
SUBJECT DESCRIPTION**57047 Transnational Cultures**

Course name:	BA Communication (Honours)
Level:	400
Number of credit points:	8
Pre-requisites:	None

HANDBOOK DESCRIPTION:

This subject is designed to engage with a body of material emerging in debates around globalisation, transnationalism, world trade and local and international strategies of contestation and protest. The subject aims to put the contemporary analysis of globalisation in an historical perspective by looking at pre-colonial trade, for instance in the Indian Ocean. It then aims to link developments in the world economy with political changes to do with the sovereignty of the nation-state, struggles for decolonisation, new forms of democracy, the development of new (global) technologies, the response of NGOs and even individual subjectivity through questions of identity, transnational allegiances and recognition of diverse forms of 'being'.

CONTRIBUTION TO GRADUATE PROFILE:

This subject will

- Impart to students knowledge of debates around cultural and economic globalism, cultural institutions, traditions and institutions;
- Enable their capacity to think creatively about future developments in transnational cultural studies;
- Enhance their capacity to think sensitively about social and cultural difference;
- Develop their writing skills; understanding of contemporary cultural forms.

OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this subject students will

- a) Be familiar with a range of theoretical work in transnational cultural studies.
- b) Have developed interdisciplinary methodology, particularly related to the relations between culture and commerce.
- c) Be able to develop original and contemporary projects in the students' own work.
- d) Have gained knowledge of debates around cultural and economic globalism, cultural institution, traditions and institutions.
- e) Have developed the capacity to think creatively about future developments in transnational cultural studies.

TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Seminar with a few lectures. Weekly readings and film screenings will be discussed with a view to developing students' original topics. These readings will vary according to the emphasis the subject takes in a given semester.

CONTENT:

In a given semester, the subject may cover:

- Nationalism and Post nationalism
- The 'magic' and 'body' of the state
- Postcolonial theory
- The 'Black Atlantic'
- Cosmopolitanism, its critique and defence
- World systems theory and the history of the development of transnational capital
- Indian Ocean trade in the Middle Ages
- The Discovery of the Americas
- Globalisation theory and world cultures
- Questions of subjectivity
- Parameters of protest and resistance
- New social movements (eg indigenous, sexualities) and NGOs
- Cultural organizations in the Asian region

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment Item 1: Tutorial Presentation

Objective: To explore the modalities of transnational cultural studies.

Due: tba

Value: 20%

Task: Leading discussion on the readings for one topic in the course of the semester. You will bring to class a series of questions, and if possible illustrations, which relate to the topics and readings for a particular week. These questions should enable discussion from all class members.

Assessment criteria:

Evidence of thoughtful and thorough reading of set texts and application to examples.

Identification of the issues raised in the lectures and texts.

Presenting salient focus points/questions for discussion.

Assessment Item 2: Short Essay/Creative Text

Length: 1000 Words

Due: tba

Value: 20%

Task: To write a short essay or creative text drawing on one or more of the following concepts: transcultural spaces/landscapes, transnational flows, travelling cultures, imagined communities. It is suggested that you choose a specific text, site or context to concentrate on. For example; a film; a piece of writing or other cultural text; an area within Sydney or a city that you are familiar with; a site of cultural exchange; a diasporic community.

Assessment Criteria:

Evidence of thoughtful and critical engagement with set texts.

Ability to apply and/or work creatively with relevant ideas and concepts to the analysis of chosen topic.

Attention to correct presentation of scholarly writing: syntax, spelling, layout, referencing and bibliography, clarity of style.

Assessment Item 3: Final Project

Length: 3500 Words (Written Essays/Projects)

Objectives:

- To enable students to engage in an in-depth examination of one or more topics in this area.
- To facilitate articulate written communication
- To enable students to develop research skills

Due: tba

Value: 60%

Task: The final essay project may be presented in written form or may be presented in visual or multimedia format (eg: radio program). Non-essay format projects must include a 1-2000 word commentary or discussion of the project, summarising its aims, method, and outcomes.

Assessment criteria:

Presentation: syntax, spelling, layout, referencing and bibliography, clarity of style.

Research: relevance of primary or secondary sources, thoroughness and extent of research.

Argument: lucidity, ability to summarise and critique, persuasiveness.

Originality: creativity, significance of ideas and their applicability

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Since class discussion and participation in activities form an integral part of this subject, you are expected to attend, arrive punctually and actively participate in classes. Should you experience difficulties meeting this requirement, please contact your lecturer. Students who have a reason for extended absence from class (e.g., illness) may be required to complete additional work to ensure they achieve the subject objectives.

PRESCRIBED TEXTS AND SUGGESTED REFERENCES:

Will vary according to the emphasis in a given semester, but may well include:

- Arasaratnam, S. "Recent Trends in the Historiography of the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800", *Journal of World History*, Vol 1, No2.
- Bartolovich, Crystal, "The Work of Cultural Studies in the Age of Transnational Production" *Minnesota Review*, Fall 1995, no 45-6, p. 134.
- Broeze, Frank, ed. *Gateways of Asia: Port Cities of Asia from the 13th to the 20th Centuries* (London, Kegan Paul International, 1997)
- Chakrabarty, Dipesh "Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History: Who Speaks for 'Indian' Pasts?" *Representations*, 37 1992.
- Chaudhuri, K. N, *Asia before Europe : economy and civilisation of the Indian Ocean from the rise of Islam to 1750*, New York : Cambridge University Press,1991.
- Connery, Christopher L. "The Oceanic Feeling and the Regional Imaginary," in *Global Local: Cultural Production and the Transnational Imaginary*, Rob Wilson and Wimal Dissanayake, eds. Durham, Duke University Press, 1996.
- Das Gupta, Ashin and M.N. Pearson, 1987 eds., *India and the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800*, Calcutta.
- Foucault, Michel. 1998. "Different Spaces." In *Michel Foucault: Aesthetics, Method and Epistemology, Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984*, edited by James D. Faubion. New York : New Press.
- Frank, André Gunder. 1998. *ReOrient: Global Economy in the Asian Age*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Fredric Jameson, "Notes on Globalization as a Philosophical Issue," in *The Cultures of Globalisation*, ed Fredric Jameson and Masao Miyoshi, Durham: Duke UP, 1998, p. 68.
- French, John D., and Daniel James, eds. 1997. *The Gendered Worlds of Latin American Women Workers: From Household and Factory to the Union Hall and Ballot Box*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Ghosh, A., (1992), *In an Antique Land*, Granta Books, London.
- Jameson, Fredric and Masao Miyoshi, ed *The Cultures of Globalisation*, Durham: Duke UP, 1998.
- Pearson, M. N., (1987), *The Portuguese in India*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Rushdie, S. (1991), *Imaginary Homelands*, Granta, London.
- Subrahmanyam, S., (1997) *The Career and Legend of Vasco da Gama*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.