## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Interdisciplinary and Cross Cultural Humanities Research: Concepts, Theories and Methods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration of course</td>
<td>20 March- 29 May 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>10.00am-12.00noon (except where indicated. The final session on 29 May will run from 9.00am-1.00pm)</td>
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<td>Venue</td>
<td>Lady Wilson Seminar Room, Sir Roland Wilson Building</td>
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<td>Course Convener</td>
<td>Dr Debjani Ganguly, Humanities Research Centre Room 3.33, Sir Roland Wilson Building</td>
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<td>Administrative Contact details</td>
<td>Ms Lan Tran, Student Coordinator Roland Wilson Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Research School of Humanities and the Arts</td>
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<td>College</td>
<td>College of Arts and Social Sciences</td>
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Description
The course is designed to familiarise students with interdisciplinary and cross-cultural approaches to humanities research. It is led by experts in visual anthropology, literary studies, history, law, biographical studies and cultural theory, and comprises a range of readings from areas as diverse as Pacific and indigenous history, biography and life narratives, new media and globalization, postcolonial theory, world literature, and philosophical debates on disciplinarity. The course will challenge students to evaluate a range of humanities approaches and to consider which ones might best suit their own research.

The course will be conducted through 9 sessions in two blocks. The first will run for 5 weeks, the second for 4. The first block will be mostly facilitated by the convener. In the second block, guest seminar leaders will address the assigned readings and respond to students’ questions on their theoretical and methodological approaches. This second part will build students’ capacity to structure research questions and enhance their critical engagement with interdisciplinary work. The final session will be a 4-hour symposium at which students will present an overview of their research plans in relation to the issues raised in the course readings.

Course Aims
Critical reading, clear writing and effective oral communication skills are the essential foundations of humanities scholarship. The course aims to develop each of these skills by exposing students to a wide array of scholarly approaches. Further it builds students’ capacity to evaluate the merits of scholarly work and to arrive at methods and theories best suited to inform their own research.

Learning Outcomes
On completing the course, the students will acquire knowledge and skills to:

1. Synthesize a range of theoretical and methodological literature written from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives
2. Identify and extend scholarly argument (rather than simply describing or summarising the content of assigned readings)
3. Use specific examples to demonstrate key issues, methods and approaches used in humanities scholarship
4. Interpret and assess the applicability of theoretical and methodological approaches to their own research
5. Devise their own research question and independently identify ways in which to frame and approach their respective projects.

Workload
Contact time for this course will be approximately 20 hours over 9 weeks. Two contact hours are scheduled for every week except the last session of the final block which will run for 4 hours. In addition students are strongly encouraged to attend a variety of events (seminars, workshops, conferences or forums) hosted by the Research School of Humanities and the Arts.

Mode of Delivery
The course will be taught seminar style with the circulation of key readings per session. The convener will introduce the topic assigned for the week and offer introductory comments on the prescribed readings. The students will be expected to have read the assigned material before coming to class and to keep a regular journal of their responses to the readings. Each week, two nominated students will be expected bring at least 3 discussion points per reading to the class for an extended critical understanding of the work circulated. Students are encouraged to post the discussion points on Wattle a day or two before each session/

Attendance requirements
Attendance is compulsory and we strongly recommend that students attend all sessions. Inability to attend a session will require prior permission from the convener.

Schedule, Required Readings and Library Resources
All required readings listed below are available on electronic reserve at the ANU Library: http://anulib.anu.edu.au/lib_home.html. Search under the Convener’s name or the surname of the author of the reading. Most journal articles are available in the library’s collection of e-journals.
Block One

Week One – 20 March
*Introduction to Interdisciplinary and Cross Cultural Theory and Method - Part I*

**Readings**


Week Two 27 March
*Introduction to Interdisciplinary and Cross Cultural Theory and Method - Part II*

**Readings**


Week Three – 3 April
*Developing a Research Question*

**Readings:**

Week Four: 10 April  
*Conceptual Frames and Approaches in Interdisciplinary Research, Case Study I: Postcolonial Studies*

**Readings:**  


Week Five: 17 April  
*Conceptual Frames and Approaches in Interdisciplinary Research, Case Study II: New Media and Globalization Studies*

**Readings:**  
Wendy Chun, ‘The Enduring Ephemeral, or the Future is a Memory’, *Critical Inquiry*, 35, Autumn 2008


Block Two: With Seminar Leaders

**Week Six - 8 May**  
Dr Shameem Black – Literary and Cultural Theory


**Week Seven – 15 May, 2.00-4.00pm (note change of time)**  
Professor Melinda Hinkson – Visual Anthropology

**Readings:**  


**Week Eight – 22 May**

Dr Renata Grossi – Law, Society and Culture

**Readings:**  
TBA

**Week Nine – 29 May**  
Special long seminar: oral presentations on your thesis drawing on course material.

**Assessments**

**Assignment 1: Reading Journal**

Due date: 12 June

Word Limit: 3000 words
Instructions:
Students must respond to the questions raised by the set readings and the seminar discussions, elucidating how these readings and the class discussions have helped them think about their respective research projects. The assignment will have two parts of approximately 1500 words each. Part (a) will be based on their response to the Block 1 readings and should incorporate detailed discussion of at least 3 readings. Part (b) will incorporate their responses to the guest seminar leaders and the readings the latter have set.

Each submission will be marked as pass/fail with appropriate comments by the convener. Submission of assignments is compulsory. Failure to submit will result in the candidate failing the course, except, of course, for extenuating circumstances. As a rule, extensions will not be granted.

Assignment 2: Seminar presentations

Date: 29 May, 9.00am-1.00pm

Students will present a 15-20 minute paper giving an overview of their developing project, their responses to the assigned readings they found most significant to their work, and the ways in which they have been able to critically evaluate and integrate the course work material into their research plan. Students are strongly encouraged to make use of audio-visual and digital equipment to enhance the impact of their presentations. The presentations are compulsory and will be marked as pass/fail.