

HUMN 2038 PIGMENTS OF THE IMAGINATION

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 101752

Coordinator Madison Shakespeare ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Madison Shakespeare/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Madison%20Shakespeare/))

Description This subject is available to all Undergraduate students who have open electives. Pigments of the Imagination challenges the accepted view that there is such a thing as 'race' based on skin colour and that identity is based on it. This subject will encourage students to consider their own definitions of race and explore the view that it is an imaginary concept. Students will examine the various ways race as an imaginary concept permeates our education practices and cultural representations influencing the construction of racially classified positions for Indigenous Australians as well as all Australians. Students will be encouraged, by critically analysing a range of cultural texts to re-imagine Indigenous and Non-Indigenous relations through flipped mode of delivery supported by face to face tutorials.

School Humanities & Comm Arts

Discipline Studies In Human Society

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 2 subject

Restrictions

Successful completion of 40 credit points of study in currently enrolled program.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. explain how race is an imaginary concept and about power;
2. identify the various ways race as an imaginary concept permeates our education practices and cultural representations;
3. critically reflect on their own racialised position within Australian society;
4. critically analyse the way race as an imaginary concept has impacted the lives of Australia's first peoples and Indigenous and Non-Indigenous relations; and
5. explore new ways of thinking and speaking/writing about difference, which challenges old race stereotypes.

Subject Content

This subject will address some of the following:

What does 'race' mean, to whom, where and when?

The history of 'race'

The notion that meanings i.e. race meanings are historically and culturally contingent

The construction and perpetuation of race is about power

Cultural politics and the practices of racialisation e.g. racialised identities, racialised relationships and racism

The politics of representations of 'the native', 'the primitive'

The 'real', 'the essentialist' and constructivist positions about race

What does 'strategic essentialism' mean and to whom?

The feminist conjuncturalist approach to race
The intersections of race, gender and nation

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Critical Review	1,000 words	30	N	Individual	Y
Presentation	1,000 words (for the written part) 5 minutes Presentation (per student)	35	N	Individual	Y
Portfolio	1,500 words	35	N	Individual	Y

Prescribed Texts

- Book of selected readings

Teaching Periods

Spring (2025)

Online

Online

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN2038_25-SPR_ON_2#subjects)