

SOCA3315: Bodies in Cultural Perspective

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences (HCISS) 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

In this course we will explore cultural understandings of the body, and different perspectives of bodies in the social sciences. What has emerged from social science interests in the human body as it is lived, and how it is experienced as living from different cultural perspectives, has frequently been a multiplicity of bodies. The weekly lecture and workshops will explore and critically discuss ethnographic examples from around the world, addressing different social and cultural understandings of individual and social bodies, body politics, medicalised and other bodies. For instance, topics that may be included in this course are techniques of the body; tattooed bodies or cosmetic surgery; political bodies, organisations and meanings of embodiment; as well as social and cultural understandings of working with body politics.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Assumed Knowledge

40 units of study at 1000 level

Contact Hours

Online Lecture

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

Tutorial

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

Unit Weighting

10

Workload

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 A/Pr Daniela Heil Daniela.Heil@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4921 6790 Consultation: Please email Daniela for a Zoom- or face-to-face appointment, thank you.
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	Topics may include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ethnographic studies of approaches to the body (e.g. embodiment, individual bodies, social bodies, body politics, and personal and cultural experiences of living the body).2. Ethnographic studies of how relationships are negotiated, understandings mediated and meanings constructed, with a particular emphasis on cultural difference(s).3. Theories of the ways in which experiences are symbolically, socially and culturally constructed and maintained.4. Theories of social and cultural approaches to the lived body, living the body, as well as bodies within different cultural contexts and perspectives.
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate an understanding of different theoretical perspectives used to study social and cultural practices of living and experiencing the body, embodiment and human experiences, as well as bodies in cultural perspective.2. Provide a critical understanding of how approaches to the body from both social and cultural perspectives have been used and developed over time.3. Review knowledge of the way in which experiences are culturally constituted and socially controlled.4. Critically analyse cultural understandings, representations and social practices of bodies in cultural perspective.5. Assess the integration and application of anthropological perspectives of bodies in cultural perspective in the social sciences approaches.
Course Materials	See the course website on Canvas for required and recommended readings

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Bodies in Cultural Perspective: Setting the Scene	Please do start each week with listening to the lecture: Panopto-heading, Lecture slides available under Modules — Weekly Modules	Please introduce yourself briefly to the other course participants: Discussion Forum. — In addition, do read the proposed wk1-reading prior to the wk2-zoom session.
2	4 Mar	Anthropology of the Body	Theoretical approaches and themes in the anthropology of the body will be critically explored.	Please read the proposed wk2-reading prior to the wk2-zoom session.
3	11 Mar	Gender and Clothing	Gender-specific approaches from different cultural perspectives on dress and clothing will be critically explored.	Please read the proposed wk3-reading prior to the wk3-zoom session. Quiz 1, covering wks 1-3, to be completed by Monday, 18 March 2024, 11:59pm.
4	18 Mar	Tattoos and the Body	Tattoos in different cultural practices will be addressed and critically examined.	Quiz 1, covering wks 1-3, to be completed by this Monday, 18 March 2024, 11:59pm. — Please read the proposed wk4-reading prior to the wk4-zoom session.
5	25 Mar	Cultural Images of the Body	Cultural particularities of body images: Reasons for difference will be addressed and explored critically.	Please read the proposed wk5-reading prior to participating in the wk5-zoom session.
6	1 Apr	Plastic Surgery and Spectacular Bodies	Public health phenomena addressing the spectacular bodies and the cultural particularities they are situated in will be both addressed and discussed.	Please read the proposed wk6-reading prior to the wk6-zoom session. Essay (Assessment 1) due: Friday, 12 April 2024, 11:59pm.
7	8 Apr	Embodying Marginalisation	Structural constraints and corresponding cultural particularities of being and/or becoming marginalised; socio-economic status, ethnicity and gender equity.	Please read the proposed wk7-reading prior to the wk7-zoom session. Essay (Assessment 1) due: Friday, 12 April 2024, 11:59pm.
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Cultural Constructions of Suffering	Different cultural understandings of, and approaches to, suffering will be addressed and critically explored.	Please read the proposed wk8-reading prior to the wk8-zoom session. Quiz 2 due: Monday, 6 May 2024, by 11:59pm.
9	6 May	Human Rights and Body Politics	Human rights are socio-culturally constructed and shaped. Hence, body politics will critically inform the	Please read the proposed wk9-reading prior to the wk9-zoom session.

			debate.	Quiz 2 due by this Monday, 6 May 2024, 11:59pm.
10	13 May	Refugees, Body Politics, and Constructing Moral Order	Socio-cultural constructions of body politics in reference to positioning refugees in European nation states will be critically explored.	Please read the proposed wk10-reading prior to the wk10-zoom session.
11	20 May	Nuclear Disaster Management: Chernobyl (1986) and Fukushima (2011)	We will tackle the invisibility of nuclear disasters; different stakeholder perspectives in the debate will be brought to the fore.	Please read and engage with the proposed wk11-readings prior to the wk11-zoom session. Take Home Exam (Assessment 2) due: Friday, 31 May 2024, by 11:59pm
12	27 May	Bodies in Cultural Perspective?	Conclusion to the course: Whereto from here, in response to the weeks 1-11 information of the course? What does the info invite us to do considering our future?	Take Home Exam (Assessment 2) due: Friday, 31 May 2024, by 11:59pm
13	3 Jun			
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Essay 1	Friday, 12 April, by 11:59pm	Individual	40%	1, 2, 4
2	Take Home Exam	Friday, 31 May, by 11:59pm	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	Quizzes	Quiz 1 by Monday, 18 Mar, 11:59pm Quiz 2 by Monday, 6 May, 11:59pm	Individual	20% (5% and 15%)	1, 3, 4
4	Workshop Participation (Formative)	Weekly: Online lecture (available under Panopto-heading), followed by zoom-session.	Individual	Formative	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 - Essay 1

Assessment Type

Essay

Purpose

To assess your understanding and critical response of what conceptualising bodies from different cultural perspectives comprises, symbolises and means. The set essay questions take into consideration the course content of weeks 1-7 and, in response to choosing one of the questions of your choice, ask you to present a critical appraisal of what you have learnt to the point of the submission of your essay, and to persuasively position yourself in writing within the debate you are participating in. -- Course Learning Outcomes 1, 2 and 4.

Description

The Essay Questions are available under Assessment 1 on the SOCA3315-Canvas site. Zoom-sessions will be set up for you to ask questions and seek clarification. The course coordinator/lecturer is available to answer your questions.

Weighting

40%

Length

2000 words

Due Date	Friday, 12 April 2024, by 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online via Turnitin on Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Marking criteria available on the Canvas website
Return Method	Online via Canvas
Feedback Provided	Online - Within 14 days of the due date.

Assessment 2 - Take Home Exam

Assessment Type	In Term Test
Purpose	The take home exam questions will be posted on the course Canvas site (Assessment 2) not later than 2 weeks before the due date. You will be asked to respond to 2 questions that address the course content since the essay. Course Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.
Description	Please find the Turnitin-link under the Assessment-heading on the SOCA3315 course Canvas site for the submission of your take home exam. Please separate the 2 questions of your choice by numbering them and submit your two responses in one and the same document to Turnitin.
Weighting	40%
Length	2000 words (2x1000 words)
Due Date	Friday, 31 May 2024, by 11:59pm.
Submission Method	Online via Canvas
Assessment Criteria	Marking criteria available on the Canvas website
Return Method	Online via Canvas
Feedback Provided	Online - Within 14 days of the due date.

Assessment 3 - Quizzes

Assessment Type	Quiz
Purpose	Course Learning Outcomes 1, 3 and 4.
Description	Each quiz is made up of multiple-choice questions. - Quiz 1 (One attempt): Covering the course content of weeks 1-3: 5% (length: 5mins). - Quiz 2 (One attempt): Covering the course content of weeks 4-8: 15% (length: 15 mins).
Weighting	20% (5% and 15%)
Length	20 minutes (1x5 questions) and 1 hour (1x15 questions)
Due Date	Quiz 1 by Monday, 18 March 2024, 11:59pm Quiz 2 by Monday, 6 May 2024, 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Please check the criteria, available under the corresponding Assessment 3-headings.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 4 - Workshop Participation (Formative)

Assessment Type	Participation
Purpose	This a formative assessment to support your journey through the course. It serves to discuss the weekly readings in zoom-session and to clarify questions, you may have regarding the corresponding week and course content.
Description	Regular participation recommended.
Weighting	Not applicable – Formative.
Length	Not applicable.
Due Date	Weekly: Online lecture (available under Panopto-heading), followed by zoom-session.
Submission Method	Online participation
Assessment Criteria	Not applicable.
Return Method	Not returned.
Feedback Provided	Not applicable.

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.

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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