



# Wollongong College Australia

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# Foundation Studies Program

(CRICOS course codes: 007732G, 023266F)

## Subject Outline Spring 2009

## History & Culture FSP 021

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WCA-FSP 021-S0/7

# History and Culture

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## Subject description

History and Culture is a cross-disciplinary subject that examines themes in Australia's history through literature, media and art. It is designed to provide students with a broad overview of key issues/themes in Australian history from a variety of perspectives. History and culture will use primary and secondary sources, both literary and factual texts to gain perspectives on the various issues, people and events that have shaped Australian history.

History and culture will present images of Australia as a 'nation of contradictions' tolerance versus racism, law-abiding versus anti-authoritarian. It will examine the themes and counter-themes related to ownership, immigration, military/defence, politics and sport as portrayed in a variety of literary and factual texts. These texts will be critically evaluated to identify both voices of support and dissent to enable students to understand the role these voices play in shaping Australian identities and attitudes.

## Subject structure

History and Culture is a one-session, 6 credit point subject delivered as 4 hours of face-to-face classes per week. Classes comprise a 2 hour lecture and a 2 hour tutorial. The session is of 14 week's duration with lectures and tutorials scheduled for the first 12 weeks of session. Weeks 13 and 14 are scheduled as a study/examination period.

In addition to scheduled class sessions, students are expected to spend additional time in individual study and research. A general guideline is to spend at least 1.5 hours in private study for every hour of scheduled class time.

Teachers will be available for a consultation time each week. Students will be notified of the time and location of the consultation session during week 1 of session.

Some students may require tutorial support to improve language/literacy skills. Where this is recommended, students will be advised to utilise the College's self-access facilities in their own time. These facilities include the Listening Lab, English Language Resource Centre (ELRC) and/or the Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) Lab. Where this is recommended, student attendance at and use of these facilities may form part of their participation mark.

## Learning resources

There is no text book for this subject. However, a useful resource is:

Knightley, P. 2001. *Australia: A Biography of a Nation*, Great Britain: Vintage.

Student learning will be supported by a selection of online and hard copy readings and other teaching/learning resources provided by the class teacher. These will form the basis of assessment tasks, in-class activities and homework throughout the session.

Students are also expected to use the online resources of Wollongong University Library and hard copy resources at their relevant university/campus library. They will also be expected to keep up to date with news and current affairs by regularly reading reputable English language newspapers and journals and watching English news and current affairs programs.

## Subject outcomes

Successful completion of this subject will enable students to:

- ▶ identify and understand the major social, economic and political factors that have shaped Australia's history.
- ▶ find, analyse and evaluate information gained from a variety of primary and secondary sources.
- ▶ ask appropriate questions about information sources.
- ▶ demonstrate a capacity for critical thinking about Australian culture and its historical influences.
- ▶ participate effectively in tutorial discussion in the humanities and social sciences at the university undergraduate level.
- ▶ meet the requirements of academic writing and other forms of assessment in the humanities and social sciences at university undergraduate level.

## Subject outline in weeks

The following guide to lessons and activities may be adjusted to suit the needs of the group as long as subject outcomes and assessment criteria are met.

### **Week 1**

Lecture: Colonisation of Australia to Federation, 1770 -1901

### **Week 2**

Lecture: Early contributions of women to the development of Australia as a nation

### **Week 3**

Lecture: Australia and World War I: 1914-1918

### **Week 4**

Lecture: The Great Depression and its impact on national identity

### **Week 5**

Lecture: Building a White and British Australia: Federation to World War II

### **Week 6**

Lecture: Australia and British relations and the Pacific War: 1941 - 1945

### **Week 7**

Lecture: Media theory and media images of Australia as a nation

### **Week 8**

Lecture: Australian Culture in Films-Theory and practice

### **Week 9**

Lecture: Australian Nationalism and Sport

### **Week 10**

Lecture: Australia, decolonisation and the Cold War in Asia: 1945 - 1972

### **Week 11**

Lecture: Australia and international relations in the Asia Pacific: 1945 - Present

### **Week 12**

Examination Revision

# Assessment

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## Assessment and plagiarism policy

All written assessment tasks, with the exception of examinations and in-class tasks, must be word-processed unless students are otherwise advised.

Students must keep copies of all assessment tasks submitted for marking with the exception of class tests and examinations.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating or stealing that happens when a student uses someone else's work and presents it as his/her own without showing where it comes from. To avoid this, students are expected to submit their own original work for assessment and to accurately acknowledge all references and sources used in essays and assignments.

For information regarding assessment, plagiarism, acknowledging sources and examination rules, please refer to the Wollongong College Australia Student Handbook <http://www.wca.uow.edu.au/handbook>

## Assessment schedule

Assessment Task	Due	Weighting	Length/Time
Participation	Ongoing	10%	Weeks 1-12
Source Analysis	Week 6	20%	1 hour
Essay	Week 11	30%	1200 words
Final Examination	Weeks 13 / 14	40%	2 hours

## Marking Guidelines

WCA best practice is that students can normally expect to have assessment tasks handed back within two weeks, and before the next assessment task is due. On occasion there may be exceptions to this time frame due to, for example, the size of the task, the size of the class, teacher illness or teacher leave.

Where there are several teachers marking a major assessment task, tasks will be handed back by all the teachers within the same week.

## Assessment criteria and explanation of components

All assessment components are marked according to set marking criteria. A random sample of written assessment tasks may undergo check marking by a panel of tutors.

### **Participation** **10%**

Active participation in tutorials is expected of all students. Participation in class discussions will help develop the student's confidence in questioning and commenting on material presented, encourage critical thinking and allow the tutor to evaluate the student's progress.

Participation marks may be allocated according to the following criteria:

- Constructive contribution to general class discussion
- Constructive feedback and contribution to discussions following presentations
- Active participation in tutorial support classes where recommended
- Proactive consultation with class teachers and/or tutorial support where relevant
- Completion of any non-assessable tasks including homework, presentation practice, tutorial summary
- Preparation for class and library consultation sessions
- Active participation in group work

### **Source Analysis** **20%**

Students are required to analyse primary sources supplied under exam conditions. Students will be expected to compare and contrast the primary sources and summarise the historical and cultural perspectives represented.

### **Essay** **30%**

Students will be required to write a 1200 word essay demonstrating a thorough analysis of the given topic. A range of primary and secondary sources will need to be used.

### **Final examination** **40%**

The examination will assess students' skills in analysis and historical research and their understanding of key issues and the various perspectives presented. The exam will include an analysis of source material outlining the perspectives arising from this research and questions related to a theme/issue studied throughout the session. Questions may include short answer responses and extended responses including paragraph or essay answers.