

ABOR2330: Traditional Aboriginal Society

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



OVERVIEW

Course Description Explores the philosophical basis of traditional Aboriginal societies, examining such areas as the life cycle, kinship, control, economic systems and lifestyle practices.

Contact Hours

Lecture
Online
1 hour(s) per Week for Full Term

Tutorial
Online
2 hour(s) activities per Week for Full Term

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**
A/Pr Kathleen Butler
Kathleen.Butler@newcastle.edu.au
(02) 49 217 747
Consultation: By appointment

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

School Office **Wollotuka School of Aboriginal Studies**
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SYLLABUS

Course Content This course explores the philosophical basis of traditional Aboriginal societies examining such areas as the life cycle, kinship, control, economic systems and lifestyle practices.

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

1. Provide an insight into traditional Australia before Cook.
2. Provide critical analysis of the ongoing issues stemming from the loss of traditional lifestyles.
3. Provide an understanding of the diversity of Aboriginal cultures and people.

Course Materials **Lecture Materials:**

- A lecture will be placed in Canvas each week. This material will support student learning and complement the online activities.
- Students need to access weekly lectures in collaboration with weekly readings to support weekly discussion question responses.

Other Resources:

- Weekly readings and online activities will be presented on Canvas to support content understanding.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to The Dreaming and overview of course	No Reading Please introduce yourself to other people in your online Talking Circle group	
2	4 Mar	Country: Land	Online material and weekly reading	
3	11 Mar	Country: Water	Online material and weekly reading	Talking Circle Oration due
4	18 Mar	Country: Fire	Online material and weekly reading	
5	25 Mar	Country: Sky	Online material and weekly reading	
6	1 Apr	Relationships: Kinship	Online material and weekly reading	
7	8 Apr	Relationships: The Lifecycle	Online material and weekly reading	
Mid Semester Break				
Mid Semester Break Minor Essay due				
8	29 Apr	Practices; Aboriginal languages	Online material and weekly reading	
9	6 May	Practices: Trade	Online material and weekly reading	
10	13 May	Practices: Aboriginal technology, tools & mining	Online material and weekly reading	
11	20 May	Wellbeing: Aboriginal diets	Online material and weekly reading	
12	27 May	Wellbeing: Aboriginal medicines	Online material and weekly reading	
13	3 Jun			Major Essay due
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

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

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Talking Circle Oration and written essay	17th March 2024. 11.59pm	30%	1, 2, 3
2	Minor Essay	22nd April, 2024. 11.59pm	30%	1, 2, 3
3	Major Essay	5 Jun, 2024. 11.59pm	40%	1, 2, 3

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 - Talking Circle Oration and Written Essay

Assessment Type	Presentation
Purpose	To examine your understandings of various resources and interpreting the cultural filters that can underlay such resources and presenting these understandings in an engaging presentation 5-minute Powerpoint recording answering the following: How does The Dreaming inform Caring for Country?
Description	This will be your research not a repeat of the lecture. Your presentation should include: Slide 1. Introduction slide. Introduce yourself and the topic. Slide 2. Acknowledgement of Country slide. The protocols for an Acknowledgement of Country will be discussed in Lecture One. Slide 3. Definition of The Dreaming slide. This should be in your own words, not a direct quote. Slide 4. Definition of Country slide. This should be in your own words not a direct quote. Slide 5. Example of how The Dreaming informs Caring for Country. Slide 6. Reference list slide. At least 5 references. APA 7 Conventions. You do not need to reference on slides 1-5. You will also submit a written transcript of your audio. You do not have to reference the transcript.
Weighting	30%
Length	5 min PowerPoint Presentation and Transcript (approx. 700 words)
Due Date	17 th March 2024, 11.59pm
Submission Method	Online via Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Marking rubric will be available on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - 1 week after presentation upload.

Assessment 2 - Minor Essay

Assessment Type	Essay
Purpose	Students will demonstrate their engagement with the core concepts presented.
Description	Please answer ONE of the following questions: a) How does kinship continue to play a role in Aboriginal communities? b) What is a totem and how can it inform identity, relationships and worldviews? c) What is 'Birthing on Country' and what are its benefits? d) Critically consider examples of protocols related to death in Aboriginal communities. e) Why is the repatriation of remains important?
Weighting	30%
Length	1200 words
Due Date	22nd April 2024, 11.59pm
Submission Method	Online Assessment task submitted via Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Marking Rubric available on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - 2 weeks after the submission date.

Assessment 3 - Major Essay

Assessment Type	Essay
Purpose	This essay will examine if you can respond to the interconnected aspects of Aboriginal society and recognise the holistic overlapping complexity of traditional Aboriginal society. Please answer ONE of the following questions.
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Critically discuss the importance of, and the challenges and opportunities involved with, language revitalisation.- Critically discuss three examples of Aboriginal trading practices.- What are the health benefits of a traditional Aboriginal diet?- Analyse the ways in which Aboriginal wellbeing differs from mainstream health care in Australia,.
Weighting	40%
Length	2000 words
Due Date	5 th June 2024. 11.59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric will be available on Canvas in assessment tab
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - 2 weeks after the submission date.

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:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
 - Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Students must log in regularly to the Canvas course site and to regularly check their email. Other communication methods include discussion forums

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/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

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.

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