CULT4020 - Research Methodologies
Course Outline

Course Coordinator          Dr Kelli Fuery
Semester                   Semester 1 - 2009
Unit Weighting             20
Teaching Methods           Individual Supervision
                          Self Directed Learning

Brief Course Description
CULT4020 must be studied in conjunction with CULT4010, CULT4030, CULT4040 which
together comprise the full Film, Media and Cultural Studies program. For purposes of enrolment,
timetabling and program flexibility, CULT4020 may be identified as ‘Special study’. Film, Media
and Cultural Studies honours is the culmination of undergraduate teaching in these disciplines. It
provides for students who have distinguished themselves in media and cultural studies at 1000-
3000 level and wish to explore advanced approaches in the context of detailed studies. As such,
it forms an introduction to the world of international scholarship and research. The Honours
program is also intended to develop and strengthen writing and research skills, challenge
students intellectually and round off undergraduate studies with higher-level independent studies
which will be useful in many fields of endeavour. The principal teaching style will be through
seminar studies and thesis supervision.

Contact Hours
Seminar for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts

Course Objectives
As demonstrated by successful completion of coursework and a minor thesis, students
undertaking Film, Media and Cultural studies honours should: acquire the scholarly skills and self-
confidence necessary to conceptualise, research and compose a substantive piece of research;
gain contextualised understanding of advanced approaches to film, media and cultural studies;
develop an appreciation of the complex philosophies and ideologies which inform current practice
in these disciplines; develop research and reflective skills relevant to advanced study in the
humanities; and develop written and oral communications skills appropriate for a professional
scholarly environment.

Course Content
Film, Media and Cultural studies honours consists of three principal elements. The first is Critical
Perspectives in Film, Media and Cultural studies (CULT4010); a compulsory unit of 7 fortnightly
seminars which introduce students to major debates and schools of thought. The second element
is one semester-long ‘Research Methodologies’ course (CULT4020) into two 7-week topics,
comprising a literature review and research proposal. Thirdly, students are required to undertake
the research and composition of a minor thesis (CULT4030 and CULT4040) demonstrating the
ability to analyse and reflect upon a range of source material relating to a discrete area and
construct a coherent scholarly argument.

Assessment Items

| Essays / Written Assignments | 6000 words in essays or equivalent. |
CULT4020 'Special study' must be studied in conjunction with CULT4010, CULT4030 and CULT4040, which together comprise the full honours program. Special study is weighted at 25% of the full program.

**Assumed Knowledge**
At least a credit average performance in film or cultural studies courses as a major sequence for the BA or BSocSci. Students must have qualified for admission to the BA or equivalent degree.

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavour in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning. To preserve the quality of learning for the individual and others, the University may impose severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity. There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

**Academic fraud** is a form of academic dishonesty that involves making a false representation to gain an unjust advantage. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it can include:

a) falsification of data;

b) using a substitute person to undertake, in full or part, an examination or other assessment item;

c) reusing one's own work, or part thereof, that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission);

d) making contact or colluding with another person, contrary to instructions, during an examination or other assessment item;

e) bringing material or device(s) into an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item; and

f) making use of computer software or other material and device(s) during an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item.

g) contract cheating or having another writer compete for tender to produce an essay or assignment and then submitting the work as one's own.

**Plagiarism** is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

a) copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;

b) using another person's ideas without due acknowledgment;

c) collusion or working with others without permission, and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

**Turnitin** is an electronic text matching system. During assessing any assessment item the University may -
Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or

Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).

Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

RE-MARKS AND MODERATIONS

Students can access the University's policy at:

MARKS AND GRADES RELEASED DURING TERM

All marks and grades released during term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING ASSESSMENT ITEMS

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy specified in Late Penalty above.

Requests for Extensions of Time must be lodged no later than the due date of the item. This applies to students:

- applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

- whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment.

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, as outlined in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure at:

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- Special Consideration Requests must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

- Rescheduling Exam requests must be received no later than 10 working days prior the first date of the examination period.

Late applications may not be accepted. Students who cannot meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak firstly to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness. If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your
studies please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au. As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester. For more information on confidentiality and documentation visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability.

CHANGING YOUR ENROLMENT

Students enrolled after the census dates listed in the link below are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/fees/censusdates.html

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of term. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of term will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of term must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online go to myHub: https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

STUDENT INFORMATION & CONTACTS

Various services are offered by the Student Support Unit:
www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia. Student Hubs are located at:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Callaghan Campus</th>
<th>Port Macquarie students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building</td>
<td>contact your program officer or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre</td>
<td><a href="mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au">EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>City Precinct</td>
<td>Phone 4921 5000</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Hub &amp; Information Common, University House</td>
<td>Singapore students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)</td>
<td>contact your PSB Program Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria</td>
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OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

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<tr>
<th>Faculty Websites</th>
<th>General enquiries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/</a></td>
<td>Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/</a></td>
<td>Phone: 02 4921 5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/</a></td>
<td>Email:</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au">EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/">www.newcastle.edu.au/</a></td>
<td>Ourimbah</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Phone: 02 4348 4030</td>
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<td>Email:</td>
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This course outline will not be altered after the second week of the term except under extenuating circumstances with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of the change.