KEY IDEAS IN ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

700246/900109

2018

UNIT OUTLINE
### 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

### 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 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 10 (10 minutes each)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Essay preparation (250 words)</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%) (10 minutes + 100 words)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<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.