



# Unit Outline

EAAPP 1002

Introduction to Western Academic Culture

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## Objectives

The focus of this unit is on clarifying the differences and similarities between western and non-western cultures and, specifically, identifying the values that underpin those systems. This unit introduces students to elements of Australian culture and society in order to develop students' understanding of the linguistic and cultural factors which underlie English discourse by: analysing and identifying cross-cultural similarities and differences in written and oral communication; exploring the cultural values which shape those differences; applying the knowledge and skills learned.

Knowledge:

This unit aims to:

- Develop students' awareness of the cultural variations in communication and discourse patterns
- Provide background knowledge about Australian society, including history, social issues and politics
- Enhance students' knowledge about current affairs as reported in the Australian media
- Develop students' awareness of cultural variations in teaching and learning styles as they relate to tertiary education in Australia and the implications for studying at the University of Ballarat
- Develop students' knowledge of research resources such as the library, the internet, journals, databases, books, and visual materials.

Skills:

This unit aims to:

- Develop skills in critical thinking, data interpretation, giving presentations and group participation
- Enable students to engage and develop mastery of the skills and strategies associated with the production of written and oral communication
- Enable students to master grammatical discourse and correct practices in English grammar
- Enhance students' ability to employ appropriate rhetorical styles in English

Values:

This unit aims to:

- Develop a focus on educational and cultural similarities and differences in terms of the protocols and procedures prevail in western society and western tertiary education
- Develop an appreciation of the importance of original thought in academic discourse and the appropriate means for acknowledging the prior work of other scholars.
- Enable students to engage western academic values with reference specifically to plagiarism, referencing and citation

## Content

The unit will comprise:

- Investigation of the nature of culture and subjectivity
- Examination of cultural values of individualistic and collective cultures



- Analysis of written communication from a range of sources
- Analysis of oral communication from a range of sources
- Production of oral communication specific to academic and non-academic contexts
- Production of written communication specific to academic and non-academic contexts

**Learning Tasks & Assessment:**

| Learning Task                                                                                                                                                                                  | Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Weighting |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Present an argument and produce argumentative oral language skills                                                                                                                             | Group Debate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 15 – 20%  |
| Complete written and oral tasks as guided by the teacher.                                                                                                                                      | Folio of spoken and written responses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 10 – 15%  |
| Self Directed Learning<br><br>Develop and maintain a high level of self directed learning strategies & self-study skills designed to achieve target language goals and general EAP objectives. | <b>Continuous</b><br>Develop and maintain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target Language Acquisition Action Plan/Diary</li> <li>• ‘Vocabulary Building’ book</li> <li>• Homework and Media Diary</li> <li>• English Corner participation</li> <li>• Reflective Learning Journal</li> <li>• Note-taking &amp; Note-making skills</li> </ul> | 35 – 45%  |
| Complete listening and note-taking tasks in response to a variety of academic and non-academic spoken English texts                                                                            | Listening & Note-taking Test                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25 – 30%  |

Students must attend all classes unless they have proof of extenuating circumstances, for example, medical certificates, to achieve a pass standard in this unit.

In each teaching period, the weighting of assessment tasks will be communicated to students.

**Adopted Reference Style**

APA       Australian       MLA       Chicago

Other (please specify)

The link to the library website for more information is: [UB Library - Citation guides](#)