

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



The College

KEY IDEAS IN ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

700246/900109

2021



UNIT OUTLINE

Last amended:	February 2021
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Unit name	Key Ideas in Arts and Social Sciences
Unit number	700246/900109
Coordinator	Dr Mona Shrestha
Session	2021.1
Handbook summary	This unit explores some of the most influential ideas in the humanities and social sciences, including democracy, imperialism, romantic love and secularisation. The unit traces the origins of these ideas and their manifestation in the world today. The unit will equip students with the ability to identify and evaluate some of the central ideas underpinning public discussion on a range of political and cultural issues today. In addition, it will provide students with a solid foundation of cultural and historical knowledge which is assumed knowledge in many university-level units.
Credit point value	10
Prerequisite/s	
Corequisite/s	
Unit incompatible with and not to be counted for credit with	
Assumed knowledge	
Unit level	700246 — Diploma level 900109 — Foundation level
Attendance requirements	Students are expected to attend at least 80% of classes. Educational research consistently demonstrates that this attendance level is associated with a high likelihood of achieving a passing grade.
Enrolment restrictions	
Learning outcomes	On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate an understanding of some of the foundation ideas and debates that have globally revolutionised societies 2. outline how ideas have impacted our understanding of individuals and societies over time 3. apply critical thinking, problem-solving and research skills to academic tasks of reading, writing and public speaking 4. demonstrate effective communication through oral and written communication

5. work collaboratively in a team, and
 6. evaluate the work of their peers
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Unit content

In this unit students will learn about:

- why the history of ideas matters
 - freedom and democracy
 - imperialism and race
 - language and power
 - religion and secularisation
 - love, marriage and sexuality, and
 - what the future holds.
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Mode of delivery

This unit consists of four hours face-to-face teaching per week, divided into two teaching blocks. In addition, there will be online activities via the unit's vUWS site.

Online learning requirements

Essential requirements**Essential text:**

- Tamas, R 2010, *The passion of the western mind: understanding the ideas that have shaped our world view*, Pimlico, London.

Further resources:

- Evans, M 2007, *A short history of society: the making of the modern world*, McGraw-Hill, Berkshire, England.
- 700246/900109 *Key ideas in Arts and Social Sciences* Unit Reader 2017.

Essential equipment:

- None
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ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components

Task	Weighting	Learning outcomes assessed	Mandatory task
1. Online quizzes x 10 (plus one practice quiz)	20%	1 and 2	Yes
2. Essay task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Essay preparation (10%) b. Essay workshop/plan (10%) c. Final essay – 1200 words (30%) 	50%	3 and 4	Yes
3. Poster/presentation task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Poster checklist (5%) b. Group poster/presentation (20%) c. Peer evaluation (5%) 	30%	3, 4, 5 and 6	Yes
Total	100%		

For details of assessment due dates, please refer to the learning guide for this unit.

All marks will be determined in accordance with The College [Assessment Policy](#).

All assessment tasks are mandatory unless otherwise specified. Should a student fail to attempt/submit the first formal assessment task in a unit, they will be deemed to be at risk and will need to follow an intervention plan in order not to receive a Fail Non-Submission (FNS) grade. However, failure to attempt/submit all other mandatory assessment tasks will result in an immediate FNS grade for the unit.

Students must attain a mark of at least 50% overall in order to pass the unit.