



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HES304 Research Project in Screen Studies

Semester 2, 2009

http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/Screen_Studies.htm

Unit coordinator:	Dr Lisa Fletcher	
Contact details:	Room:	560
	Building:	Humanities
	Campus:	Sandy Bay, Hobart
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Consultation times:	Monday 12-1pm Tuesday 11-1pm	

<p>Unit description:</p>	<p>This unit gives students the opportunity to undertake supervised research on a special topic in screen studies. Intensive workshops early in semester focus on developing advanced skills in screen studies research: project conception and planning, information literacy, essay writing and presentation. Students meet regularly with a supervisor throughout the remainder of semester. Approval of the Head of School is required to enrol in this unit.</p>
<p>Unit aims and objectives:</p>	<p>The aims of this unit are to enable students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. gain an appreciation of the key phases in developing and completing an independent research project; 2. engage critically and analytically with a special topic in film studies (as negotiated with the unit coordinator); and 3. identify and explore relevant scholarship in film studies and related disciplines most relevant to pursuing objective 2.

<p>Learning outcomes:</p>	<p>On completion of this unit you should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. conceive and plan a research topic in screen studies; 2. use advanced techniques in research to define the parameters of a project and to determine its aims and objectives; 3. construct a coherent argument informed by detailed textual analysis and thorough research; and 4. communicate through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. research plans; and b. research essays.
<p>Recommended texts:</p>	<p>Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. <i>The Craft of Research</i>. 3 ed. Chicago: Chicago UP, 2008.</p>
<p>Timetable:</p>	<p>Two hour workshops (Weeks 14, 16, & 18): Monday 10-12</p> <p>Individual meetings with supervisor (Weeks 20, 22, 24, & 26): By appointment</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>1000 word reading assignment(s), 4000 word essay</p>

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Workshop preparation
14	13 July	Planning a research project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is research? • Project conception and planning 	
16	27 July	Advanced information literacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding, evaluating and using sources • Managing a bibliography 	Draft Assessment Task 1, Part A and bring 5 copies to the workshop.
18	10 August	Making a claim and supporting it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is an argument? • The steps to completion. 	Draft Assessment Task 1, Part B and email it to the Unit Coordinator by 5pm, 6 August.

ASSESSMENT

Task	Due	Percentage
Research Plan	17 August	20%
Research Essay	6 November	80%
<p>NOTE: Participation in the three workshops is compulsory. Students who do not attend these workshops must supply a medical certificate or equivalent documentation.</p>		

Assessment task 1: Research Plan	
Task description	<p>You are required to complete a research plan for a topic in screen studies. This assessment task has two parts:</p> <p>Part A: project summary</p> <p>Part B: literature review</p>
Task length	<p>Part A: 100 words</p> <p>Part B: 900 words</p>
Links to learning outcomes	<p>The Research Plan will assess learning outcomes 1, 2, and 4a.</p>
Assessment criteria	<p>To complete the Research Plan, you should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. conceive and plan a research topic in screen studies; 2. use advanced techniques in research to identify and examine relevant secondary sources in film studies and related disciplines; 3. construct a persuasive rationale for your proposed research; and 4. communicate in the form of a project summary and a literature review using: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a logical and appropriate structure; b. clear expression; c. accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling; and d. referencing that conforms to MLA style.

Submission instructions	Assignments must be submitted in hard-copy form (not by email) to the School office by 5pm on the due date. This unit does not require electronic submission (Turnitin).
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Assessment task 2: Research Essay	
Task description	Research Essay on special topic developed through workshops and in consultation with the unit coordinator.
Task length	4000 words
Links to learning outcomes	The Research Essay will assess learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 4b.
Assessment criteria	<p>To complete the Research Essay you should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. construct a persuasive, independent argument based on informed analysis of the selected film(s); 2. demonstrate and apply knowledge of relevant theoretical and critical work in film studies and related disciplines; 3. communicate in the form of an essay using: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a logical and appropriate essay structure; b. clear expression; c. accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling; and d. referencing that conforms to MLA style.

Submission instructions	Assignments must be submitted in hard-copy form (not by email) to the School office by 5pm on the due date. This unit does not require electronic submission (Turnitin).
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Submission of assignments

Students are required to submit a signed assignment cover sheet with every assignment. The cover sheet includes a declaration that all material submitted is your own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a completed, signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet should be completed within two weeks of the assignment due date.

Assignments must be submitted in hard copy (not by email) via the assignment slot at the School office. If there are additional submission requirements (eg the use of Turnitin) this will be specified in your unit outline. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments.

Late assignments

Undergraduate units (100, 200 and 300 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter.

Honours and postgraduate coursework units (400, 500 and 600 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day.

Honours and postgraduate research project units (400 and 700 level)

Honours and postgraduate research project submission due dates are treated as the equivalent of exam dates and therefore, late submissions will not be accepted.

Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or equivalent documentation in the case of a serious non-medical reason but you must contact the unit coordinator prior to the assignment due date.

Return of marked assignments

Assignments submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised. In some cases, particularly where an assignment is the final, exam equivalent piece of assessment, the marked assignment may not be returned until after final unit results have been released.

University statement on plagiarism and academic integrity

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.academicintegrity.utas.edu.au/>. The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>"

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Referencing

The English, French and German disciplines and the Screen Studies major use MLA Style. The Journalism, Media and Communications discipline uses the Harvard style of referencing. For more information about referencing, and brief introductory guides for each of these styles, please refer to: <http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/referencing.html>

Marking scale

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Coursework units

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

Honours

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- First Class (HF)—80-100%
- Second Class upper division (HU)—70-79%
- Second Class lower division (HL)—60-69%
- Third Class (HT)—50-59%
- Fail (HN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Equipment loans

Please note that some units taught in the school may require access to sound and/or video recording equipment. Although access to equipment may be provided during tutorials, access to equipment outside of tutorials is not guaranteed. Where the loan of equipment is possible students will be required to sign and agree to the terms and conditions of the loan, including the penalties for late return, as presented at the time of the loan.

Difficulties with your studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or Student Services staff as soon as possible. Please see <http://www.studentservices.utas.edu.au> for more information about the support services available to students.

IT support

MyLO: <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>

IT help desk: <http://www.utas.edu.au/service desk/student/index.html>