

ABOR6001: Aboriginal Foundation Studies

Online
Semester 1 - 2024



OVERVIEW

Course Description "Country is alive with information for those who have learned to understand."

(D. Bird- Rose 2000 p.225)

This course provides an understanding of the relevant issues underlying traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies. It explores the underpinning of all relationships and interactions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family networks and demonstrates the vitality of cultures that still exists in NSW and elsewhere. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander philosophy and its impact on the understanding of country is an essential component of the course.

Contact Hours **Online Integrated Learning Session**
Online
3 hour(s) 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**
Shirley Clifton
Shirley.Clifton@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation: By appointment

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 Course Content:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander philosophies
- Kinship networks
- Obligations rights and duties
- Role of elders
- The organisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies
- The lore
- The lifelong learning system
- Economical system of Indigenous societies
- Traditional environmental knowledges

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Provide an insight into traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia BC.
2. Deconstruct the anthropological myths.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures/peoples.
4. Provide the foundation for future knowledge relating to contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.
5. Demonstrate the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' knowledge of the environment.

Course Materials

Course materials will be a range of online resources (journal articles, reports, audio-visual materials). Links are available in the Canvas site.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to The Dreaming and overview of course	Read the Appropriate Terminology Guide. Introduce yourself on Canvas.	
2	4 Mar	Country: Land	Online activities	
3	11 Mar	Country: Water	Online activities	Collaborative Talking Circle 2 (Compulsory)
4	18 Mar	Country: Fire	Online activities	Collaborative Talking Circle 3
5	25 Mar	Country: Sky	Online activities	Collaborative Talking Circle 4
6	1 Apr	Relationships: Kinship	Online activities	Collaborative Talking Circle 5
7	8 Apr	Relationships: Lifecycle	Online activities	Collaborative Talking Circle 6
Mid-Term Break <i>Collaborative Talking Circle 7</i> Case Study Due				
Mid-Term Break				
8	29 Apr	Practices: Aboriginal Languages	Online activities	
9	6 May	Practices: Trade	Online activities	Collaborative Talking Circle 8
10	13 May	Practices, technology, tools & mining	Online activities	Collaborative Talking Circle 9
11	20 May	Well-being: Aboriginal diets	Online activities	Collaborative Talking Circle 10
12	27 May	Well-being: Aboriginal medicines	Online activities	Collaborative Talking Circle 11
13	3 Jun	No Formal class time		Special Study Due 7th June
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	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Collaborative Talking Circle: 5 x 300-word responses to online discussion forum	Students will post their responses in the Discussion thread for the corresponding week. Responses will be accepted till Monday 11.59pm of the following week.	Group	35%	1, 3, 5
2	Case Study	19 th April 2024 11.59pm	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	Special Study	7 th June 2024 11.59pm	Individual	35%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

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 - Collaborative Talking Circle: Weekly contributions to online discussion forum

Assessment Type	Online Learning Activity
Description	This assessment item allows students to demonstrate their satisfactory engagement with the course content across ten weeks of the Collaborative Talking Circles.
Weighting	Students will make a post of approx. 300 words per post for total of 5 weekly graded posts. The Week Two post is compulsory. Students may choose 4 other weeks to be assessed from Week Three to Week Eleven. Posts will be based on the online activities for the corresponding week.
Due Date	35%
Submission Method	1500 words comprising 5 posts of 300 words
Assessment Criteria	Students will post their responses in the Discussion thread for the corresponding week. Responses will be accepted till Monday of the following week.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Submission via the Discussion thread on Canvas. A rubric marked against the assessment criteria will be provided for each submission.

Assessment 2 - Case Study

Assessment Type	Case Study / Problem Based Learning
Description	This assessment enables students to extend their knowledge of traditional Aboriginal life and provide the foundational skills to apply this in contemporary settings. Provide a 7-minute presentation explaining the question: How does The Dreaming inform Caring for Country? Your presentation should include: 1. Introduction slide. Introduce yourself and the topic. 2. Acknowledgement of Country slide. 3. Definition of The Dreaming slide. This should be in your own words, not a direct quote. 4. Definition of Country slide. This should be in your own words not a direct quote. 5. Case Study example slide. Example of how The Dreaming informs Caring for Country. 6. Reference list slide. At least 5 references. APA 7 Conventions. 30%
Weighting	30%
Due Date	19 th April 2024 11.59pm
Submission Method	Online in Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Full assessment criteria are available in the Assessment section on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 3 - Special Study

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	The Special Study allows students to develop a sophisticated response to the course concepts, following their own interest areas. Examples are provided in the Assessment Section on Canvas.
Weighting	This Special Study offers students the opportunity to pursue their personal or professional interest in Aboriginal histories and cultures related to the course content. Students should nominate an area of interest on the discussion board link and what they aim to learn from the activity. The lecturer will then provide links to resources to support that topic.
Due Date	7 th June 2024 11.59pm
Submission Method	Online in Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Full assessment criteria are available in the Assessment section on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

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.

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.

© 2024 The University of Newcastle, Australia