

Course Outline

School / Portfolio: Faculty of Education and Arts

Course Title: HISTORY, FOLKLORE AND URBAN LEGENDS

Course ID: HISOC3106

Credit Points: 15.00

Prerequisite(s): (BAFND1001 or BAFND1005 or HISOC1005 or SOCIO1001)

Co-requisite(s): Nil

Exclusion(s): (HISOC2106)

ASCED Code: 090305

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	✓	■	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Develop an understanding of the interaction between folklore, urban legends and popular culture.
- K2.** Identify the relationships and difference between urban legends and folklore.
- K3.** Recognise social and cultural context of well-known examples of Australia's folklore and urban legends surrounding key historical events such as the ANZACS, Aboriginal Massacres and the Eureka Stockade.
- K4.** Understand the significance of these examples in contemporary Australian culture
- K5.** Recognise how urban legends and folklore are formed within communities and how this influences public perceptions of history.

Skills:

- S1.** Critically analyse media reportage surrounding prominent folklore and national myths in a historical context.
- S2.** Utilise the model of sceptical analysis of folklore and media reportage and the relationship between them.
- S3.** Exercise skills in primary source researching via utilising the online resources of the State Library of Victoria and the Federation University Library.
- S4.** Practise collection, storage and use of archival material.
- S5.** Evaluate the impact of mass media on the development of folklore, urban legends and national myths.

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- S6.** Communicate orally and in writing at an advanced level to present archival and research material to a wider audience.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Select and critically analyse “real world” examples of folklore and urban legends as represented through media reportage.
- A2.** Undertake independent archival research and critical analysis of sources in existing archives.
- A3.** Demonstrate self-reliance and team work skills in the application of self-directed research projects.
- A4.** Exercise critical analysis of reportage and the role of the media in social and political engagement.
- A5.** Engage in media analysis of reportage of urban legends, folklore and myths over time via online newspaper archives and micro-fiche in class exercises.
- A6.** Critically analyse the relationship between folklore formation and the mass media through prominent examples.

Course Content:

Topics may include:

- An historical and social analysis of the development of prominent myths and urban legends in Australian history, such as the folklore surrounding key historical events such as the ANZACS, Aboriginal Massacres and the Eureka Stockade. The development of stories surrounding landscape, heritage sites and identity as well as urban legends, such as local ghost stories, media driven panics and monsters (e.g. big cats, bunyips, yowies etc.) will also be considered.
- Development of primary source research skills in the analysis of history via media and archival searches online with the National Library of Australia, State Library of Victoria and the Federation University Library.
- The course will also develop independent skills in critical analysis of mass media representation and cultural studies through the investigation of the relationship between popular cultures, community folklore and media representation in the development of prominent historical myths and urban legends.

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Values:

- V1.** Understands the importance of a critical analysis of community folklore and media representation.
- V2.** Understands how the development of folklore and urban legends give insight into social and community issues.
- V3.** Appreciates the importance of a critical and reflective approach in the understanding of history.
- V4.** Distinguishes between the practice of empirical history and its application in community understanding.
- V5.** Values the application of history in social and political conflicts.

Graduate Attributes:

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Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Continuous Learning	Students have an increased understanding of themselves and their engagement with the media, community and storytelling by investigating the history and development of their own heritage of folklore and urban legends.	Medium
Self Reliance	Students independently navigate digital archives, critically analyse and evaluate sources and media reportage.	High
Engaged Citizenship	Students have well developed communication and collaborative skills. Students have an increased awareness of how heritage beliefs shape society, how they develop and the features which influence how they are reported and discussed in the mass media.	Medium
Social Responsibility	Students understand the centrality of an informed critical engagement with media reportage and the importance of ethical, accurate and balanced reportage in the media.	High

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K3, K5, S3, S4, S5, S6, A3, A4, A6,	Presentation of student's sources and findings from media/archival searches.	Oral Presentation	20-30%
K2, K3, K4, K5, S1, S2, S6, A1, A5	Written commentary on weekly topics and participation in discussions	Tutorial and/or online discussions	5-10%
K1, K3, S1, S3, S4, S6, A2, A4, A5	Selection of five articles on chosen research topic; commentary on their significance. Reflective commentary on cross cultural issues in interpreting folklore. Timeline of media reportage on the research topic. Reflective commentary on media bias.	Timeline, annotated media articles and two reflective commentaries	15-25%
K4, A6,	Short literature review on the relationship between mass media and the formation of folklore and urban legends.	Literature Review	10-15%
K1, K3, K4, S1, S5, A1, A4, A5, A6.	Analysis of the social and cultural context around a selected folklore or urban legend topic, with critical analysis of reportage and the media's impact on shaping community and public perception of heritage and history. This piece will also reflect on the process by which culture and mass media interact in the creation of urban legends and folklore.	Essay	30-40%

Adopted Reference Style:

Chicago