KEY IDEAS IN ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

700246/900109

2019

UNIT OUTLINE
# Key Ideas in Arts and Social Sciences

## Unit name
Key Ideas in Arts and Social Sciences

## Unit number
700246/900109

## Coordinator
Dr Mona Shrestha

## Session
2019.1

## 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:
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

**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.

**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:**
- 700246/900109 *Key ideas in Arts and Social Sciences* Unit Reader 2017.

**Essential equipment:**
- None
# ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Learning outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Mandatory task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Online quizzes x 11</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Essay preparation task</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>3 and 4</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. (a) Group presentation (20%)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>3, 4, 5 and 6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Peer evaluation (5%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Essay (1200 words)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3 and 4</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.