

## 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

There are no prerequisites for first-year cultural studies subjects. The general prerequisite for a second-year subject in cultural studies 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, cultural studies, 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.

### 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, cultural studies, 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).

A major in cultural studies *must* include:

- at least one subject from the list of foundational subjects below; and
- at least four subjects from the list of core subjects below; and
- the remainder from the list of foundational core or optional subjects below.

### Cultural studies subjects

Students must take the **one** of the following foundational subjects as part of their cultural studies major. It is strongly recommended that students planning to major in cultural studies complete all three foundational subjects.

Students must take at least **four** of the following core subjects toward their cultural studies major.

Foundational subjects	Sem.
<b>First year</b>	
106-101 Contemporary Culture and Media (p.2)	1
106-106 Contemporary Culture and Everyday Life (p.2)	2
<b>Second/third year</b>	
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (p.9)	1
<b>Core subjects</b>	Sem.
<b>Second/third year</b>	
100-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity (p.3)	1
106-003 Media and Cultural Difference (p.3)	2
106-009 Media Histories and Cultural Studies (p.3)	N/A
106-012 Television Cultures (p.3)	N/A
106-014 Hong Kong Cinema (p.3)	2
106-020 Reading Sexuality (p.4)	1
106-022 City Cultures: Urban Stories (p.4)	1
106-036 Postmodernism (p.6)	1
106-047 Art/Pornography/Blasphemy/Propaganda (p.7)	2

Core subjects	Sem.
106-055 Cybercultures: Global/Local (p.8)	N/A
106-057 From Rock to Rave: Cultural Formations (p.8)	N/A
106-063 Aboriginal Cultural Studies (p.9)	2
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (p.9)	1
106-068 Imagining Hollywood (p.9)	N/A
106-103 Sports, Entertainment and the Media (p.10)	1
107-077 Television and Australian Culture (p.2)	N/A
107-079 Feminist Film and Television Theory (p.3)	N/A
107-080 Commodity Culture (p.3)	1
107-082 The Entertainment Experience (p.3)	2
110-115 Japanese Popular Culture (p.5)	1
131-071 Museums, Objects, Spectacles (p.10)	1
136-073 Critical Theories (p.2)	2
166-034 An/Other China: Theorising Everyday Life (p.5)	N/A
<b>Third/fourth year</b>	
191-428 Crime and Culture (p.4)	1
191-438 Criminal Fictions (p.5)	N/A

### Optional subjects

While it is strongly recommended that students wishing to major in cultural studies choose their subjects from the list of foundational and core subjects above, they may include as part of their major up to **two** subjects from the following list of optional subjects.

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.
<b>English</b>	
106-032 Novel and Film (p.5)	2
106-033 Writing After Empire (p.5)	2
106-035 Popular Fiction (p.6)	N/A
<b>Cinema studies</b>	
107-075 Art House Cinema & Film Festival Culture (p.2)	N/A
107-076 Contemporary Hollywood Cinema (p.2)	N/A
107-084 Surrealism and the Cinema (p.3)	N/A
107-086 City as Film (p.4)	N/A
107-088 Love Stories: Film and Narrative Theory (p.4)	2
<b>Art history</b>	
107-034 Postmodernism in Postwar Art & Design (p.3)	N/A
107-466 Postmodern Culture: Art in New York (p.6)	N/A
<b>Geography</b>	
121-016 Landscapes of Power (p.3)	N/A
121-026 The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism (p.4)	1
<b>History</b>	
131-019 Varieties of History: Memory and History (p.5)	2
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics (p.6)	1
<b>History and philosophy of science</b>	
103-005 Cybersociety (p.2)	1
<b>Philosophy</b>	
161-022 Philosophy of Feminism (p.5)	2
<b>Political science</b>	
166-038 Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (p.6)	1
<b>Social theory</b>	
136-077 Psychoanalysis and Social Theory (p.2)	1
<b>Faculty of Music</b>	
740-144 Music Cultures of Asia (p.5)	1
Students interested in further subjects in ethnomusicology and Australian music studies should consult the Faculty of Music handbook entry. See <i>Music</i> (p.1).	
<b>Third/fourth year</b>	Sem.
<b>Art history</b>	
107-433 You Beaut Country: Australia in the '50s (p.6)	N/A
107-466 Postmodern Culture: Art in New York (p.6)	N/A

### 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 22 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 2-6 December 2002. Mid-year entry applications must meet the same timetable although a mid-year interview period is provided for students ineligible to apply in December.

## 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.11*) (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.11*) (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.11*).

Honours subjects	Sem.
100-410 Imaging Australian Life: 1900-2000 ( <i>p.3</i> )	1
106-401 Research Principles and Practices ( <i>p.11</i> )	1 rep 2
106-402 Cultural Policy and Power ( <i>p.11</i> )	1
106-403 Reading the Subject: Freud/Lacan/Fiction ( <i>p.11</i> )	2
106-404 Memory and Contemporary Culture ( <i>p.11</i> )	2
106-409 Stardom, Media, Culture ( <i>p.12</i> )	1
106-428 Media, Politics and Cultural Diaspora ( <i>p.14</i> )	N/A
106-430 Subcultural Studies ( <i>p.14</i> )	N/A
106-436 Queer Theory Ten Years On ( <i>p.14</i> )	N/A
106-443 Body Cultures ( <i>p.14</i> )	1
106-444 Global Culture: History and Theory ( <i>p.14</i> )	N/A
106-448 Theorising the Spectator ( <i>p.14</i> )	N/A
107-420 Art and Mass Culture in the 1960s ( <i>p.6</i> )	N/A
107-433 You Beaut Country: Australia in the '50s ( <i>p.6</i> )	N/A
107-425 Sound and Vision: Art & Popular Music ( <i>p.8</i> )	N/A
107-466 Postmodern Culture: Art in New York ( <i>p.6</i> )	N/A
107-487 Film, Modernity and the Avant-Garde ( <i>p.6</i> )	N/A
136-528 Disease and Culture ( <i>p.9</i> )	2
136-532 Reading Texts in Social Theory ( <i>p.3</i> )	2
166-445 Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory ( <i>p.11</i> )	1
191-428 Crime and Culture ( <i>p.4</i> )	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); Postgraduate Certificate in Arts (Cultural Studies); Postgraduate 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

Brett Farmer  
 Department of English  
 Second Floor, John Medley Building  
 The University of Melbourne  
 Victoria 3010  
 Tel: +61 3 8344 5506/7/8  
 Web: <http://www.english.unimelb.edu.au>

## Fourth-year subjects

### 106-511 Cultural Studies Thesis

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 37.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Clara Tuite

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or 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:** Clara Tuite

**Prerequisites:** Mid-year admission to the postgraduate diploma or 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.