

# 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 who intend to pursue careers in the media, education, arts policy, advertising, creative industries, 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.

## Diploma in Arts (Cultural Studies)

The Diploma in Arts (Cultural Studies) is only available to students who are currently enrolled in a degree course at the University of Melbourne. It consists of a three-year sequence of study, and adds one year to the duration of your degree.

Students must complete 25 points of first-year subjects and 75 points of second/third-year subjects selected from the lists below. Alternatively, students who have completed appropriate background studies at first year may complete 100 points of second/third-year subjects from the list below.

## 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 at least **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)	N/A

Core subjects	Sem.
<b>Second/third year</b>	
102-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity (p.3)	1
106-003 Media and Cultural Difference (p.3)	N/A
106-009 Media Histories and Cultural Studies (p.3)	1
106-012 Television Cultures (p.3)	N/A
106-014 Hong Kong Cinema (p.4)	N/A
106-020 Reading Sexuality (p.4)	1
106-022 City Cultures: Urban Stories (p.4)	N/A
106-036 Postmodernism (p.6)	1
106-047 Art/Pornography/Blasphemy/Propaganda (p.7)	2
106-055 Cybercultures: Global/Local (p.8)	2
106-057 From Rock to Rave: Cultural Formations (p.8)	2
106-063 Aboriginal Cultural Studies (p.9)	N/A
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (p.9)	N/A
106-068 Imagining Hollywood (p.9)	2
106-203 Sports, Entertainment and the Media (p.10)	N/A
107-077 Television and Australian Culture (p.2)	N/A
107-079 Feminist Film and Television Theory (p.3)	1
107-080 Commodity Culture (p.3)	N/A
107-082 The Entertainment Experience (p.3)	N/A
110-219 Japanese Popular Culture (p.4)	1
121-228 Critical Human Geography (p.5)	1
131-071 Museums, Objects, Spectacles (p.9)	N/A
136-073 Critical Theories (p.2)	2
166-034 An/Other China: Theorising Everyday Life (p.6)	N/A
740-300 In the Groove (p.4)	1
<b>Third/fourth year</b>	
191-428 Crime and Culture (p.4)	2
191-438 Criminal Fictions (p.5)	1

## 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>Australian studies</b>	
102-005 Exploring Central Australia (p.3)	1 rep 2
<b>English</b>	
106-032 Novel and Film (p.5)	2
106-033 Writing After Empire (p.5)	N/A
106-035 Popular Fiction (p.6)	2
<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
107-078 Italian National Cinemas (p.3)	2
107-084 Surrealism and the Cinema (p.3)	N/A
107-088 Love Stories: Film and Narrative Theory (p.4)	N/A
107-258 Game Studies (p.4)	1
107-267 The Cinema of Martin Scorsese (p.4)	2
107-268 Myth and Media: from Homer to Hollywood (p.4)	1
107-269 The Musical: From Hollywood to Bollywood (p.4)	2
107-270 The 1950s: Film, Perfection & Propaganda (p.4)	1
<b>Art history</b>	
107-034 The 1980s: Postmodernism in Art (p.4)	1
107-466 Contemporary Culture: Art in New York (p.7)	2
<b>Geography</b>	
121-017 Society and Environments (p.3)	2
121-026 The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism (p.4)	2
<b>History</b>	
131-019 Varieties of History: Memory and History (p.5)	N/A
131-022 You Beauty! Sport & Australian Identity (p.5)	Summer
131-024 The Body: History, Sex & Gender (p.6)	1
131-026 Picturing Australia (p.6)	2
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics (p.6)	2

**Second/third year**

131-077	City & the Bush: Australian Identities (p.10)	Sem.	2
131-085	Witches and Witch Hunting in Europe (p.11)		1
131-223	Making News: Making Histories (p.13)		2

**History and philosophy of science**

103-005	Cybersociety (p.3)		1
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**Philosophy**

161-022	Philosophy of Feminism (p.5)		N/A
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**Political science**

166-038	Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (p.6)		1
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**Social theory**

136-077	Psychoanalysis and Social Theory (p.2)		1
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**Faculty of Music**

740-144	Music Cultures of Asia (p.6)		N/A
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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**

107-433	You Beut Country: Australia in the '50s (p.6)	Sem.	N/A
107-466	Contemporary Culture: Art in New York (p.7)		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 21 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 1-5 December 2003. 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**

102-511	Imaging Australian Spaces (p.4)	Sem.	2
106-401	Research Principles and Practices (p.11)		1 rep 2
106-402	Cultural Policy and Power (p.11)		N/A
106-403	Reading the Subject: Freud/Lacan/Fiction (p.11)		2
106-404	Memory and Contemporary Culture (p.11)		2
106-409	Stardom, Media, Culture (p.12)		N/A
106-428	Media, Politics and Cultural Diaspora (p.14)		1
106-430	Subcultural Studies (p.14)		N/A

**Honours subjects**

106-436	Queer Theory Ten Years On (p.14)	Sem.	2
106-443	Body Cultures (p.14)		N/A
106-444	Global Culture: History and Theory (p.14)		N/A
106-448	Theorising the Spectator (p.14)		1
107-420	Art and Mass Culture in the 1960s (p.6)		N/A
107-433	You Beut Country: Australia in the '50s (p.6)		N/A
107-425	Sound and Vision: Art & Popular Music (p.9)		N/A
107-466	Contemporary Culture: Art in New York (p.7)		2
107-487	Film, Modernity and the Avant-Garde (p.7)		2
131-417	Avant-Garde Culture: Paris 1880-2000 (p.16)		1
131-452	Representations of Gender (p.17)		2
131-464	Secret Life of Things: Material Culture (p.19)		2
136-528	Disease and Culture (p.11)		2
136-532	Reading Texts in Social Theory (p.3)		N/A
136-533	Theories of Modernity (p.3)		2
166-445	Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory (p.11)		2
191-428	Crime and Culture (p.4)		2

**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**

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**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.