

# Australian studies

**Conveners:** Dr June Senyard (Department of History) and Dr Graham Willett (The Australian Centre)

Australian studies is an internationally recognised program providing an interdisciplinary perspective on Australian society and culture. The program is run by the Australian Centre in association with the Department of History and hosts a number of respected research fellows. The Centre is a founding member of the International Australian Studies Association and jointly manages the Australian Studies in Taiwan project on behalf of the Australian government. This global network provides a strong foundation for research and enhancement of the student learning experience, yielding new insights to comparative analyses. Students are able to gain direct experience of the Australian landscape, its people and the shaping of its culture and identity by undertaking fieldwork study in central Australia. A variety of career pathways are available to students of Australian studies which draw on the analytical and research knowledge gained in this area of study. Alternatively, students interested in expanding their interests and knowledge in Australian studies are provided with an articulated structure of higher degree options at the University of Melbourne.

Australian studies allows students to develop integrated analyses of the Australian experience from across disciplines. Students are encouraged to apply different methodologies and theoretical approaches to issues such as the environment, Indigenous affairs, folklore, gender and sexuality, the visual and literary arts, urban planning, politics and popular culture.

## Prerequisites

The program commences at first year and there are no prerequisites for entry at this level.

Students may also enter at second year given the completion of 25 points at first year in subjects which focus on Australia. However, students must consult the relevant area of study entries in this Handbook to ensure that they meet the prerequisites, if any, for the second/third year subjects listed below.

## Requirements for a major

A major in Australian studies usually consists of nine 12.5 point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first year subjects (25 points) which must focus upon Australia or be taken from the list of first year subjects in Australian studies below and;
- seven second/third year subjects in Australian studies (totalling 87.5 points), which must include:
  - three subjects from the list of core subjects below and;
  - four subjects from the list of optional subjects below.

Students who wish to include a subject that is not listed must seek approval from the convener of Australian studies.

## Australian studies subjects

### Recommended subjects

It is recommended that students take **two** of the following subjects at first year toward an Australian studies major.

First year subjects	Sem.
<b>Australian studies</b>	
100-002 Australia Now ( <i>p.84</i> )	1 rep 2
<b>Geography</b>	
121-011 Australia in Asia ( <i>p.180</i> )	2
<b>History</b>	
131-003 Resettling Australia 1788-1914 ( <i>p.204</i> )	1
131-004 Australia Since 1914 ( <i>p.204</i> )	2
<b>Political science</b>	
166-001 Australian Politics ( <i>p.299</i> )	1
166-003 Inequalities in Australian Society ( <i>p.300</i> )	1
166-010 Indigenous People and the State ( <i>p.300</i> )	2
166-002 Australian Politics in the Global Era ( <i>p.299</i> )	2

### Core subjects

Students must take **three** of the following core subjects at second/third year toward their Australian studies major. These subjects are intended to provide a survey of Australian culture and society.

Second/third year subjects	Sem.
<b>Australian studies</b>	
100-002 Australia Now ( <i>p.84</i> )	1 rep 2
100-003 Australia and America ( <i>p.84</i> )	1
100-005 Exploring Central Australia ( <i>p.84</i> )	1 rep 2

Second/third year subjects	Sem.
<b>Cinema studies</b>	
107-085 Australian Cinema ( <i>p.109</i> )	N/A
<b>Geography</b>	
121-021 Environmental Politics and Management ( <i>p.181</i> )	1
<b>History</b>	
131-026 Picturing the Australian Way of Life ( <i>p.219</i> )	N/A
131-051 Aboriginal Histories ( <i>p.208</i> )	1
131-053 The Irish Abroad: Australia, UK & USA ( <i>p.209</i> )	1
131-073 From Subjects to Australian Citizens ( <i>p.220</i> )	N/A
<b>History and philosophy of science</b>	
136-042 Science in Australian Society ( <i>p.229</i> )	N/A
<b>Linguistics and applied linguistics</b>	
175-018 Language&Society in Aboriginal Australia ( <i>p.269</i> )	2
<b>Political science</b>	
166-015 Transforming Australian Culture ( <i>p.308</i> )	N/A
166-038 Indigenous Politics: Case Studies ( <i>p.303</i> )	1
<b>United Faculty of Theology</b>	
920-144 Secular and Sacred in Australia ( <i>p.213</i> )	1

### Optional subjects

Students must take **four** of the following optional subjects at toward their Australian studies major. The normal prerequisite for entry to subjects offered at third/fourth year is completion of 37.5 points of study at second year.

Second/third year subjects	Sem.
<b>Anthropology</b>	
121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World ( <i>p.56</i> )	2
<b>Art history</b>	
107-025 Postcolonialism and the Cinema ( <i>p.106</i> )	2
107-030 Contemporary Aboriginal Art ( <i>p.70</i> )	1
107-080 Commodity Culture ( <i>p.106</i> )	1
107-028 Australian Art 1840 - 1950 ( <i>p.73</i> )	N/A
107-030 Contemporary Aboriginal Art ( <i>p.70</i> )	1
107-077 Television and Australian Culture ( <i>p.108</i> )	N/A
<b>Australian studies</b>	
100-002 Australia Now ( <i>p.84</i> )	1 rep 2
100-003 Australia and America ( <i>p.84</i> )	1
100-005 Exploring Central Australia ( <i>p.84</i> )	1 rep 2
<b>Cinema studies</b>	
107-077 Television and Australian Culture ( <i>p.108</i> )	N/A
107-087 Contemporary Australian Cinema ( <i>p.107</i> )	2
107-085 Australian Cinema ( <i>p.109</i> )	N/A
107-037 Film and the Body ( <i>p.108</i> )	N/A
<b>English</b>	
106-033 Postcolonial Writing ( <i>p.151</i> )	N/A
106-045 Aboriginal Writing ( <i>p.145</i> )	1
106-063 Aboriginal Cultural Studies ( <i>p.147</i> )	2
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies ( <i>p.147</i> )	2
106-067 Feminist Cultural Studies ( <i>p.152</i> )	N/A
106-050 Australian Authorship ( <i>p.151</i> )	N/A
<b>Geography</b>	
121-019 Urbanisation and Urban Development ( <i>p.181</i> )	1
121-016 Landscapes of Power ( <i>p.185</i> )	N/A
121-021 Environmental Politics and Management ( <i>p.181</i> )	1
121-017 Society and Environments ( <i>p.181</i> )	2
121-044 Place and Possession ( <i>p.185</i> )	N/A
121-045 Native Title ( <i>p.182</i> )	2
<b>History</b>	
131-111 Crime & Punishment in Colonial Victoria ( <i>p.212</i> )	1
131-021 Australian Sporting Culture A: Playing ( <i>p.218</i> )	N/A
131-032 Contesting Genders: 1792 to the 1950s ( <i>p.219</i> )	N/A
131-040 Australian Biography and History ( <i>p.207</i> )	1
131-051 Aboriginal Histories ( <i>p.208</i> )	1
131-053 The Irish Abroad: Australia, UK & USA ( <i>p.209</i> )	1
131-064 Environmental History of Australia ( <i>p.210</i> )	2
131-067 War and Australian Society 1788-1938 ( <i>p.210</i> )	1
131-022 Australian Sporting Culture B: Watching ( <i>p.218</i> )	N/A
131-027 War & Australian Society Since 1919 ( <i>p.206</i> )	2
131-033 A History of Sexualities ( <i>p.207</i> )	2
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics ( <i>p.207</i> )	1
131-073 From Subjects to Australian Citizens ( <i>p.220</i> )	N/A
131-071 Museums, Objects, Spectacles ( <i>p.220</i> )	N/A
131-026 Picturing the Australian Way of Life ( <i>p.219</i> )	N/A
920-144 Secular and Sacred in Australia ( <i>p.213</i> )	1

**Second/third year subjects****History and philosophy of science**

121-057	Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World ( <i>p.56</i> )	Sem.	2
136-042	Science in Australian Society ( <i>p.229</i> )	N/A	

**Political science**

166-004	Change & Conflict in Australian Society ( <i>p.301</i> )	1
166-015	Transforming Australian Culture ( <i>p.308</i> )	N/A
166-041	Designing Public Policy for Australia ( <i>p.376</i> )	2
166-022	Governance and Complexity ( <i>p.302</i> )	1
166-027	Australia in the World Political Economy ( <i>p.308</i> )	N/A
166-035	Australian Foreign Relations ( <i>p.303</i> )	1
166-038	Indigenous Politics: Case Studies ( <i>p.303</i> )	1
166-012	Australian Political Economy ( <i>p.307</i> )	N/A

**Third/fourth year subjects****Art history**

107-061	You Beut Country: Australia in the '50s ( <i>p.76</i> )	Points	12.5
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**Geography**

121-034	Environmental Field Class ( <i>p.184</i> )	25
121-032	Australian Quaternary Environments ( <i>p.184</i> )	25

**Combined honours entry**

Currently there is no pure honours program in Australian studies. This means that students must combine Fourth Year Honours in Australian Studies with another area of study.

The prerequisites for entry to combined honours in Australian studies are:

- completion of all the requirements for the BA and;
- completion of a major in Australian studies and;
- an average grade of H2B or higher over the second/third year subjects within the major and;
- admission to honours in another area of study within the Arts Faculty.

Entry to honours must be approved by the convener of Australian studies and the Faculty of Arts honours course adviser.

**Combined honours requirements**

Please note that the Australian studies combined honours program does not offer its own honours subjects or honours thesis. Therefore students undertaking combined honours in Australian studies may enrol in honours subjects from any area of study within the faculty, provided that those subjects are judged to have *substantial Australian content*. The decision as to which subjects fulfil this requirement must be made in consultation with a program convener. Students wishing to undertake their thesis in Australian studies usually enrol in 131-504 History Thesis (*p.214*) or 131-505 History Thesis (MYE) (*p.214*).

Combined honours in Australian studies and another area of study must take one of the following forms:

- 131-504 History Thesis (*p.214*) or 131-505 History Thesis (MYE) (*p.214*) (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects with *substantial Australian content* from any area of study (totalling 25 points) and;
- three honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 37.5 points).

or

- honours thesis in the combined area of study (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 25 points) and;
- three honours subjects with *substantial Australian content* from any area of study (totalling 37.5 points).

**Further study**

A range of multi-disciplinary postgraduate courses are offered to meet the needs of both established professionals and others wishing to pursue further research in the area of Australian studies.

**Career opportunities**

A degree with a major in Australian studies is of relevance to graduates entering education, librarianship, the public service, the media or other roles where an understanding of preoccupations in Australian cultural production is of significance.

**For more information**

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137 Barry Street  
Carlton 3053  
Tel: +61 3 8344 7235  
WWW: <http://www.australian.unimelb.edu.au>

**First/second year subjects****100-002 Australia Now**

**Note:** Students are not permitted to undertake more than two subjects offered by the Australian Centre. Students who have completed 100-201/301 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. This subject is recommended for students wishing to complete a major in Australian studies.

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Graham Willett

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week for 12 weeks for first year students. A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week for 10 weeks for second year students. There will be separate first and second year tutorial groups (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

**Description:** This interdisciplinary subject introduces students to key social, political and environmental issues which are shaping contemporary Australia. It is ideal for international students, for students whose main area of study lies outside the humanities, and for students who wish to gain a broad understanding of the complex challenges facing Australia today. The subject is responsive to current debates in Australia, and issues it covers include the arguments about social justice and land rights for Aborigines; immigration and multiculturalism; environmental concerns; the relationships between men and women; Australia's identity and the impact of globalisation; and the place of tourism, sport and the arts in Australian cultural and economic life. Students are encouraged to develop their own analyses of contemporary Australia, using appropriate theoretical constructs, fieldwork, and a variety of sources. Lectures and tutorials draw on a range of materials including journal and newspaper articles, poetry, novels and Australian films and documentaries.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 4000 words. A hurdle requirement for this subject is 50% attendance at tutorials.

**Prescribed texts:**

A subject reader is available from the Australian Centre.

**Second/third year subjects****100-003 Australia and America**

**Note:** Students are not permitted to undertake more than two subjects offered by the Australian Centre.

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Mr Tony Birch

**Contact:** A 1.5-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject examines, in a comparative context, historical and cultural developments in the United States and Australia with an emphasis on issues of national identity and social memory from the mid-nineteenth century until the present day. In tracing the similarities and differences in the experiences of these two nations, the following themes will be discussed: the relationship between indigenous and settler societies; responses to landscape and the environment, including the growth of cities; political ideologies and culture; local, regional and global identities; the diversity of Australian and American peoples; and political and creative expressions of nationhood. The subject will also investigate the ways Australians and Americans have viewed each other's societies, and the ties between the two countries.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 4000 words. A hurdle requirement for this subject is 50% attendance at tutorials.

**Prescribed texts:**

A subject reader is available from the Australian Centre

**100-005 Exploring Central Australia**

**Note:** Students are not permitted to undertake more than two subjects offered by the Australian Centre. Students who have completed *both* 100-002 Australia Now (*p.84*) and 100-003 Australia and America (*p.84*) are not eligible to enrol in this subject. This subject includes fieldwork in central Australia. An outline of the fieldwork program is available from the Australian Centre and at the web site <http://www.australian.unimelb.edu.au>. A quota of 30 students applies.

**Credit points: 12.5****HECS-band: 1****Coordinator:** Dr K Darian-Smith & Mr B Hill**Contact:** Fieldwork of six days/five nights in central Australia (at additional cost), plus 10 hours of seminars at the University. The fieldwork will be held over the mid-semester break (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).**Description:** Exploring Central Australia is a subject designed to guide students towards a 'shaping' experience of Central Australia. That is to say, it is a subject designed to prompt academic inquiry in the context of a first-hand encounter - an intensive field-trip - with the environment and cultures of the region. We will be focussing on the contested histories and contemporary realities, with particular attention to issues of race and culture, in the town of Alice Springs, and also exploring the 'meanings' of Uluru for both the Anangu people and non-Indigenous Australians. It is assumed that students will come to Exploring Central Australia with an active interest in Australian cultural politics, and the history and making of the variegated literature of the region. This interdisciplinary subject is taught through a combination of seminars at the University and an intensive field-trip to Central Australia (five days/six nights). Students will be exposed to a unique series of content-based discussions, readings, and first-hand experiences - including the opportunity to learn about Central Australia from its Aboriginal and non-Indigenous inhabitants. They will be encouraged to produce research and writing that investigates issues, challenges stereotypes, and draws upon their fieldwork observations and interactions.**Assessment:** Assessment will consist of seminar and fieldwork participation, and research based assessment totalling 4000 words.**Prescribed texts:**

A subject reader is available from the Australian Centre.

