



ARTS3991

Arts and Social Sciences Capstone

Term Two // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Michael Peters	Michael.Peters@unsw.edu.au	by appointment	Room 159, Movern Brown	02 9385 1807

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

The Arts & Social Sciences Capstone is a multi-disciplinary course that provides you with an opportunity to reflect on your disciplinary studies over the previous three levels of study. In particular, the course will consider classics in the literature of liberal education to ask to what extent your study has lived up to the various conceptions and ideals of a university education. You have a chance to think about your own discipline in conversation with students from other disciplines, while developing your own awareness of the disciplinary knowledge and understanding you have acquired.

The course is aimed at assisting you with the transition from your current degree to your role in the world as citizens in employment or further education.

Note: The course will be made available for Summer session providing more flexibility for students meeting this requirement of their program/major. For students for whom summer is not your last session of enrolment, you must obtain approval from your major convenor to enrol in the capstone provided you have completed the necessary courses in your major. Enrolment in the capstone requires faculty approval. Please contact the [UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Student Services](#).

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Articulate an understanding of the theoretical and methodological principles of their discipline
2. Demonstrate comprehension of ethical and social responsibilities in the practice of their discipline
3. Articulate the ways in which their disciplinary training could be used in further study or the world of work
4. Critically evaluate and reflect on key arguments and debates in the humanities and social sciences.

Teaching Strategies

The Arts & Social Sciences Capstone provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their disciplinary studies over the previous three levels of study and think about how the skills and attributes they have gained position them to be agents of change in society. Students consider the place of truth in liberal ideology, and examine key challenges facing liberal societies today. Finally, students propose responses to these challenges, made on behalf of actually existing institutions or actors in society.

As well as demonstrating their understanding of the theoretical foundations of their discipline, students will consider the ethical and social responsibilities associated with their area of study.

The course will be student-centred and seminar driven. There are two major assignments: an extended critical academic essay, and a two part exercise in which students identify an actor or institution positioned to respond to a challenge to liberalism, and propose a response to it on their behalf.

Assessment

Late penalties will be imposed at the usual rate of 5% per day, starting at 12:01 the day after the due date in each case.

Extensions must be sought via the centralised system and be applied for before the due date.

Word count infringements will be imposed at the rate of 3% for every 100 words (or part thereof) that your assignment is over the set limit. There is an allowance of + or – 10%; i.e. if your discussion paper is 1430 words in length, it will not be penalised. If it is 1431 words, you will lose 3%. If it is 1531 words, you will receive a 6% penalty, and so on. The word count includes all text in the main body of the assignment. In-text references are included. Only the reference list or bibliography and the overall title is excluded.

A penalty of 3% will be imposed for failure to use the Harvard (in-text) system of referencing. See <https://student.unsw.edu.au/harvard-referencing>.

You stand to lose between 5 and 20 marks for poor referencing and attribution of sources. There is A LOT of assistance available to you to help you learn about referencing, attribution and avoiding plagiarism. If you are not sure JUST ASK! See <https://student.unsw.edu.au/support-referencingassignments>.

If you submit work for this course that you have already submitted for assessment in another course at this University or any other institution, in whole or in part, or if you copy material from another source and do not attribute that material to its original author, your work will be referred to the School Student Ethics Officer for an investigation into a possible charge of academic misconduct. See <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Seminar reflection	20%	18/06/2021 11:59 PM	3, 4
Research essay	50%	23/07/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3
Take-home assignment	30%	13/08/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Seminar reflection

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 750 words

Details:

A critical reflective summary of 750 words on an assigned seminar discussion. Feedback via individual comments.

Additional details:

The goal of this assignment is to identify an actually existing institution in society that is affected by one of the challenges to liberalism that appear in the second part of the course.

This could be: a media organisation; a government agency, such as ombudsman or a particular police force; a private company; a not for profit organisation of some sort; a school or university; and so on. If you are unsure of whether the institution you have chosen is appropriate, ask the course convenor.

The 'challenges to liberalism' include the rise of 'post-truth', identity politics, populism, corporatism, and 'bubble media'. If you are interested in a challenge beyond these, you are free to write on it, but gain the approval of the course convenor.

You should provide a short analysis of how the organisation is affected by the issue and/or how the organisation has the capacity to affect the issue in society.

You should identify key dynamics influencing the organisation's engagement with the issue: its financial incentivisation, its particular power resources, who it is accountable to.

Finally, you should make a brief argument indicating what you believe are the primary reasons for the challenge arising.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Research essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2,500 words

Details:

A critical, analytical, and scholarly academic essay of 2,500 words. Feedback via individual comments.

Additional details:

The second assignment is a traditional research essay on one or more aspects of place of truth within liberalism. These aspects are drawn from the first part of the course.

Five essay questions will be suggested from the first five course topics, but you are welcome to produce your own question and have it approved by the course convenor. The suggested questions will be posted on moodle.

You will be assessed on your ability to demonstrate research skills, on synthesis and persuasive argument (in bringing together ideas and data from several sources), on theoretical understanding, on quality of presentation (including accurate referencing) and on the clarity of your writing. You must in this assessment make reference to extensive further reading and independent research.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Take-home assignment

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

A critical analysis of assigned articles (1,250 words). Feedback via individual comments.

Additional details:

In the final assignment you should propose a response from the institution you examined in assignment 1 to one of the challenges to liberalism. You should explain how your response can be expected to affect the wider situation and provide a comprehensive analysis of the effects of the institution's change in practice.

Your response should not aim to resolve the challenge altogether. Rather, it should be an intelligent, well-reasoned response that marries depth of thought on the challenge faced, awareness of the institution's resources and aims, and a degree of creativity and critical theory based on the skills developed in your degree.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Seminar	The End of the End of History
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Seminar	You <i>can</i> handle the truth
	Assessment	Assignment 1 due Friday 26 February at 11:59pm
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Seminar	Institutions: truth, trust and power
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Seminar	Equality
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Seminar	Democracy
	Online Activity	Independent learning activity 1: the postcolonial challenge
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July		Reading week. No seminar.
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Seminar	Challenge 1: Populism
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Seminar	Challenge 2: A changing media landscape
	Assessment	Assignment 2 due Friday 9 April at 11:59pm
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Assessment	Challenge 3: Sustainability
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Seminar	Challenge 4: Corporatism
	Online Activity	Independent learning activity 2: new media (week 11)
	Assessment	Assignment 3 due Friday 7 May at 11:59pm

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Course readings and assessment materials will be available online in Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Not available.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be gathered through informal personal feedback and the anonymous online myExperience system.

The present iteration of this course reflects student feedback from previous iterations regarding themes and seminar style collaboration.

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/>

Image Credit

Protesters enter the US capitol Building on January 06, 2021 in Washington, DC. © Win McNamee, AFP

CRICOS

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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.