

HASS4004: Honours Thesis 2

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

HASS4004 is the second part of the thesis component of the B Arts (Hons), the first component being HASS4003. The honours thesis gives students the opportunity to put the skills they have acquired over the course of their undergraduate studies to practice in the form of a substantial project.

This project can be in one of three formats: 1) Academic, 2) Work-Integrated Learning, and 3) Creative/Digital. The Academic option involves a 15,000 word thesis on a topic determined in consultation with a supervisor with appropriate expertise. The thesis is expected to engage critically with recent scholarship in the field, offer a systematic and comprehensive account of the topic, and embody the standards of argumentation, writing and referencing in the field.

The Work-Integrated Learning option allows students to undertake a substantial research-based project for, or in collaboration with, an approved workplace wholly or largely dedicated to issues of concern to the discipline. Students compile a 5,000-8,000 word portfolio documenting the findings and outcomes of the project.

Additionally, students produce a description of the workplace and its key characteristics, to be endorsed by the workplace supervisor as true and accurate (500 words), as well as a reflective journal with weekly entries (2,000 words). Identifying an external partner and negotiating terms is the responsibility of the student.

The Creative/Digital option enables students to engage in practice-led research resulting in a creative work or, alternatively, to use digital tools to develop and communicate their research.

The work undertaken under this option is expected to be a substantial individual research effort within the chosen discipline and requires pre-approval by the supervisor. The thesis will consist of a creative/digital portfolio equivalent to 12,000 words, accompanied by a 3,000-word reflective statement outlining the background, aims, methods and theoretical foundation of the research.

COURSE OUTLINE

Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Requisites	Students must be active in Bachelor of Arts (Honours) [40209].
Contact Hours	Callaghan Individual Supervision Face to Face Off Campus 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1 or via Zoom videoconferencing. Self-Directed Learning Self-Directed 18 hour(s) per week(s) for 13 week(s) starting Week 1
Unit Weighting	20
Workload	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Callaghan Dr Kit Candlin kit.candlin@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: 0400717044 or by email appointment
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences Social Sciences Building Callaghan HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content	Individual project to be conceived and developed in consultation with the student's supervisor.
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Design a research project utilising skills developed over the course of the honours program;2. Apply advanced disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary Humanities research skills in written form;3. Apply relevant theories and methods to carry out an extended independent research, creative or digital project;4. Formulate an extended critical argument drawing on discipline and/or interdisciplinary knowledge;5. Demonstrate advanced skills in communicating research.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Supervision	Self Directed Learning	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	1 hour supervisory meeting	Thesis Research	
2	4 Mar		Thesis prep	
3	11 Mar	1 hour supervisory meeting	Thesis Research	
4	18 Mar		Thesis prep	
5	25 Mar	1 hour supervisory meeting	Thesis Research	
6	1 Apr		Thesis Prep	
7	8 Apr	1 hour supervisory meeting	Thesis Research	
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr		Thesis Prep	
9	6 May	1 hour supervisory meeting	Thesis Prep	
10	13 May		Thesis Prep	
11	20 May	1 hour supervisory meeting	Thesis prep	
12	27 May		Thesis Prep	
13	3 Jun	1 hour supervisory meeting	Thesis prep	
	30/6/2024			Thesis due: Canvas Upload 5pm
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 1 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Thesis	30/6/2024 Canvas Upload 5pm	Individual	100%	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 - Thesis

Assessment Type	Thesis
Purpose	The thesis is the fulfilment of the honours year. Its purpose is to provide a platform for a sustained piece of original research or other creative project.
Description	A 15,000 word thesis. Conforming to the conventions of the specific discipline. Or a 12,000 word creative project with 3,000 word exegesis.
Weighting	100%
Length	15,000 words +/- 10%
Due Date	30/6/2024 5pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	see discipline honours handbook for discipline specific conventions
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - online approx four weeks from submission. Monday 24 July

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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