

HASS4001: BA Theory and Practice in Historical, Cultural and Critical Inquiry

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

The Honours program is intended to develop and strengthen professional skills, challenge students intellectually and round off undergraduate studies with higher-level independent studies which will be useful in many fields of future endeavour. This course introduces students to the world of international scholarship and advanced research in modern and ancient history. Students will be exposed to different forms of historical evidence and will explore modern scholarly literature and methodologies used in the study of history and ancient history. Students will be guided in the academic and professional methods for expressing their ideas and interpretations of evidence. Classes will aim to enhance student capacities to complete advanced projects in digital work, GLAMx, skills for professional practice, new and emerging methods, as well as theses.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Requisites

To enrol into this course students must be active in the following programs:

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) [10214], or
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) [40209].

Contact Hours

Callaghan
Lectorial on Thursdays, 12pm-3pm, in V106.
Face to Face On Campus
3 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

Unit Weighting Workload

This course is worth 20 credit points.
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**
Dr Elizabeth Roberts-Pedersen
Elizabeth.Roberts-Pedersen@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation: I am available for in-person and online consultations throughout the semester.
Please contact me via email to arrange a time.

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SYLLABUS

Course Content The course will introduce some of the major debates and schools of ancient and modern historiography and methodology, as well as provide in-depth coverage of substantive areas of historical study and opportunities to develop advanced presentation and project development skills. The first weeks of the course will survey key ancient and modern thinkers on history and historiography, with the remaining weeks covering important themes or approaches in contemporary scholarship. Topics are dependent on staff expertise and student interest. **As such, part of our work in the first week of the course is to develop the seminar program collaboratively.** Topics may include:

- power, legitimacy and identity;
- social, cultural and economic factors in historical change;
- representations of the past and their uses (for example, classical reception studies);
- gender and sexualities;
- warfare and violence;
- the development of science, religion and other systems of thought;
- indigeneity and race; and
- the role of the environment.

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

1. Design a substantive project on either the ancient or modern historical periods.
2. Analyse complex ideas and texts in the humanities.
3. Respond to contemporary philosophies which inform current practice in ancient and modern history.
4. Construct evidence-based arguments.
5. Apply advanced communication and information technology skills appropriate to the professional presentation of concepts, issues, and ideas.

Course Materials **Required Reading:**

Students must complete weekly required readings and seminar preparation as set out in the seminar program, which will be discussed and agreed to in the first class and then posted to Canvas. All readings will be available electronically.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Seminars (Thursday, 12pm-3pm, in V106)	
1	26 Feb	Course introduction and planning of seminar program	<p>Due to the diverse interests and disciplinary backgrounds of students taking this course, the coordinator and students will develop the seminar program collaboratively in Week One. Please come to the first class prepared to discuss your thesis project, as well as the intellectual affinities that have brought you into the Honours program. The seminar schedule will be posted to Canvas once finalised.</p>
2	4 Mar	Topic 1	
3	11 Mar	Topic 2	
4	18 Mar	Topic 3	
5	25 Mar	Topic 4	
6	1 Apr	Topic 5	
7	8 Apr	Topic 6	
-	15 Apr	SEMESTER BREAK	
-	22 Apr	SEMESTER BREAK	
8	29 Apr	Topic 7	
9	6 May	Topic 8	
10	13 May	Topic 9	
11	20 May	Topic 10	
12	27 May	Course conclusion and essay consultations	
13	3 Jun	No seminar	

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	Seminar presentation and leadership	Seminar weeks will be assigned in class.	Individual	20%	2, 3, 4, 5
2	Report based on seminar presentation topic	The Thursday a fortnight after your presentation, at 11.59pm.	Individual	30%	2, 3, 4, 5
3	Major Research Essay	Sunday 9 June at 11.59pm.	Individual	50%	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 - Seminar presentation and leadership

Assessment Type	Presentation
Purpose	The presentation will develop your skills in historiographical analysis, as well as your capacity for effective oral communication.
Description	You will be required to lead one seminar during the semester, including delivering a 20-minute presentation using appropriate visual aids. The topic you choose must be distinct from your major research essay (Assessment 3) and your overall thesis topic.
Weighting	20%
Length	20 minutes (roughly equivalent to a 1500-word script)
Due Date	Seminar weeks will be assigned in class.
Submission Method	In Class
Assessment Criteria	The assessment criteria will be posted to Canvas and discussed in class.
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	There will be initial verbal feedback in class. Consolidated formal feedback, taking into account the presentation and the subsequent report (Assessment 2), will be posted to Canvas a fortnight after the submission of the report.

Assessment 2 - Report based on seminar presentation topic

Assessment Type	Report
Purpose	The report will deepen your analysis of the topic of your presentation and offer you the opportunity to incorporate the feedback you received in class.
Description	You will write a 3000-word, full-referenced report analysing the historiographical issues featured in your presentation. The conceptual scope and character of the report will be workshopped in the class on the same day as your presentation.
Weighting	30%
Length	3000 words
Due Date	The Thursday a fortnight after your presentation, at 11.59pm.
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	The assessment criteria will be posted to Canvas and discussed in class.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Consolidated formal feedback, taking into account the presentation (Assessment 1) and the report, will be posted to Canvas a fortnight after the submission of the report.

Assessment 3 - Major Research Essay

Assessment Type	Essay
Purpose	In the major essay you will analyse and evaluate the work of an important historian of your choice and thus develop your capacity to construct historiographical arguments. The historian's work must be distinct from the scholarship you covered in the first two assessment tasks.
Description	This is not a biography of an historian - though some biographical details might be relevant - but rather a critical review of their work. The historian you choose must be suitable for an essay of this length. We will workshop everyone's choices in class, and spend time during the teaching semester developing bibliographies, outlines, and initial drafts.
Weighting	50%
Length	4000 words
Due Date	Sunday 9 June at 11.59pm.
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	The assessment criteria will be posted to Canvas and discussed in class.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be posted to Canvas within a fortnight of 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:

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.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face-to-face meetings or supervision.

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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