Course Co-ordinator: Rayma Watkinson
Room: TBA
Ph: TBA
Fax: 49216933
Email: TBA
Consultation hours: Wednesday by appointment

Assumed Knowledge:
Students are expected to have completed 20 units of Film at 1000 level.

Brief Course Description
Examines the politics of representation - the way in which film as a fictional construct and an industrial product mediates collective memory and Australian identity. It will consider issues such as cultural difference and the effects of globalisation on the imagining and imaging of a 'national' community.

Contact Hours
Seminar for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term starting week 1
Wednesdays 12 - 2pm, SRLT1

Film Screening for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term starting week 1
Wednesdays 9am - 11 am, MC132 (McMullin Building)

Learning Materials/Texts
1. FILM3020 Course Reader (available from UPrint)
2. Felicity Collins and Therese Davis, Australian Cinema After Mabo. Cambridge University Press, 2004. (Available in the campus bookstore; but also available as an electronic source through the library Newcat page.)
3. Please note that some additional articles will be provided in class throughout the semester.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate:

1. A comprehensive understanding of both 'national cinema' and its development within an Australian context.
2. Knowledge of the major theoretical positions and aesthetic debates in the area.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2010

CTS Download Date: 16/02/2010
3. A critical understanding of the formation of identities, with specific emphasis on the politics of representation, in the landscape of Australian cinema.

Course Content
Drawn from:
- film as a fictional construct and industrial product
- globalisation
- cultural difference
- the imagining and imaging of a 'national' community
- film and the construction of identities

In the early weeks particularly, through our discussion of the films and readings we will consider the very nature of a national cinema per se (an area to which an enormous amount of literature is devoted), and more concretely an Australian one. Why have a national cinema, and what is it? Is the idea of a national cinema a positive thing? Is the idea and/or the outcome(s) 'progressive', or 'conservative'? In weeks 2–5 we will watch and discuss films from what is often considered to be the 'new wave' of Australian cinema that emerged upon the establishment of government funding for a film industry in the early 1970s. These four films offer distinct reflections both on the still unresolved historical specificity of Australia (often through decidedly 'European' eyes), and by extension the viability and reason-for-being of an Australian film industry. This part of the course offers a snapshot of the 'first wave' of what we might call the modern Australian cinema.

Picking up the story again in the mid 1990s, across weeks 6-13 we shall conduct an in-depth study of films made over the last ten years. This enables us to address recent Australian cinema in the context of our earlier work, considering the national cinema project in the contemporary era. But again our case study is a very particular one, and we need to thoughtfully engage with the specific historical and political issues concerned. Here our other primary text (weeks 2-5, and select readings thereafter, are covered in the Course Reader, and handed out in class), the book *Australian Cinema after Mabo*, comes into effect.

The idea of this course is to consider, to thoughtfully read, and analyse, Australian films by taking on board and constructively debating them and the various interpretations we encounter. In a critical, informed and considered way, we can thereby attempt a select study of Australia’s national cinema from a standpoint of contemporary history, and the way it has been/is received and debated. Essentially, this involves an examination of the politics of representation – the ways in which the feature film as a fictional construct and an industrial product mediates, renders, reflects and provokes collective memory, ideas about Australian national identity, and preferred or problematised subject positions pertaining thereto.

Topics we will likely consider include:
- The study of national cinema as enabling us to see film as a fictional construct, an ‘active’ cultural mediator, and an industrial product;
- The various, often paradoxical ways in which a national cinema is produced, sold and consumed within the context of both the modern nation-state and a globalised economic and media landscape;
- The ongoing, contested issues around the question of cultural difference within a national culture, and how particular Australian films reflect, soothe or provoke such debates around what Australia ‘is’ or ‘should be’ (and according to whose version of events or ‘story’ we see through);
- The different kinds of imagining and imaging of an Australian community through a national cinema and debates around it, in homogeneous and diversity-emphasising variations;
- The resonances and contradictions between the various portrayals of Australian identity and nationhood in the films we watch, the contemporary cultural and historical ‘narratives of nation’ espoused by influential figures such as mainstream politicians and media, and the increased emphasis on ‘Australian values’ over recent times – all in the context of the era of globalisation.

Assessment

Journal:
You are required to submit a Journal containing brief analyses of the films viewed within the weekly film schedule, informed by the readings. The Journal will assist you in preparing for, and contributing to, weekly discussions. It demonstrates the level of your general, incremental engagement with the course and
knowledge-building (the other two assessment tasks involve much more specific, depth-oriented scholarship). You submit two instalments containing 10 weeks’ worth of material in total.

- **Length** – each entry approximately 250-500 words
- **Weighting** – 30% in total
- **Due** – In class Week 5 (31 March): installment 1; and 4 pm. Friday, week 13 (2 June); installment 2

**Research Exercise:**

By mid-way through the course you should be developing a general sense of which week and topic interests you in terms of the Major Essay (the questions for which will be distributed in due course). Then you can commence the reading that will make up your Research Project, and lay the groundwork for your Major Essay. Even if you cannot narrow your area of interest down to a specific essay question quite yet, start reading once you have decided on a general subject area. Upon doing this research, you are required to hand in a written account in the form of an ‘annotated bibliography’. This annotated bibliography involves the listing of your reading material (with complete bibliographical details), each followed by approximately 200 words in which you summarise the main argument within the book or article. There should be at least one example of each of the following sources: books (other than set text), refereed journal articles, and a government/film institution report.

Also list any Internet sites, magazines, informational videos, non-refereed journal articles, ejournals, and film encyclopaedias you consult – but do not include summaries for these. Only provide the annotated summary descriptions for the major research and academic material you read.

This a review of relevant literature for the Major Essay. You are hence not required to mount any analytic or argument-style writing, although any comments about specific relevance to your future essay will be useful.

- **Length** – 1,000–1,500 words
- **Weighting** – 20%
- **Due** – In class pm. Wednesday, Week 9

**Major Essay:**

Research Exercises will be returned the following week and you can continue to read for your essay in an increasingly focussed way, as well as begin some preliminary writing and formulating of a specific analysis and argument. In addition to literary research, you should also watch some other films relevant to your topic beyond those screened in the course (see the list of recommended films below for starters). See the material on essay writing at the end of this Course Outline for further help.

- **Length** – 2,500 words
- **Weighting** – 50%
- **Due** – 4 pm. Wednesday, Week 14

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**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: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html)

**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** (under student) at the link 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: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

**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:

**Callaghan Campus**
Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building
Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre

**OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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<tr>
<th>Faculty Websites</th>
<th>University Complaints Managers Office</th>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/</a></td>
<td>The University is committed to maintaining and enhancing fair, equitable and safe work practices and promoting positive relationships with its staff and students. There is a single system to deal with all types of complaints, ranging from minor administrative matters to more serious deeply held grievances concerning unfair, unjust or unreasonable behaviour. <a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/complaints/">http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/complaints/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards</td>
<td>Phone:02 4921 5806</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000311.html">www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000311.html</a></td>
<td>Fax: 02 4921 7151</td>
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<tr>
<td>General enquiries</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Complaints@newcastle.edu.au">Complaints@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie</td>
<td>Campus Care</td>
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<td>Phone: 02 4921 5000</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au">EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
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<td>Dean of Students Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Dean of Students and Deputy Dean of Students work to ensure that all students receive fair and equitable treatment at the University. In doing this</td>
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School of Humanities and Social Science
they provide information and advice and help students resolve problems of an academic nature. 
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/dean-of-students/
Phone:02 4921 5806 
Fax: 02 4921 7151 
Email: Dean-of-Students@newcastle.edu.au

The Campus Care program has been set up as a central point of enquiry for information, advice and support in managing inappropriate, concerning or threatening behaviour. 
Phone:02 4921 8600 
Fax: 02 4921 7151 
Email: campuscare@newcastle.edu.au

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.

**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://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/regdates.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/regdates.html)

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
- Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students