



ARTS4249

The Humanities, then and now

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Heikki Ikkäheimo	h.ikaheimo@unsw.edu.au	On appointment	MB321	93852373

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Note: This is a 12 UOC course. You will enrol in 6 UOC in each of two successive terms with a result reported by a single grade at the end of the second 6 UOC course.

This is a core course for students enrolled in Honours in the School of Humanities and Languages. This course aims to equip you, as an advanced student in a discipline represented in the School of Humanities and Languages, with new skills to understand your discipline in a wider range of debates in humanities and related area studies. You will be exposed to some of the leading issues, debates and ideas that cross discipline boundaries in humanities and area studies. Following that, you will gain disciplinary depth through focused reading and study.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse different epistemological and cultural traditions within the Humanities and their influence on the wider world.
2. Evaluate changing perspectives in the history of a specific discipline and situate them in relation to broader developments in the Humanities.
3. Communicate effectively and present work in a manner that conforms to scholarly conventions and subject guidelines.

Teaching Strategies

The course will be taught in the first weeks through a large seminar for the entire school cohort led by a single convenor. This will be followed in later weeks by disciplinary reading seminars. The combination will provide for the development of interdisciplinary dialogue across cognate disciplines and networks, together with the exploration of discipline-specific theoretical formulations and issues.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Discipline-specific research essay	60%	Not Applicable	1, 2, 3
Seminar presentation write up	20%	23/04/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2
Learning Portfolio	20%	27/04/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Discipline-specific research essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

3,500-word essay; topics to be agreed with the convenor of the discipline-specific part of the course.

Students receive written and/or oral feedback.

Additional details:

The deadline for the essay will be set by the convenor of the discipline specific part of the course in T2.

Assessment 2: Seminar presentation write up

Details:

Class presentations will be assigned to each student in the interdisciplinary part of the course. Following the presentation, students submit a critical summary and reflection on the presentation and class discussion (ca. 800 words).

Written and/or oral feedback.

Additional details:

It is highly recommended that you submit the Seminar presentation write up by the end of the same week that your presentation is on, when everything is still fresh in your memory.

Assessment 3: Learning Portfolio

Details:

A portfolio where students address issues and questions from their weekly readings for the interdisciplinary part of the course. The portfolio is a record of students' preparation for class each week. Students will write as a minimum 5 x 300 word reading summaries and textual analysis, as well as a 200 word reflection on the research portfolio itself (1,700 words in total). The written form of the portfolio is less formal than an essay and may be a mix of prose and bullet points. This portfolio requires students to reflect on their own learning in the course and how assessment tasks, including the research portfolio itself, may contribute to this.

Written and/or oral feedback.

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Seminar	<p>KNOWLEDGE AND RELATIVISM</p> <p>Is all truth relative to a perspective, or are some views true or false independently of perspectives?</p> <p>Simon Blackburn: 'Relatively speaking' &</p> <p>Stephen Law: 'Is it all relative'</p> <p>(These and all other readings for this course will be discussed in class, and participation in class requires that you have read the texts for the given week before the class. On a given week there may also be a video to watch or a podcast to listen, and you are expected to have done that before the class.)</p>
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Seminar	<p>KNOWLEDGE AND THE UNIVERSITIES: THE HUMBOLDTIAN MODEL</p> <p>What are the universities for in the first place? A look into the influential Humboldtian answer.</p> <p>Wilhelm Humboldt: 'On Germany's Educational System' &</p> <p>R. D. Anderson: 'Germany and the Humboldtian Model'</p>
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Seminar	<p>EDUCATION AND DEMOCRACY</p> <p>John Dewey: <i>Democracy and Education</i>, Chapter 7 &</p> <p>Martha Nussbaum: <i>Not For Profit - Why Democracy Needs the Humanities</i>, Chapter 2</p> <p>+ Noam Chomsky's lecture at the University of Toronto, April 2011: 'Academic Freedom and the</p>

		Corporatization of Universities' (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q97tFyqHVLs)
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Seminar	<p>KNOWLEDGE, ARROGANCE AND HUMILITY 1</p> <p>Why has democratic debate deteriorated at a time when information seems to be more readily available than ever? Is it because of human nature, or the social media, or perhaps both?</p> <p>Michael P. Lynch: <i>Know-It-All-Society</i>, chapters 1 and 2</p>
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Seminar	<p>KNOWLEDGE, ARROGANCE AND HUMILITY 2</p> <p>Lynch: <i>Know-It-All-Society</i>, chapters 3 and 4</p>
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Seminar	<p>KNOWLEDGE, ARROGANCE AND HUMILITY 3</p> <p>Lynch: <i>Know-It-All-Society</i>, chapters 5 and 6</p>
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Seminar	<p>PSYCHOANALYSIS AND THE LURE OF FASCISM</p> <p>Another look at some of the themes in Lynch's book from a psychoanalytic perspective.</p> <p>Theodor Adorno: 'Freudian theory and the pattern of fascist propaganda'</p>
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Seminar	<p>THE CHALLENGE OF THE ANTHROPOCENE AND THE FUTURE OF THE HUMANITIES</p> <p>Dipesh Chakrabarty: 'The Climate of History: Four Theses' & Roy Scranton: 'Learning How to Die in the Anthropocene'</p>

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Information about the course readings will be available on Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be gathered through informal personal feedback and the anonymous online myExperience system. It will be utilized in developing the future iterations of this course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.