

HASS2000: BA Practice

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

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. In the humanities different disciplines and fields of study each contribute to knowledge creation by investigating people's choices and experiences in the past and present, with an eye to the future. Methods are the frameworks and practices that guide these investigations. This course builds on HASS1000 by thinking with a methods-based approach to evaluate and compare how evidence of people's lives is shaped into knowledge. The course develops understanding of the purpose and standards of making knowledge claims that can be accepted as true, ethical and inclusive. Students completing this course will gain an effective research skills toolkit for designing projects.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Assumed Knowledge Contact Hours

HASS1000

Callaghan Lecture

Face to Face On Campus

1 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

Workshop

Face to Face On Campus

1 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

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 **Callaghan**
Associate Professor Julie McIntyre
Julie.McIntyre@newcastle.edu.au

Consultation: I am available for in-person consultation on confidential matters, by appointment. Email ahead of time for an appointment as I will need to book a meeting room. Many thanks!

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 Topics may include:

- Understanding types of evidence
- Skills in finding and presenting evidence
- Connecting evidence types with Humanities specialisms
- Scientific methods in the Humanities
- Indigenous challenges to Western research methods
- Ethics, diversity and inclusion in research
- Methods-based principles of project design

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

1. Identify how evidence is collected and deployed to make knowledge claims in humanities disciplines.
2. Describe various humanities research methods and reflect critically on their purpose and standards.
3. Explain what it means to do research ethically and inclusively.
4. Pose a research question and develop an appropriate research plan to investigate it.

Course Materials **Lecture Materials:**
Student responsibilities at our university include "actively engage in all learning activities." HASS2000 Lectures are delivered in person, as timetabled. Some lecture PowerPoint slides are available on the course Canvas site prior to lectures. These slides are not, however, a substitute for attending lectures and taking your own notes for revision. Lectures inform your reading of Required Readings, the application of concepts in Workshops and Assessments.

Required Reading:
Student responsibilities at our university include the expectation that you will "read prescribed materials and submit assessment items by the due date." HASS2000 assessments are based on course concepts learned in Lectures, Readings and Workshops. Class preparation and attendance is strongly advised. Class preparation includes taking notes in Lectures and completing all Required Readings for Workshops. Required Readings are available under Course Readings on the HASS2000 Canvas site. Recommended readings will also be provided for further investigation of concepts.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Lectures	Workshops	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb [Note: classes are on Fridays]	What do we mean by practice?	Who are you? What do you know? How does the course work? (No readings this week)	
2	4 Mar	How to knowingly ask questions	Finding questions in published essays (Pratt 1991; Pratt 2022)	
3	11 Mar	Evidence and new truths	Devising worthy questions to find new truths (Eco 1977/2012)	Assessment 1 - Workshop Notes - Part 1 - Due at the start of your timetabled Workshop on Fri 15 March
4	18 Mar	Finding what is already known	From copying to creating (Oliver 1994; Schrag 2021; Dixon 2023; Eco 1977/2012)	Assessment 1 - Workshop Notes - Part 2 - Due at the start of your timetabled Workshop on Fri 22 March
5	25 Mar	Library search superpowers	Towards information literacy (Weber et al 2018)	
6	1 Apr	Being evidence-based in fields of knowledge	Embedding library search skills (Smith & Storr 2023)	
7	8 Apr	Applied and implied ethics	Why be scientific? (Eco 1977/2012)	Assessment 1 - Workshop Notes - Part 3 - Due at the start of your timetabled Workshop on Fri 12 April
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Whose knowledge? Whose truths?	Doing no harm (Aus. Govt. publication on ethical standards 2018)	
9	6 May	Critique at 5 levels of complexity	But who are you, really? (Smith 2021; Takacs 2003)	
10	13 May	Placing value on existing and new knowledge	What is thinking? (Stokes 2012; Burger 2019)	Assessment 2 - Reflective Essay - Due Mon 13 May, 10pm
11	20 May	Proposing research	Judging the value of knowledge (Winchester 2023; Vally 2019)	
12	27 May	More on proposing research	Writing a research proposal (Schrag 2021; Eco 1977/2012; and state govt websites as listed)	
13	3 Jun			Assessment 3 - Research Proposal - Due Fri 7 June, 10pm
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	Workshop Notes	Part 1 - Friday 15 March; Part 2 - Friday 22 March; Part 3 - Friday 12 April.	Individual	30%	1, 2
2	Reflective Essay	Monday 13 May, 10pm	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3
3	Project Proposal	Friday 7 June, 10pm	Individual	40%	1, 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

Assessment Type	Log / Workbook
Purpose	Apply HASS2000 course concepts on evidence and methods in research.
Description	Together 3 successive parts of this assessment (worth 10 marks each, for a total possible score of 30) comprise a workbook of course concepts learned across Weeks 1 to 7 in lectures, readings and workshops. Detailed requirements provided in class and on Canvas.
Weighting	30%
Length	1350 words in total (including references)
Due Date	Part 1 - Friday 15 March – 450 words; Part 2 - Friday 22 March – 450 words; Part 3 - Friday 12 April – 450 words.
Submission Method	In Class Submit each part as a single paper print-out of the completed assessment template from Canvas (no plastic slips, please) on the due date, AT THE START of your timetabled workshop. Include your full name and a word count. Referencing to be advised in class and on Canvas. Each of these requirements must be met to pass the assessment.
Assessment Criteria	See rubric on Canvas.
Return Method	In Class
Feedback Provided	Returned Work - In your next timetabled Workshop after each part is submitted.

Assessment 2 - Reflective Essay

Assessment Type	Essay
Purpose	Explain course concepts from Weeks 1 to 9 on the purpose and standards of research in relation to evidence, methods, ethics, equity and inclusion.
Description	Write a referenced argument with existing scholarship as evidence for what constitutes good research in a selected discipline or field of study. Full details in class and on Canvas.
Weighting	30%
Length	1350 words (including references)
Due Date	Monday 13 May, 10pm
Submission Method	Online Submit where indicated on the course Canvas site. Check your Turnitin receipt for academic similarity. If you have unacceptable levels of similarity then revise and resubmit before the due date. The word count includes referencing. You may reference in the style of your choosing (Chicago, Harvard, etc). Care and consistency with referencing is essential.
Assessment Criteria	See rubric on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	

Assessment 3 - Project Proposal

Assessment Type	Proposal / Plan
Purpose	Use course concepts about evidence and methods to pose a research question and develop an appropriate research plan to investigate it.
Description	Use the template provided on Canvas to write a referenced research proposal.
Weighting	40%
Length	1800 words (including references)
Due Date	Friday 7 June, 10pm
Submission Method	Online
	Submit where indicated on the course Canvas site. Check your Turnitin receipt for academic similarity. If you have unacceptable levels of similarity then revise and resubmit before the due date. The word count includes referencing. Harvard style in-text referencing is preferred for this proposal, to emulate real-world proposals, but you may reference in the style of your choosing (Chicago, Harvard, etc). Care and consistency with referencing is essential.
Assessment Criteria	See rubric on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - No more than 3 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).

Attendance

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:

- Workshop (Method of recording: Roll taken at the start of class.)

Although attendance is not recorded in lectures it is essential to attend lectures and take notes to gain course concepts for assessment.

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.

Lectures are recorded if you are unable to attend due to illness or misadventure. Even so, attendance is preferable for the quality of your learning in this course. Workshops are not

recorded or retaught at times other than timetabled classes.

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.

Mid-Semester Student Feedback may be conducted in this course. Students are also encouraged to participate in informed discussion about the course to develop skills in independent thought and communication.

As a result of student feedback, the following changes have been made to this offering of the course:

- Assessment criteria has been simplified and more clearly linked to course learning outcomes.
- Lectures, the required reading list and workshop plans have been revised to reflect current issues in research skills for second-year undergraduate students.

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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