

Cultural studies

Convener: Brett Farmer (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.2*) and 106-005 Contemporary Culture and Everyday Life (*p.2*) 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 (87.5 points), which must include:
 - 106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (*p.7*), 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 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.2</i>)	1
106-005 Contemporary Culture and Everyday Life (<i>p.2</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.7*)

Second/third year	Sem.
Compulsory subject	
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (<i>p.7</i>)	1
Core subjects	
106-003 Media and Cultural Difference (<i>p.3</i>)	2

Second/third year	Sem.
106-008 Cultural Consumption (<i>p.12</i>)	N/A
106-009 Media Histories and Cultural Studies (<i>p.3</i>)	2
106-012 Television Cultures (<i>p.3</i>)	2
106-014 Hong Kong Cinema (<i>p.12</i>)	N/A
106-020 Reading Sexuality (<i>p.4</i>)	1
106-022 City Cultures: Urban Stories (<i>p.13</i>)	N/A
106-036 Postmodernism (<i>p.5</i>)	1
106-042 Postcolonial Cultural Studies (<i>p.13</i>)	N/A
106-047 Art/Pornography/Blasphemy/Propaganda (<i>p.6</i>)	2
106-055 Cybercultures: Global/Local (<i>p.14</i>)	N/A
106-057 From Rock to Rave: Cultural Formations (<i>p.7</i>)	1
106-063 Aboriginal Cultural Studies (<i>p.14</i>)	N/A
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (<i>p.7</i>)	1
106-067 Feminist Cultural Studies (<i>p.14</i>)	N/A
106-068 Imagining Hollywood (<i>p.14</i>)	N/A
106-103 Sports, Entertainment and the Media (<i>p.8</i>)	1
107-077 Television and Australian Culture (<i>p.2</i>)	2
107-079 Feminist Film and Television Theory (<i>p.2</i>)	1
107-080 Commodity Culture (<i>p.4</i>)	N/A
107-082 The Entertainment Experience (<i>p.4</i>)	N/A
110-115 Japanese Popular Culture (<i>p.5</i>)	1
131-071 Museums, Objects, Spectacles (<i>p.8</i>)	1
136-073 Critical Theories (<i>p.2</i>)	2
166-034 An/Other China: Theorising Everyday Life (<i>p.5</i>)	2
191-438 Criminal Fictions (<i>p.6</i>)	N/A

Third/fourth year	Sem.
191-428 Crime and Culture (<i>p.4</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.4</i>)	2
106-033 Writing After Empire (<i>p.5</i>)	1
106-035 Popular Fiction (<i>p.5</i>)	2
Cinema studies	
107-075 Art House Cinema & Film Festival Culture (<i>p.4</i>)	N/A
107-076 Contemporary Hollywood Cinema (<i>p.2</i>)	2
107-084 Surrealism and the Cinema (<i>p.2</i>)	1
107-086 City as Film (<i>p.5</i>)	N/A
107-088 Love Stories: Film and Narrative Theory (<i>p.5</i>)	N/A
107-466 Postmodern Culture: Art in New York (<i>p.3</i>)	2
Art history	
107-034 Postmodernism in Postwar Art & Design (<i>p.6</i>)	N/A
Geography	
121-016 Landscapes of Power (<i>p.3</i>)	1
121-026 The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A
History	
131-019 Varieties of History: Memory and History (<i>p.4</i>)	1
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics (<i>p.5</i>)	1
History and philosophy of science	
103-005 Cybersociety (<i>p.2</i>)	1
Philosophy	
161-022 Philosophy of Feminism (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A
Political science	
166-038 Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (<i>p.5</i>)	1
Social theory	
136-077 Psychoanalysis and Social Theory (<i>p.2</i>)	2
Faculty of Music	
740-144 Music Cultures of Asia & the Pacific (<i>p.5</i>)	N/A

Students interested in further subjects in ethnomusicology and Australian music studies should consult the Faculty of Music handbook entry. See *Music* (*p.1*).

Third/fourth year	Sem.
Art history	
107-433 You Beaut Country: Australia in the '50s (p.8)	N/A
107-466 Postmodern Culture: Art in New York (p.3)	2

Honours entry

The prerequisites for entry to fourth year honours in cultural studies are:

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

Entry to honours must be approved by either the English honours coordinator or the convenor of cultural studies and the Faculty of Arts honours course adviser. A departmental application for both pure and combined honours is available from the Department of English as well as the Honours Handbook (available in mid-October). Applications are to be lodged with the Department of English by 16 November. If the student intends to enrol in a cultural studies honours thesis, then the application *must* include a 200 word thesis proposal. Prospective honours students will be interviewed by the departmental honours coordinator in the Department of English between 3-7 December, 2001. Mid-year entry applications must be lodged during the same period. An interview period for prospective mid-year honours entry students will be announced in 2002.

Honours requirements

Pure honours

Students undertaking pure honours in cultural studies must complete:

- 106-511 Cultural Studies Thesis (p.2) or 106-512 Cultural Studies Thesis (MYE) (p.2) (37.5 points) and;
- 106-401 Research Principles and Practices (p.9) (12.5 points) and;
- four honours subjects in cultural studies (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.2) or 106-512 Cultural Studies Thesis (MYE) (p.2) (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects in cultural studies from the list below (25 points), *including* 106-401 Research Principles and Practices (p.9) (12.5 points) and;
- three honours subjects in the combined area of study (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 (25 points) and;
- three honours subjects in cultural studies from the list below (37.5 points), *excluding* 106-401 Research Principles and Practices (p.9).

Honours subjects	Sem.
100-410 Imaging Australian Life: 1900-2000 (p.3)	2
106-401 Research Principles and Practices (p.9)	1 rep 2
106-402 Cultural Policy and Power (p.15)	N/A
106-403 Reading the Subject: Freud/Lacan/Fiction (p.9)	2
106-404 Memory and Contemporary Culture (p.9)	2
106-409 Stardom, Media, Culture (p.15)	N/A
106-428 Media, Politics and Cultural Diaspora (p.11)	1
106-430 Subcultural Studies (p.11)	1
106-436 Lesbian and Gay Theory (p.15)	N/A
106-443 Body Cultures (p.11)	1
106-444 Global Culture: History and Theory (p.15)	N/A
106-448 Theorising the Spectator (p.12)	2
106-452 Reconciliation (p.15)	N/A
107-420 Art and Mass Culture in the 1960s (p.8)	N/A
107-433 You Beaut Country: Australia in the '50s (p.8)	N/A
107-425 Sound and Vision: Art & Popular Music (p.10)	N/A
107-466 Postmodern Culture: Art in New York (p.3)	2
107-487 Film, Modernity and the Avant-Garde (p.6)	N/A
136-447 Reading Texts in Social Theory (p.2)	1
136-451 Disease and Culture (p.7)	2
166-445 Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory (p.8)	2
191-428 Crime and Culture (p.4)	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 are a number of graduate diplomas and degrees at different levels offered in the area of cultural studies. These include Graduate Certificate in Arts (Cultural Studies); Graduate Diploma in Arts (Cultural Studies); Post-graduate Diploma in Arts (Cultural Studies) as well as an MA by thesis and a PhD. Students wishing to apply for entry into the MA program should have an H1 or H2A honours degree (or equivalent) in a related discipline. Details of these courses are available in the Faculty of Arts Postgraduate Handbook and from the Department of English.

For more information

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Fourth year subjects

106-511 Cultural Studies Thesis

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Stephanie Trigg

Prerequisites: Admission to fourth year honours in cultural studies, see *Honours entry* (p.1).

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)

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Stephanie Trigg

Prerequisites: Mid-year admission to fourth year honours in cultural studies, see *Honours entry* (p.1).

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.