

## HIST2211: Things that Made the Modern World

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

Computers, clothes, coal, cars, cosmetics, and Coca-Cola are commodities that shape people's daily lives. The development of modern globalised commodity industries since the 1850s has connected people in many places around the world. For this reason, changes in making, selling, buying and consuming commodities offer valuable insights into human ingenuity, protection and conservation, and cruelty. This course considers the history of environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of globalised things. It does so by exploring how the development of things has played out in the actions of governments, corporations and protest movements through the politics of nature, labour, race, trade, education and science.

### Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

### Assumed Knowledge Contact Hours

20 units in History at 1000 level or equivalent

#### Callaghan Lecture

Face to Face On Campus

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

#### Tutorial

Face to Face On Campus

1 hour(s) per week(s) for 11 week(s) starting Week 2

### 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

[www.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.newcastle.edu.au)

CRICOS Provider 00109J

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# 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:

- Things in relation to humans in history
- Things and more-than-human nature in history
- Things as commodities or saleable goods
- Specific modern commodity histories
- Commodities, policy and the law
- Money and power
- Capitalism and work
- Capitalism and protest
- Brands and identity
- Keeping things, discarding things

## Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand concepts that historians use to interpret the role of things in their explanations about the modern world;
2. Communicate clearly in oral and digital formats about how things are related to nature and the choices that people made in the past;
3. Accurately locate specific commodity histories in time and place;
4. Effectively examine and discuss selected primary sources to make an argument about commodities and the modern world.

## Course Materials

### Lecture Materials:

Student responsibilities at our university include "actively engage in all learning activities." HIST2211 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 Tutorials and Assessments. Questions are welcome and engagement within lectures is essential for assessment preparation. While lectures are recorded it is strongly recommended that you attend in person.

### Required Reading:

Student responsibilities include the expectation that you will "read prescribed materials." Required Readings to prepare for tutorials are available under Course Readings on the HIST2211 Canvas site. Recommended readings will also be provided for further investigation of concepts and stories. Taking notes on lectures and the readings, and joining in tutorials, will enhance your learning!

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Lecture	Tutorial	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	What are things and how can we study them historically?	No tutorial/no required readings	
2	4 Mar	From material culture to the matter of modern history	Essential course definitions and concepts (Adamson and Riello 2013; MacGregor 2010)	
3	11 Mar	Training with digital collections for course assessments	Things and historical meaning (LeCain 2017a; Fallon et al 2013)	
4	18 Mar	Things as commodities	Getting ready for Assessments 1 and 2 (Digital links to prepare for class provided in Week 3 lecture)	
5	25 Mar	Things and globalisation	Commerce, commodities, capital and capitalists (Braudel 1979/1982; Marx 1867/2000)	Assessment 1 - Part 1 - Online Learning Activity due as paper print-out at the start of the lecture - Tuesday 26 March
6	1 Apr	Colonisation and industrialisation	Global cottons, global gold (Riello 2013; Eklund 2018)	
7	8 Apr	Things, nature and society	Comparing settler capitalist production in settler colonial places (McIntyre and Germov 2018; Ornelas-Higdon 2023).	Assessment 1 - Part 2 - Online Learning Activity due as paper print-out at the start of the lecture - Tuesday 9 April
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	New materialism	Social divisions over trees as timber or for pleasure, or for their own sake (Watson 1990; Isenberg 2005)	
9	6 May	Brands and identity	Posthuman perspectives on copper, cattle, seals and water (LeCain 2017b; O'Gorman 2021)	Assessment 2 - Online Exhibition due via online submission on Canvas - Friday 17 May, 10pm
10	13 May	Nikkin/coal as a historical character	Coca-Cola and anti-globalisation (Rothacher 2004; Elmore 2013)	
11	20 May	Land, nature, settler-Indigenous relations and real property	Getting ready for Assessment 3 (or, skills for producing stylish essays) (Schrag 2021)	
12	27 May	Keeping things, discarding things	Can histories of things, ecologies and Indigenous worlds save the planet? (Readings to be advised)	
13	3 Jun			Assessment 3 - Research Essay due via online submission to Canvas - Monday 3 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	Multiple short online tasks and reflections	Part 1: 500 words due in-person at 4.00pm Tuesday 26 March. Part 2: 850 words is due in-person at 4.00pm Tuesday 9 April.	Individual	30%	1, 2
2	Online multi-media presentation	Friday 17 May, 10pm	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3
3	Research Essay	Monday 3 June, 10pm	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 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 - Multiple short online tasks and reflections

Assessment Type	Online Learning Activity
Purpose	To communicate developing knowledge of concepts that historians use to interpret things in the modern world.
Description	Find digitised archive materials as directed in coursework. Describe the process of finding these resources online and selecting from them to undertake Assessment 2.
Weighting	30%
Length	1350 words
Due Date	Part 1: 500 words due in-person at 4.00pm Tuesday 26 March. Part 2: 850 words is due in-person at 4.00pm Tuesday 9 April.
Submission Method	In Class Each part of this assessment is due in-person at the start of the course lecture on the stated due date. Print out and hand in your submission as a hard copy, on paper (no plastic slips, please). Your name and a word count must be written on the submission. The word count includes all reference details. Students may work with a referencing style of their choice but Chicago-style footnotes and bibliography is preferred. Any recent version of Chicago referencing is suitable. Students conduct this online learning activity as scaffolding for Assessment 2. Part 1 is marked out of 10 points. Part 2 is marked out of 20 points.
Assessment Criteria	See rubric on Canvas.
Return Method	In Class
Feedback Provided	In Class - Part 1: Thursday 28 March in your timetabled tutorial; Part 2: Thursday 11 April in your timetabled tutorial.

## Assessment 2 - Online multi-media presentation

Assessment Type	Exhibition
Purpose	To develop skills in interpreting an object using digital tools and course concepts about commodities.
Description	Use secondary sources and course concepts to create an online presentation that interprets the object as a "document" in its time and place or as part of a commodity history.
Weighting	30%
Length	1350 words
Due Date	Friday 17 May, 10pm
Submission Method	Online Where directed on the course Canvas site. Referencing instructions as per Assessment 1.
Assessment Criteria	See rubric on Canvas.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - No more than two weeks after submission.

## Assessment 3 - Research Essay

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Essay
<b>Purpose</b>	To apply course concepts to make an effective historical argument.
<b>Description</b>	Write an essay using primary and secondary sources from the list of topics and sources on Canvas.
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	1800
<b>Due Date</b>	Monday 3 June, 10pm
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online Where directed on the course Canvas site. The assessment will be submitted to text-matching software (Turnitin). Referencing instructions as per Assessment 1.
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	See rubric on Canvas.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - No more than two 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:

- Lecture (Method of recording: A class roll will be taken in lectures.)

Tutorial (Method of recording: A class roll will be taken in tutorials.)

### 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.

### 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.

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

- This is the first time the course has been offered. I look forward to your feedback to improve the course in future!

<b>Oral Interviews (Vivas)</b>	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 <a href="#">Oral Examination (viva) Procedure</a> . 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 <a href="#">Student Conduct Rule</a> .
<b>Academic Misconduct</b>	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 <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35</a> .
<b>Adverse Circumstances</b>	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or</li><li>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;</li><li>3. you are requesting a change of placement; or</li><li>4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.</li></ol> <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</a></p>
<b>Important Policy Information</b>	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 <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures</a> 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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