

## ABOR1001: Welcome to Critical Indigenous Studies

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## OVERVIEW

### Course Description

This course introduces students to the Global Indigenous Studies degree, its rationale, central concepts and key skills. This is an interdisciplinary course that studies the history and core learning principles of the discipline of Indigenous studies, exploring how critical and creative thinking occurs within Indigenous studies. Engaging in the course learning will encourage students to consider the complexity of debates within the discipline given the historical importance of issues such as Indigenous identity, culture and knowledges with particular awareness of our increasingly connected world. Students will engage with informed, present-day debates about Indigenous knowledges and peoples including major concepts and projects underpinning the discipline such as decolonisation, identity, culture, environment, and representation.

This course provides foundational skills in the areas of information literacy, evidence-based problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication skills, and forging effective arguments. At the conclusion of the course, students will have developed level-appropriate research and communication skills that are vital for both success in the Bachelor of Global Indigenous Studies and an increasing range of potential career paths. They will also be able to demonstrate a foundational understanding of the importance of centralising Indigenous studies' role in Indigenous knowledge creation and ethically aware problem solving more broadly.

### Contact Hours

#### Online

#### Online Activity

Online

2 hour(s) per Week for Full Term

#### Workshop

Online

1 hour(s) per Week for Full Term - Flexible timing, not set hour

### Unit Weighting Workload

10

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

# COURSE OUTLINE

# CONTACTS

**Course Coordinator**     **Online**  
Shelly McGrath  
[Shelly.McGrath@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Shelly.McGrath@newcastle.edu.au)

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

**School Office**             **Wollotuka School of Aboriginal Studies**  
Birabahn Building Callaghan  
wollotuka@newcastle.edu.au  
+61 2 4921 6863

# SYLLABUS

**Course Content**             Centering - Embedding Indigenous Perspectives  
Global - Critical Indigenous Studies across Times, Places and Spaces  
Doing - Being Indigenous  
Topics may include: critical and ethical thinking; Indigenous and non-Indigenous epistemologies in context; histories of localities, nations, and peoples; global perspectives of Indigenous histories and politics; understanding local, regional, national, and global power relations including colonisation and decolonisation in the past and present; the role of oral communication including telling stories and constructing narratives; media and audio-visual representation; material culture and cultural preservation; and digital technology as a tool for knowledge acquisition and communication.

**Course Learning Outcomes**     **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate introductory knowledge of the discipline of Global Indigenous Studies
2. Define and outline the complexity of debates within the discipline including the contemporary and historical importance of issues such as Indigenous identity, culture, and knowledges
3. Examine and define social, cultural and economic and political influences on Global Indigenous peoples and communities
4. Demonstrate effective communication skills in written, oral, and online literacies

**Course Materials**             Uploaded to Canvas

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction: The World's Indigenous Peoples	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	
<b>Module 1: Centering - Embedding Indigenous Perspectives</b>				
2	4 Mar	Indigenist Thinking	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	
3	11 Mar	Global Indigenous Storytelling	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	
4	18 Mar	Identity	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	Quiz One- 10%
5	25 Mar	Media	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	
<b>Module 2: Global - Critical Indigenous Studies across Times, Places and Spaces</b>				
6	1 Apr	Colonisation/Cultural Imperialism	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	Essay 40% <b>7/4/24</b>
7	8 Apr	Environmental Relationships	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	
<b>Mid-Semester Break</b>				
<b>Mid-Semester Break</b>				
8	29 April	Time	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	Quiz Two 10%
<b>Module 3: Doing – Being Indigenous</b>				
9	6 May	Celebration and Mourning	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	
10	13 May	Repatriation	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	Podcasts 30% <b>19/5/24</b>
11	20 May	Cultural Appropriation	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	
12	27 May	Popular Culture	Self-directed learning activities in Canvas site	
13	3 June	No formal Activity	No formal activity	Quiz Three 10%
<b>Examination Period (No formal examination)</b>				
<b>Examination Period</b>				

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Module Quizzes	Weeks 4, 8 & 13	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3
2	Podcast/Presentation	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Individual	30%	3, 4
3	Written Assignment/Essay	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Individual	40%	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 - Module Quizzes (30%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Purpose</b>	Demonstrate introductory knowledge of the discipline of Global Indigenous Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examine and define the historical and political influences on Global Indigenous peoples and communities</li> <li>- Examine and demonstrate effective communication skills in written, verbal and online literacies</li> <li>- Assess comprehension of key concepts including cultural competencies</li> </ul>
<b>Description</b>	During semester there will be three online quizzes- each worth 10%. Questions will be based on the lecture and tutorial materials. Quizzes will open 9am Monday of the scheduled week and will close 5pm on the Friday of that week. Students will have one hour to complete each quiz. Each quiz can only be attempted once.
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	10 questions for a total of 30 questions
<b>Due Date</b>	Weeks 4, 8 & 13 (Open 9am Monday- close 5pm Friday).
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Multiple Choice answers- right or wrong only.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online

## Assessment 2 - Podcast/Presentation (30%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Oral Presentation
<b>Purpose</b>	Define and critically discuss historical and political influences on Global Indigenous peoples and communities Examine the complexity of debates within the discipline including the historical and contemporary importance of issues such as Indigenous identity, culture and knowledges Examine and demonstrate effective communication skills in oral and online literacies Assess comprehension of key concepts including cultural competencies
<b>Description</b>	Students will develop an individual <b>six-minute</b> podcast identifying one of the issues discussed in the lectures. The podcast will: describe what the issue is; identify who the Indigenous peoples impacted by the issue are; critically discuss how the Indigenous peoples are responding; and provide recommendations with possible means for addressing the issue. <b>No written component required.</b>
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	Six Minutes
<b>Due Date</b>	11.59pm, Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online- upload file to Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Rubric available in Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - Feedback will be provided two weeks from the date of submission via the Course Canvas site

### Assessment 3 - Written Assignment (40%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	Demonstrate introductory knowledge of the discipline of Global Indigenous Studies. Define and outline the complexity of debates within the discipline including the contemporary and historical importance of issues such as Indigenous identity, culture and knowledges. Demonstrate effective, culturally responsive communication skills in written literacies
<b>Description</b>	Students will choose ONE question from a list of essay questions provided in Canvas
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	1500 words
<b>Due Date</b>	11.59pm, Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Rubric available in Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - 2 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).

<b>Communication Methods</b>	<p>Communication methods used in this course include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.</li><li>- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.</li></ul> <p>Students must log in regularly to the Canvas course site and to regularly check their email.</p> <p>Other communication methods include discussion forums.</p>
<b>Course Evaluation</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Oral Interviews (Vivas)</b>	<p>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 <a href="#">Oral Examination (viva) Procedure</a>. 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 <a href="#">Student Conduct Rule</a>.</p>
<b>Academic Misconduct</b>	<p>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 <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35</a></p>
<b>Adverse Circumstances</b>	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The assessment item is a major assessment item; or</li><li>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;</li><li>3. You are requesting a change of placement; or</li><li>4. The course has a compulsory attendance requirement.</li></ol> <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</a></p> <p>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 <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures</a> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.</p>
<b>Important Policy Information</b>	

*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

© 2024 The University of Newcastle, Australia.