstrating skills in online formatting that uses hyperlinked references as per detailed instructions provided in class and on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - No more than three weeks after submission. Feedback will be provided on the Text Entry (Turnitin) submission.

Assessment 4 - Research Proposal (30%)

Assessment Type	Proposal / Plan
Description	Research the appropriate methods to use for a project idea and propose a fully referenced research or creative project using the template provided in Canvas. Referencing will preferably be Harvard, MLA or APA (not Chicago footnotes).
Weighting	30%
Length	1500 words incl. references and reference list.
Due Date	Friday 26 October, 10pm
Submission Method	Online
	See Assessment 4 on Canvas.
Assessment Criteria	This task is assessed for the application of skills gained in the course relating to envisaging and explaining project methods.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - No more than three weeks after submission.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods	Communication methods used in this course include:
	- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.
	- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.

Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure. In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule.

Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35.

Adverse Circumstances	The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s).
	Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:
	1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
	2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
	3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
	4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.
	Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:
	https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236

Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.