CAS1x – Noongar Language and Culture

Course description:
This course will take you on a journey into Noongar *boodja* (country) to learn about Noongar people, their culture and *waangkaniny* (language). You’ll join Noongar guides as they share knowledge and personal experiences of history, land, and culture.

In this course you will be introduced to conversational Noongar - learning words and phrases that can be used in simple dialogue.

Course objectives:
After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Pronounce Noongar vowels and consonants
- Understand the principles of Noongar sentence structure
- List and recall a range of conversational Noongar words and phrases
- Incorporate and use Noongar words within basic conversational sentences
- Identify the names and different environmental cues for the six Noongar seasons
- Understand the importance of *boodja* to Noongar people and protocols for respecting *boodja*
- Appreciate and respect Noongar spiritual and cultural beliefs
- Recall key events in recent Noongar history since colonisation
- Recognise the impacts of colonisation on Noongar culture, *waangkaniny*, society and people
- Understand how contemporary expressions of Noongar culture through art, music and dance, are helping Noongar people strengthen cultural identity
- Appreciate the importance of reviving and strengthening Noongar culture and *waangkaniny*
- Recognise the vast cultural knowledge on *boodja* through the example of bush medicines and bush foods
- Appreciate Noongar people’s love of *boodja*, potentially deepening your own connection to the land around you.

Pre-requisites:
None

Time commitment:
2-3 hours per week
Course Team:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professor Marion Kickett</th>
<th>Marion Kickett is a Noongar woman from the Balardong area. Born in the wheatbelt town of York, Marion spent her early years living on the York Reserve. She has a nursing background and has spent all her working life in the area of health. Marion lectured in Aboriginal Health and Culture for twenty years and completed her PhD at the University of Western Australia on Resilience from an Aboriginal perspective. Now the Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University, Marion believes the key to a better future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is education for all Australians.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor Simon Forrest</td>
<td>Simon Forrest was born and raised in Whadjuk country in Perth. He has connections to country at Goomalling (Balardong), Swan Valley (Whadjuk), Mt Magnet (Badimaya) and Leonora (Wongutha). He trained as a primary school teacher and worked in schools in Aboriginal communities and rural towns. He has also worked in the public sector in senior managerial positions in education and curriculum and Indigenous affairs policy and implementation. Simon is WA’s longest serving Aboriginal academic having taught undergraduate and postgraduate students since 1983 at Edith Cowan University, The University of Western Australia, Curtin University and Michigan State University. He was also the Inaugural Head of KurongKurl Katijin School of Indigenous Australian Studies at Edith Cowan University. His services are widely sought particularly as a presenter in the areas of Aboriginal Education, History and Politics, Cultural Awareness and Competency and Cultural Consultancy. In 2005, Simon was awarded the National Scholar of the Year at the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee Awards.</td>
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</tbody>
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Course Contributors:

As well as the course team, accompanying you on this journey are several maaman (men) and yorgas (women) who will share with you their stories, experiences and cultural knowledge.

This course could not have been created without the incredible generosity of those who were involved in the videos-your ‘guides’. The course content was built directly around their stories and experiences, and without their generous sharing of cultural and historical knowledge and personal insights, this course would not have eventuated.

We’d like to thank: Gail Beck, Allen and Merle Jones, Rohin Kickett, Brad Kickett, Brenda Larson, Candice Lloyd, Della Rae Morrison, Kobi Morrison, Franklyn Nannup, Noel Nannup, Jo Randell, and George Walley.
Course Syllabus:
This course consists of an Orientation and six modules. We estimate that you will need to spend at least 2-3 hours per week on each module.

Module 1 - An introduction to speaking Noongar

In this first module, you will learn the basic principles of Noongar language. You will learn how to pronounce common Noongar sounds (vowels and consonants) and examine overall sentence structure and regional differences.

Module 2 - Nidja Noongar boodja (This is Noongar country)

In this second module, you will examine Noongar people, their boodja (country) and important cultural protocols concerning boodja. You will be guided through the six Noongar seasons and learn about various aspects of Noongar spirituality including creation beliefs and totems.

Module 3 - Koori yeyi (Past to today)

In this third module, you will examine Noongar society pre-colonisation and learn about the key events (and rising tensions) that occurred following the arrival of the British settlers in 1826. Catastrophic segregation policies, land dispossession, and the attempted assimilation and genocide of Noongar culture and people will also be discussed. This module concludes by recognising the importance of reviving and celebrating culture today.

Module 4 - Ngalang moort koort (Family is our heart)

In this fourth module, you will learn about the heart of Noongar people’s lives - that of moort (family) and community. The kinship system, and the terms that identify who is who in the extended network that makes up Noongar families will be explored. This module will also illustrate ways in which family and communities ensure that culture and language are taught to younger generations.

Module 5 - Wongka, doodjarak wer nyumbi (story, song and dance)

Dance, music and art have always played a central role in Noongar culture. In this module, you will look at examples of how dance, music, and art have helped to strengthen cultural identity and build relationships not only for Noongar people – but also the wadjela (whitefellas) community.

Module 6 - Ngalang boodja moorditj (Our great country)

In this final module, you will return to boodja (country), to explore knowledge embedded in the land through bush medicines, bush foods, names of places, and in Noongar words themselves. This module aims to give you a glimpse into reading the land the ‘Noongar way’.
**Assessment Summary:**
In order to successfully complete this course you must gain an overall mark of **70% or higher**. This course consists of five assessments, as outlined below. You can find further details about assessment requirements within the Assessment section of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1 Practice Quiz</td>
<td>No marks allocated</td>
<td>Before course ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2 Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Before course ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3 Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Before course ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 4 Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 5 Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Before course ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 6 Quiz</td>
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You can complete the Module quizzes at any time as there are no "due dates", however we do recommend that you complete them sequentially, after you complete the relevant module.

**Course Schedule:**
Once the course starts, we will be releasing the modules **week by week**.

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Module 1 - An introduction to speaking Noongar</td>
<td>Practice Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Module 2 - <em>Nidja Noongar boodja</em> (This is Noongar country)</td>
<td>Module 2 Quiz</td>
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<td>Module 5 – <em>Wongka, doodjarak wer nyumbi</em> (story, song and dance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Module 6 - <em>Ngalang boodja moorditj</em> (Our great country)</td>
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