ENGL1040 - Australian Popular Culture
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Patricia Pender
Room: MC143 McMullin Building
Ph: (02) 49215369
Email: Patricia.J.Pender@Newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Monday 1-2pm

Semester: Semester 2 - 2008
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Seminar

Brief Course Description

The course introduces students to Australian cultural studies through consideration of constructions of Australian national identity in a broad range of popular cultural forms such as popular literature, film and television.

Contact Hours

Seminar for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts

ENGL1040 Course Reader (available from the NUSA Printery)
Gabrielle Carey and Cathy Lette, Puberty Blues
Melina Marchetta, Looking for Alibrandi
Christos Tsiolkas, Loaded
Phillip Gwynne, Deadly, Unna?
Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:
1) a critical understanding of the dynamic relationship between popular culture and ideologies of Australian national identity;
2) an in-depth knowledge of selected texts and case studies;
3) the ability to review and critique these texts and case studies; and
4) core skills in written and oral communication in textual and audio-visual media.

Course Content

Topics include:
- Key concepts and methods in Cultural Studies
- The myth of the bush
- Constructing the national type
- Diggers and heroes: the ANZAC legend on film
- Sex, romance and marriage in post-war women's magazines
- The Crocodile Dundee phenomenon:
- Women, Suburbia and Comedy:
- Multiculturalism and Teen Culture
- Popular Culture and the History Wars
- Popular representations of Aboriginality

Assessment Items

| Essays / Written Assignments | Written Assignment, 1,000 words (25%): due 5 pm Friday August 29
| Written Assignment, 2,000 words (50%): due 5 pm Friday September 26 |
These will allow students to demonstrate a critical analysis of the materials studied. |
| Group/tutorial participation and contribution | Attendance at seminars is compulsory. Two absences are allowable in the case of illness or other emergencies, and two more absences may be recovered by completing extra work on each of the seminars missed, but further absences will be regarded as failure to complete the course. |
| Other: (please specify) | Students must submit all assessment items in order to complete the course. |
| Presentations - Group | Presentation: small group, 1,000 words (25%) |
This will provide an opportunity for interactive exchange among class members on course topics. |

Assumed Knowledge

None.

Callaghan Campus Timetable

ENGL1040
AUSTRALIAN POPULAR CULTURE
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2008
Seminar  Monday  9:00 - 11:00  [MC132]  Commencing Week 2
or  Monday  15:00 - 17:00  [MC132]  Commencing Week 2
or  Monday  18:00 - 20:00  [MCG28C]  Commencing Week 2
Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of 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 plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Marks and Grades Released During Term

All marks and grades released during the term, are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School on the recommendation of the School Assessment body.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. 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;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

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

Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.
Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

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

- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period.

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. In the first instance, students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

**Changing your Enrolment**

The census dates below are the last dates to withdraw without academic penalty. For onshore students, withdrawal on or before the census date means no financial penalty.

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2008

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

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester 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, please refer to myHub - Self Service for Students

https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

**Faculty Information**

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.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**
- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**
- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**
- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

**Faculty websites**

Faculty of Education and Arts  http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

**Contact details**

Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie  Phone: 02 4921 5000

Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au
The Dean of Students
Resolution Precinct
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The 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 please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via 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 related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------End of CTS Entry--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Essential Criteria in Assessment

This course contains compulsory components or assessment items that must be satisfactorily completed in order for a student to receive a pass mark or better for the course. These essential elements are described in the CTS. Refer - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000648.html

Attendance at seminars is compulsory. Two absences are allowable in the case of illness or other emergencies, and two more absences may be recovered by completing extra work on each of the seminars missed, but further absences will be regarded as failure to complete the course. Attendance records will be kept for each seminar and students may receive feedback on their progress in meeting attendance requirements at any time during the semester by contacting their lecturer.
Group Work, Peer and/or Self-Assessment

Presentation: small group, 1,000 words (25%)

This will provide an opportunity for interactive exchange among class members on course topics. Group members will be selected by nominating one of 3 topics before the semester break and will be assigned groups of 3-4 members by their lecturer. Group members will be jointly responsible for the presentation of a 20 minute case for or against one of the debate questions in weeks 11-13. It should demonstrate independent research and be creative in the use of supporting audio-visual and/or fiction materials. Groups will also be required to submit a joint presentation outline and bibliography of 1500 words, and a summary of how tasks were assigned and completed within the group. Group meetings are to be conducted with respect and fairness and group conflict dealt with, in the first instance, within the group itself. Unresolvable conflict may be brought to the relevant lecturer by the group. The project is valued at 25% of the final mark and will be assessed on

- Demonstrated understanding of set readings: /5
- Demonstrated independent research: /5
- Presentation of case, including use of audio-visual and other materials: /5
- Presentation and content of outline and bibliography: /5

The written summary of the division of responsibility for tasks will form part of the assessment process, ensuring that the contributions of individual group members are taken into account in final marks for the group assessment. Performance within the group will be assessed on a regular basis during the course of the assessment and have a defined process for assisting underperforming students and, if necessary, replacement or withdrawal of a student from a group.

Online Tutorial Registration:

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - [http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm](http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm)

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Important Additional Information

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students
**Academic Integrity**

Integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge and truth are the bases of all academic endeavours in teaching, learning and research. To preserve the quality of learning, both for the individual and for others enrolled, the University imposes severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity.

There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

(a) Academic Fraud, in which a false representation is made to gain an unjust advantage by, for example,

- the falsification of data
- reusing one’s own work that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission)
- misconduct in examinations

(b) Plagiarism, which is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes:

- copying, paraphrasing, or using someone else’s ideas without appropriate acknowledgement
- failure to identify direct quotation through the use of quotation marks
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently

Please note that aiding another student to plagiarise (e.g. by lending assignments to other students) is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html)
ASSESSMENT

Assignment 1:

Title: *Australian Archetypes: Past and Present*

Task: Analyse a recent depiction of a traditional Australian archetype (such as the battler, the bushman, the drover’s wife, the suburban wife, the ocker, the larrikin or the lifesaver) in contemporary media (eg. an advertisement, a newspaper article or a magazine feature). Your discussion should address how ideological formations associated with this figure have been reinforced, adapted, and/or subverted in your selected image. Please attach a copy of your example to your assignment.

Length: 1000 words

Due: 5 pm Friday August 29

Value: 25%

Submit: Student Hub (hard copy) and Turnitin (through Blackboard)

Marking Criteria: 
- Originality in selection of example: /5
- Quality of analysis, including structure of argument and demonstrated understanding of relevant concepts of national identity: /10
- Written style: /5
- Research and referencing: /5

Assignment 2:

Title: *Place and Cultural Identity in Teen Literature and Film*

Task: Discuss the representation of the relationship between place and cultural identity (class, ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality) in one written text and one film studied in weeks 7-10.

Length: 2000 words

Due: 5 pm Friday September 26

Value: 50%

Submit: Student Hub (hard copy) and Turnitin (through Blackboard)

Marking Criteria:
- Development of an original argument, including selection of texts: /10
- Demonstrated understanding of relevant concepts of cultural identity: /10
- Quality of analysis: /10
- Written style: /10
- Research and referencing: /10

Assignment 3:

Title: *Critical Debates*

Task: In groups of 3-4, present a 20 minute case for or against one of the debate questions in weeks 11-14. The presentation should demonstrate an understanding of the set critical readings and independent research on the topic. Groups should also be creative in their use of supporting audio-visual and/or print materials. A joint presentation outline, bibliography and summary of how tasks were assigned and completed within the group must be submitted to the lecturer at the end of the presentation.

Length: Equivalent to 1500 words

Due: At end of presentation, weeks 11-14

Value: 25%

Marking Criteria:
- Demonstrated understanding of set readings: /5
- Demonstrated independent research: /5
- Presentation of case, including use of audio-visual and other materials: /10
- Presentation and content of outline and bibliography: /5
Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

Hard copy submission:

- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proofread your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University Assessment Item Coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)
- **Assignments may be submitted at any Student Hub located at:**
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
  - Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
  - Ground Floor, University House, City
  - Opposite Café Central, Ourimbah
- **Date-stamping assignments:** All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. If mailing an assignment, this should be address to the relevant School. Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.
- **Do not fax or email assignments:** Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

Online copy submission to Turnitin

In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website available @ [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

Penalties for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.


Special Circumstances

Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online. Refer - ‘Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items - Procedure 000641’ available @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)
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<tr>
<th>Grading guide</th>
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<tr>
<td>49% or less</td>
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<td>50% to 64%</td>
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<td>65% to 74%</td>
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<td>75% to 84%</td>
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<td>85% upwards</td>
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### Week beginning Lecture Topic & Assessment at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>Introduction: Being Australian: Popular Culture and National Identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>August 4</td>
<td>Battling the Land: Mad Max 2 and short stories by Henry Lawson</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>August 11</td>
<td>Drovers’ Wives to Suburban Wives: Short stories by Henry Lawson, Murray Bail, and Mandy Sayer and Kath &amp; Kim</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>August 18</td>
<td>Larrikins, Ockers and Internationalism: The Adventures of Barry McKenzie, Crocodile Dundee, and The Chaser</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>Bronzed Aussies: Surfers, Lifesavers, and Sea Changes Writing Workshop: Deconstructing Print Media</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>From Puberty Blues to Bra Boys</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Looking for Alibrandi and Loaded/Head On</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Australian Rules and Deadly, Unna?</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Essay consultations (no seminar meeting) Mid-Semester Recess: September 29-October 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>The Castle: The New Battlers?</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Moulin Rouge: How Australian is it?</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Rabbit-Proof Fence: Tinseltown History?</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Summer Heights High: Humour or Hatred?</td>
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**Examination period:** November 10-28
COURSE CONTENT

Week 2: July 28
Introduction: Being Australian: Popular culture and national identity

“Not being sure of who you are is practically the dictionary definition of being Australian”
William Routt

This course examines Australian popular cultural forms from 1890 to the present. It uses the concept of location to explore the place of Australian popular literature and film in its local, national and international contexts. It also uses this concept as a way of mapping the changing significance of land, space and place in Australian narratives of identity – the stories we tell ourselves about who we are as individuals, as members of social groups, as a nation of people. It examines the ways in which the forms of identity that have historically constituted Australian difference are formed in and through a set of spatial oppositions – bush/city, desert/coast, centre/margin, home/elsewhere - and how these key sites are also spaces of contestation, open to what Ross Gibson calls “international contamination.” The course pays particular attention to recent re-visions of land, place and home in the post-Mabo era that have unsettled the ground of Australian cultural identity, forcing us to confront episodes from our colonial past.

PART 1: AUSTRALIAN ARCHETYPES

Week 3: August 4
Battling the Land


Week 4: August 11
Drovers’ Wives to Suburban Wives


Critical Reading: Kay Schaffer, “Henry Lawson, the drover’s wife and the critics” in Debutante nation: feminism contests the 1890s, ed. Susan Magarey, Sue Rowley and Susan Sheridan (Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 1993)


Week 5: August 18
Larrikins, Ockers and Internationalism:

Set Texts: The Adventures of Barry McKenzie (Bruce Beresford, 1972), Crocodile Dundee (Peter Faiman, 1986), The Chaser episode

Week 6: August 25

**Bronzed Aussies: Surfers, Lifesavers and Sea Changes**

Critical Reading: John Fiske, Bob Hodge, and Graeme Turner, “The Beach” in *Myths of Oz: Reading Australian Popular Culture* (Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 1987), 90-100


Writing Workshop: Deconstructing Print Media

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**PART 2: PLACE AND CULTURAL IDENTITY IN AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE AND FILM**

Week 7: September 1

**From Puberty Blues to Bra Boys**

Set Texts: Gabrielle Carey and Kathy Lette, *Puberty Blues* and/or *Puberty Blues* (Bruce Beresford, 1981), *Bra Boys* (Sunny Abberton, 2007)


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Week 8: September 8

**Looking for Alibrandi and Loaded/Head On**


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Week 9: September 15

**Australian Rules and Deadly, Unna?**

Set Text: *Australian Rules* (Paul Goldman, 2002) and Phillip Gwynne, *Deadly, Unna*


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Week 10: September 22

Essay Consultations: No seminar meeting
PART 3: CULTURE WARS: IDEAS OF HOME AND BELONGING IN AUSTRALIAN CINEMA

Week 11: October 13

**The Castle: The New Battler?**

Set Text: *The Castle* (Rob Sitch, 1997)


Week 12: October 20

**Moulin Rouge: How Australian is it?**

Set Text: *Moulin Rouge* (Baz Luhrmann, 2001)


Paul Sheehan, “*Moulin Rouge* is all it was hyped up to be and more,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, June 6, 2001. 201-202


Week 13: October 27

**Is Rabbit-Proof Fence Tinseltown History?**

Set Text: *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (Phillip Noyce, 2002)


Week 14: November 3

**Summer Heights High: Humour or Hatred?**

Set Text: *Summer Heights High* episode


Jennifer Sinclair, “It’s all about me: *Summer Heights High*’s Ja’mie is feminism’s worst nightmare” *The Age*, October 25, 2007. 239-240
REFERENCES HELD ON SHORT LOAN