

Cultural Studies

Convener: Chris Healy (Department of English)

Cultural studies at the University of Melbourne offers students an exciting and productive environment in which to acquire and develop essential skills in critical reading, analysis, and communication. The program is taught by the Department of English and has developed from its inception in 1994 to become one of Australia's leading centres for cultural studies teaching and research. Academic staff are leaders in their field and dedicated to maintaining the program's international reputation. Students will benefit directly from the highest standards of research excellence and the commitment of staff to the development and use of innovative teaching practices and technologies such as multimedia. Cultural studies is particularly relevant for students interested in pursuing careers in the media, education, arts policy, advertising, creative arts, multimedia and other related fields. Students interested in expanding their interests and knowledge in cultural studies are provided with an articulated structure of higher degree options to continue their study at the University of Melbourne.

Cultural studies is the interdisciplinary study of the relationships between popular, national, and contemporary global cultures and subcultures as they are experienced in everyday life. A diverse range of subjects address a distinctive set of concerns that include the production and consumption of cultural texts, the social impact of cultural power and its role in the formation of identities.

Prerequisites

The cultural studies program commences in second year. The general prerequisite for entry is the completion of 50 points of first year study. These **must include** 25 points of first year study from anthropology, art history, cinema studies, criminology, English, history, history and philosophy of science, linguistics and applied linguistics, philosophy, political science or sociology.

Students wishing to undertake subjects as part of a major in cultural studies are not required to fulfil the usual departmental prerequisites for second/third year subjects if they have completed 25 points of first year study in one of the departments listed above.

Students planning to undertake a major in cultural studies are strongly advised to complete both 106-001 Contemporary Culture and Media (*p.142*) and 106-005 Contemporary Culture and Everyday Life (*p.142*) in their first year. These subjects are offered in the Department of English in Semester 1 and 2 respectively. The completion of these subjects is not, however, a formal prerequisite for the second/third year component of the cultural studies program.

Requirements for a major

A major in cultural studies usually consists of nine 12.5 point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first year subjects in anthropology, art history, cinema studies, criminology, English, history, history and philosophy of science, linguistics and applied linguistics, philosophy, political science or sociology (25 points), and;
- seven second/third year subjects (totalling 87.5 points), which must include:
 - 106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (*p.147*), the program's compulsory subject (12.5 points) and;
 - at least four subjects from the list of core subjects below and;
 - the remainder from the list of core subjects or from the list of optional subjects below.

Cultural studies subjects

First year

Students are recommended to take the two following subjects offered in the Department of English as part of their cultural studies major.

Recommended first year subjects	Sem.
106-001 Contemporary Culture and Media (<i>p.142</i>)	1
106-005 Contemporary Culture and Everyday Life (<i>p.142</i>)	2

Core subjects

Students must take at least **four** of the following core subjects toward their cultural studies major in addition to the program's compulsory subject 106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (*p.147*)

Second/Third year	Sem.
Compulsory subject	
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (<i>p.147</i>)	2
Core subjects	

Second/Third year	Sem.
106-003 Media and Cultural Difference (<i>p.143</i>)	2
106-008 Cultural Consumption (<i>p.143</i>)	2
106-009 Print to Pixels: Cultural Histories (<i>p.143</i>)	1
106-012 Television Cultures (<i>p.150</i>)	N/A
106-014 Hong Kong Cinema (<i>p.143</i>)	1
106-020 Reading Sexuality (<i>p.143</i>)	2
106-022 City Cultures: Urban Stories (<i>p.144</i>)	1
106-036 Postmodernism (<i>p.151</i>)	N/A
106-042 Postcolonial Cultural Studies (<i>p.145</i>)	2
106-047 Art/Pornography/Blasphemy/Propaganda (<i>p.146</i>)	2
106-055 Cybercultures: Global/Local (<i>p.152</i>)	N/A
106-057 From Rock to Rave: Cultural Formations (<i>p.152</i>)	N/A
106-063 Aboriginal Cultural Studies (<i>p.147</i>)	2
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (<i>p.147</i>)	2
106-067 Feminist Cultural Studies (<i>p.152</i>)	N/A
106-068 Imagining Hollywood (<i>p.147</i>)	2
106-103 Sports, Entertainment and the Media (<i>p.148</i>)	1
107-077 Television and Australian Culture (<i>p.108</i>)	N/A
107-079 Feminist Film and Television Theory (<i>p.108</i>)	N/A
107-080 Commodity Culture (<i>p.106</i>)	1
107-082 The Entertainment Experience (<i>p.106</i>)	1
110-115 Japanese Popular Culture (<i>p.255</i>)	1
131-071 Museums, Objects, Spectacles (<i>p.220</i>)	N/A
136-073 Critical Theories (<i>p.324</i>)	2
166-034 An/Other China: Theorising Everyday Life (<i>p.303</i>)	2
191-032 Criminal Fictions (<i>p.131</i>)	2

Third/fourth year

Third/fourth year	Sem.
Criminology	
191-026 Crime and Culture (<i>p.130</i>)	1

Optional subjects

Students must take no more than **two** of the following optional subjects toward their cultural studies major.

You must consult the relevant area of study entries in this Handbook to make sure that you meet the prerequisites, if any, for entry to these subjects. Existing prerequisites may be waived for students undertaking an interdepartmental program. If you do not meet the existing prerequisites, please consult the relevant subject coordinator for permission to enrol.

General enquiries about optional subjects as they relate to the cultural studies program should be directed to the cultural studies convener in the Department of English.

Second/third year	Sem.
English	
106-032 Novel and Film (<i>p.144</i>)	1
106-033 Postcolonial Writing (<i>p.151</i>)	N/A
106-035 Popular Fiction (<i>p.144</i>)	1
Cinema studies	
107-066 Postmodern Culture: Art in New York (<i>p.76</i>)	N/A
107-075 Art House Cinema & Film Festival Culture (<i>p.106</i>)	1
107-076 Contemporary Hollywood Cinema (<i>p.108</i>)	N/A
107-084 Surrealism and the Cinema (<i>p.109</i>)	N/A
107-086 City as Film (<i>p.107</i>)	2
107-088 Love Stories: Film and Narrative Theory (<i>p.107</i>)	1
Art History	
107-034 Postmodernism in Postwar Art & Design (<i>p.74</i>)	N/A
Geography	
121-016 Landscapes of Power (<i>p.185</i>)	N/A
121-026 The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism (<i>p.182</i>)	1
History	
131-019 Varieties of History: Memory and History (<i>p.206</i>)	1
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics (<i>p.207</i>)	1
History and philosophy of science	
103-005 Cybersociety (<i>p.224</i>)	1
Philosophy	
161-022 Philosophy of Feminism (<i>p.290</i>)	1
Political science	
166-038 Indigenous Politics: Case Studies (<i>p.303</i>)	1
Social Theory	
136-077 Psychoanalysis and Social Theory (<i>p.324</i>)	1
Faculty of Music	

Second/third year

740-144 Music Cultures of Asia & the Pacific (p.749)

Students interested in further subjects in Ethnomusicology and Australian music studies should consult the Faculty of Music Handbook entry. See *Music* (p.745).

Sem.

2

Third/fourth year**Art history**

107-061 You Beaut Country: Australia in the '50s (p.76)

Sem.

N/A

107-066 Postmodern Culture: Art in New York (p.76)

N/A

Honours entry

The prerequisites for entry to Fourth Year Honours in Cultural Studies are:

- completion of all the requirements for the BA and;
- completion of a major in cultural studies and;
- an average grade of H2B or higher over the second/third year subjects within the major.

Entry to honours must be approved by the convener of cultural studies and the Faculty of Arts Honours course adviser.

Honours requirements**Pure honours**

Students undertaking pure honours in cultural studies must complete:

- 106-511 Cultural Studies Thesis (p.134) or 106-512 Cultural Studies Thesis (MYE) (p.134) (37.5 points) and;
- 106-126 Research Principles and Practices (p.150) (12.5 points) and;
- four honours subjects in cultural studies (totalling 50 points) from the list below.

Combined honours

Students undertaking combined honours in cultural studies and another area of study must complete:

- 106-511 Cultural Studies Thesis (p.134) or 106-512 Cultural Studies Thesis (MYE) (p.134) (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects in cultural studies from the list below (totalling 25 points), including 106-126 Research Principles and Practices (p.150) (12.5 points) and;
- three honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 37.5 points).

or

- honours thesis in the combined area of study (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 25 points) and;
- three honours subjects in cultural studies from the list below (totalling 37.5 points), excluding 106-126 Research Principles and Practices (p.150).

Honours subjects

	Sem.
106-018 Stardom, Media, Culture (p.148)	2
106-071 Cultural Policy and Power (p.149)	1
106-072 Reading the Subject: Freud/Lacan/Fiction (p.149)	1
106-083 Subcultural Studies (p.153)	N/A
106-087 Lesbian and Gay Theory (p.150)	1
106-088 Body Cultures (p.153)	N/A
106-089 Global Culture: History and Theory (p.153)	N/A
106-092 Theorising the Spectator (p.153)	N/A
106-095 Reconciliation (p.153)	N/A
106-125 Media, Politics and Cultural Diaspora (p.154)	N/A
106-126 Research Principles and Practices (p.150)	1 rep 2
106-127 Memory and Contemporary Culture (p.150)	2
107-059 Art and Mass Culture in the 1960s (p.75)	N/A
107-061 You Beaut Country: Australia in the '50s (p.76)	N/A
107-066 Postmodern Culture: Art in New York (p.76)	N/A
107-072 Sound and Vision: Art & Popular Music (p.77)	N/A
107-095 Film, Modernity and the Avant-Garde (p.108)	2
136-069 Disease and Culture (p.228)	2
136-079 Reading Texts in Social Theory (p.324)	1
166-060 Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory (p.306)	2
191-026 Crime and Culture (p.130)	1

Career opportunities

A degree with a major in cultural studies is an excellent preparation for careers in the arts, in the media, and in cultural policy.

Further study

There is an MA by thesis in cultural studies. Students wishing to apply for entry into the MA program should have an H1 or H2A Honours degree (or equivalent) in a related discipline.

For more information

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Fourth year subjects**106-511 Cultural Studies Thesis****Credit points:** 37.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Annamarie Jagose**Prerequisites:** Admission to Fourth Year Honours in Cultural Studies, see *Honours entry* (p.141).**Contact:** Regular supervision throughout the year (*Year long*).**Description:** Topics selected in consultation with the coordinator.**Assessment:** A thesis of 12 000 words.**106-512 Cultural Studies Thesis (MYE)****Credit points:** 37.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Annamarie Jagose**Prerequisites:** Mid-year admission to Fourth Year Honours in Cultural Studies, see *Honours entry* (p.141).**Contact:** Regular supervision throughout the year (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).**Description:** Topics selected in consultation with the coordinator.**Assessment:** A thesis of 12 000 words.