

English & Media Studies Student Information

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences



Undergraduate Study

Overview

English & Media Studies involves the study of literature, film and newer media forms from around the world. English & Media Studies not only teaches students how to communicate powerfully and effectively, but also helps students to understand and navigate the complex and diverse media environments that shape the modern world.

First Year

The program's first year courses introduce students to a range of written and audiovisual materials, from the more traditional literary forms, such as poetry, drama and prose fiction, to other media, such as film, television and social media. We explore ways of reading this material, and develop the research and writing skills necessary to produce sound and compelling arguments.

We will be asking how texts represent and engage with our society. In particular, we look at the ways in which language choices influence and even create our perceptions of the world around us. Studying texts from other cultures and times helps us better to understand our own society and its representations.

Upper Level

In the second and third years, students can choose from a range of subjects that is both diverse and coherent. Our subjects can be grouped under three broad pathways. These groupings are not exclusive and students can construct a strong major in English & Media Studies with any combination of these. Most subjects are offered once in every two-year cycle, and every subject will introduce students to key theoretical concepts and scholarly debates that inform the material we study.

Upper Level Subjects By Pathway

Literary Traditions	Global, National, Regional	Cultures of Conflict
Classic Literary Texts	Another Country: Australian Literature	Studies in the Media (also available within the IPS major)
Literature of the Modern	Dream and Disillusionment: American Literature	War Literature and Film
Reading Theory	Literatures of the World	Heroism, Banditry and Manhood
		Practical Ethics for the 21st Century (offered by IPS)

2018 English & Media Studies Upper Level Timetable

Session 1	Another Country: Australian Literature (Christina Spittel)	War Literature and Film (Neil Ramsey)	Practical Ethics for the 21st Century (IPS program)
Session 2	Heroism, Banditry and Manhood (Neil Ramsey)	Classic Literary Texts (Heather Neilson)	

2019 English & Media Studies Upper Level Timetable (TBC)

Session 1	Studies in the Media (Neil Ramsey)	Literatures of the World (TBC)
Session 2	Dream and Disillusionment: American Literature (Heather Neilson)	Literature of the Modern (Neil Ramsey)

Postgraduate Coursework

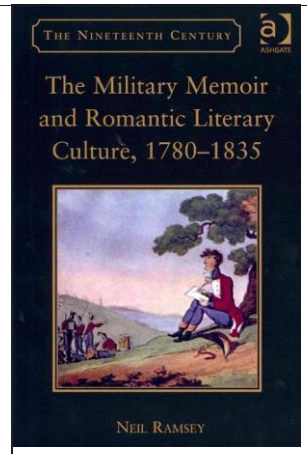
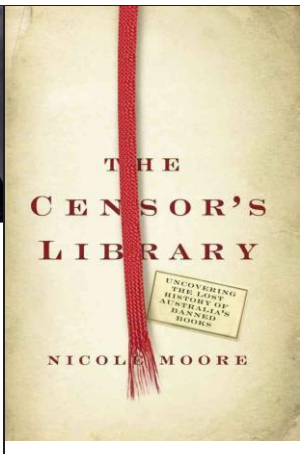
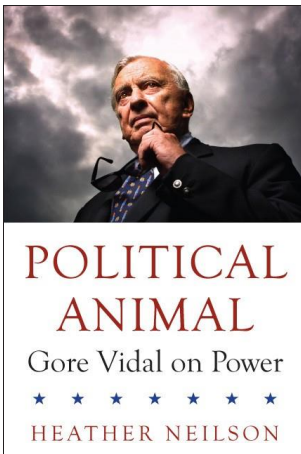
The courses offered by English & Media Studies are available as electives in two of the three current Masters programmes: War Studies; and Strategy and Security. Our current courses are:

- ZHSS8102 American Empire
- ZHSS8103 Nearest Neighbours
- ZHSS8106 War and Memory
- ZHSS8125 Strategic Communication

Courses offered by English & Media Studies are also available to students enrolled in the Master of Philosophy degree. It is our objective both to complement the other HASS Masters courses in which students are enrolled and to familiarise students with the specific skills and knowledge of our discipline area.

Postgraduate Research

English & Media Studies at UNSW Canberra has a strong track record of research, particularly in the area of Australian literature. We also have strengths in war literature, British Romantic literature and contemporary American literature. Recent student theses have addressed issues as diverse as: contemporary Chinese-Australian novels; literary suffragism; the writing of David Mitchell; creative non-fiction accounts of Irish-Australian combatants in the Irish Civil War; contemporary dystopian fiction; post-9/11 war films; representations of African-Americans; and marriage in the nineteenth-century Australian novel.



Staff and Research Interests



Professor Nicole Moore

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- Australian literature and culture
- Censorship
- Biography
- Gender and sexuality studies
- Comparative and transnational literary studies



Dr Heather Neilson

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- American literature and culture
- Popular culture representations of the classics
- Biography and autobiography



Dr Neil Ramsey

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- Romanticism and Eighteenth Century Literature
- War Literature
- Cultural histories of war
- Autobiography and memoir



Dr Christina Spittel

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- War literature and films
- Australian literature and culture
- Memory studies
- Transnational literary studies and world literature

Why do English & Media Studies?

The ability to communicate effectively and convincingly is critical to military success. English & Media studies will help teach you to become an expert analytical thinker and communicator, one who is fully equipped to understand today's complex media environments.

Former students explain how their studies with us have assisted them in their careers in the Defence Force and beyond:

“My degree in English has proven crucial to my employment as an Air Force Officer. The analytical skills I learnt I use every day when I analyse a vast array of information and then make an assessment for my commander. The success I have had in my intelligence career to date I can directly attribute to my studies in English at ADFA.”

SQNLDR Hannah Jude-Smith

“English provides pivotal learning for someone who aspires to higher management, and is an exceptional foundation for further study. To study literature is to gain an appreciation of life: all of the things that help an officer understand how they've found themselves in remote places; why their mission, individual presence, planning and execution are so important.”


LCDR Amy Blacker, RANR

“In the Australian Army today, it is simply impossible for an officer to avoid staff work, most consistently in the form of reading and writing. The experiences, skills and knowledge that I gained through studying English at ADFA continue to have an everyday applicability to my duties nearly twenty years later. I commend the English program unreservedly.”

LTC Adam McGuinness

“Studying English & Media Studies at ADFA is not just about literature. It's psychology, sociology, and philosophy – how we as humans interact with ourselves, within communities, and with our wider world. This course gave me the opportunity to refine my written skills, to think more intelligently, to articulate my ideas more clearly, and to solve problems through deep analysis. I have used all of these skills prolifically – both in my career in the military and since then as an educator in high schools.”

Joanne Cook, Teacher

A faded background image showing several military officers in uniform seated around a table, engaged in a meeting or discussion. The focus is on the text in the foreground.

“Studies in English, at both tertiary and postgraduate levels, are commonly undervalued for the benefits they can provide in all facets of life. English studies foster diverse skills in written and verbal communication, analytical and critical thinking and the formulation and presentation of sound arguments. These skills are used in daily life in the ADF environment; experience and excellence in this discipline will put you a significant step ahead of your peers and, at times, your superiors. Never underestimate the advantage of being able to communicate effectively, efficiently and with powerful discourse.”

LEUT Claire Dempsey, RAN

“Studying English & Media Studies at UNSW Canberra, teaches you how to analyse information, think critically, and communicate effectively – critical skills required of an officer. Studying literature brings history and politics to life.”

Major Kate Tollenaar

“Being able to express ideas cogently and correctly is an essential skill for any military officer. The two disciplines of English studies and military training complement each other through different areas of focus, and this has been a source of professional enrichment for me. Tertiary studies in English provided a solid foundation in creative and analytical thinking which has been very beneficial in my role as a professional naval officer.”

LCDR Daniel Sutherland, RAN

“I joined the Defence Force with the desire to become a leader. At Duntroon I studied English, though I was not really aware then of its relevance to the career I had chosen. It was as a junior officer, having to explain the contexts of directions to others, that I realised how important were the skills I had learned through English. Later, my ability to communicate was further developed by the postgraduate study in English that I undertook at UNSW Canberra. Now, as a senior officer, I need to communicate clearly and effectively, orally and in writing, every day. I am also the author of three novels, with another forthcoming. In both of these roles – an Army officer and a writer – the power of narrative is the core.”

Brigadier General Phillip Moses



Contact us

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Cricos Provider Code: 00098G • C170141

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