

Australian studies

Conveners: Dr Nikos Papastergiadis (The Australian Centre) and Dr June Senyard (History)

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.

Students are permitted to enrol in all of the Australian Centre's undergraduate subjects. However, no more than two subjects can be taken within a 12-month period.

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 (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	Sem.
Australian studies	
100-111 Australia Now (<i>p.2</i>)	1 rep 2
Geography	
121-103 Australia in Asia (<i>p.2</i>)	2
History	
131-109 Australian Colonial: Claiming a Land (<i>p.2</i>)	1
131-190 Australian Modern: Making Histories (<i>p.2</i>)	2
Political science	
166-101 Australian Politics (<i>p.1</i>)	2
166-103 Global Politics (<i>p.1</i>)	2
166-120 Indigenous People and the State (<i>p.2</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	Sem.
Australian studies	
100-111 Australia Now (<i>p.2</i>)	1 rep 2

Second/third year	Sem.
100-003 Australia and America (<i>p.2</i>)	1 rep 2
100-005 Exploring Central Australia (<i>p.2</i>)	1 rep 2
100-210 From Mateship to Mardi Gras (<i>p.3</i>)	Summer
100-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity (<i>p.3</i>)	1
Cinema studies	
107-085 Australian Cinema (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A
Geography	
121-021 Environmental Politics and Management (<i>p.4</i>)	1
History	
131-026 Picturing Australia (<i>p.6</i>)	2
131-051 Aboriginal & Pacific Islander Histories (<i>p.8</i>)	1
131-053 The Irish Abroad: Australia, UK & USA (<i>p.9</i>)	2
131-073 Human Rights in Australian History (<i>p.10</i>)	N/A
History and philosophy of science	
136-042 Science in Australian Society (<i>p.4</i>)	N/A
Linguistics and applied linguistics	
175-018 Language & Society in Aboriginal Australia (<i>p.4</i>)	N/A
Political science	
166-038 Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (<i>p.6</i>)	1
United Faculty of Theology	
920-144 Secular and Sacred in Australia (<i>p.15</i>)	N/A

Optional subjects

Students must take **four** of the following optional subjects 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	Sem.
Anthropology	
121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (<i>p.2</i>)	2
Art history	
107-025 Postcolonialism and the Cinema (<i>p.2</i>)	N/A
107-030 Contemporary Aboriginal Art (<i>p.3</i>)	1
107-080 Commodity Culture (<i>p.3</i>)	1
107-028 A Survey of Australian Art to 1950 (<i>p.3</i>)	2
107-030 Contemporary Aboriginal Art (<i>p.3</i>)	1
107-077 Television and Australian Culture (<i>p.2</i>)	N/A
Australian studies	
100-111 Australia Now (<i>p.2</i>)	1 rep 2
100-003 Australia and America (<i>p.2</i>)	1 rep 2
100-005 Exploring Central Australia (<i>p.2</i>)	1 rep 2
100-210 From Mateship to Mardi Gras (<i>p.3</i>)	Summer
100-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity (<i>p.3</i>)	1
Cinema studies	
107-077 Television and Australian Culture (<i>p.2</i>)	N/A
107-087 Contemporary Australian Cinema (<i>p.4</i>)	2
107-085 Australian Cinema (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A
107-037 Film and the Body (<i>p.2</i>)	2
English	
106-033 Writing After Empire (<i>p.5</i>)	2
106-045 Aboriginal Writing (<i>p.6</i>)	1
106-063 Aboriginal Cultural Studies (<i>p.9</i>)	2
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (<i>p.9</i>)	1
106-050 Australian Authorship (<i>p.7</i>)	1
Geography	
121-019 Urbanisation and Urban Development (<i>p.3</i>)	2
121-016 Landscapes of Power (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A
121-021 Environmental Politics and Management (<i>p.4</i>)	1
121-017 Society and Environments (<i>p.3</i>)	2
121-225 Place and Possession (<i>p.5</i>)	N/A
121-226 Native Title (<i>p.5</i>)	2
History	
131-111 Crime Law & Punishment-Colonial Victoria (<i>p.12</i>)	N/A
131-021 Great Moments in Australian Sport (<i>p.5</i>)	1
131-051 Aboriginal & Pacific Islander Histories (<i>p.8</i>)	1
131-053 The Irish Abroad: Australia, UK & USA (<i>p.9</i>)	2
131-067 Australia and Anzac: Life of the Legend (<i>p.9</i>)	1
131-022 Consuming Sport (<i>p.5</i>)	N/A
131-027 War & Australian Society Since 1919 (<i>p.6</i>)	2
131-033 A History of Sexualities (<i>p.6</i>)	N/A
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics (<i>p.6</i>)	1
131-073 Human Rights in Australian History (<i>p.10</i>)	N/A
131-071 Museums, Objects, Spectacles (<i>p.10</i>)	1
131-026 Picturing Australia (<i>p.6</i>)	2

Second/third year	Sem.
920-144 Secular and Sacred in Australia (<i>p.15</i>)	N/A
History and philosophy of science	
136-042 Science in Australian Society (<i>p.4</i>)	N/A
136-313 Environmental History of Australia (Sc3) (<i>p.6</i>)	Summer
Political science	
166-004 Change & Conflict in Australian Society (<i>p.3</i>)	2
166-022 Public Policy Making (<i>p.4</i>)	1
166-027 Australia in the World Political Economy (<i>p.5</i>)	N/A
166-035 Australian Foreign Relations (<i>p.6</i>)	1
166-038 Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (<i>p.6</i>)	1
166-012 Australian Political Economy (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A

Third/fourth year Points

Art history

107-433 You Beaut Country: Australia in the '50s (*p.6*) 12.5

Geography

121-432 Environmental Field Class (*p.7*) 25

121-458 Australian Quaternary Environments (*p.7*) 25

Fourth year Points

Australian studies

100-410 Imaging Australian Life: 1900-2000 (*p.3*) 12.5

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

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

Combined honours requirements

Although it is possible to complete an honours thesis in Australian studies and there is a specifically developed honours subject, 100-410 Imaging Australian Life: 1900-2000 (*p.3*), students undertaking combined honours in Australian studies may enrol in honours subjects from any area of study within the Faculty of Arts, 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.

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

- 100-502 Australian Studies Thesis (*p.3*) or 100-503 Australian Studies Thesis (MYE) (*p.3*) (37.5 points); and
- two honours subjects with *substantial Australian content* from any area of study (25 points); and
- three honours subjects in the combined area of study (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 (25 points); and
- three honours subjects with *substantial Australian content* from any area of study (37.5 points).

Further study

A range of multidisciplinary 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

Dr Nikos Papastergiadis
The Australian Centre
The University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010

Tel: +61 3 8344 3849
Web: <http://www.australian.unimelb.edu.au>
or

Dr June Senyard
History Department
Third Floor, John Medley Building
The University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010
Tel: +61 3 8344 5963
Fax: +61 3 9347 7731

First/second-year subjects

100-111 Australia Now

Note: Students are not permitted to undertake within a 12-month period 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.

Availability: 1st and 2nd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr G Willett & Dr N Papastergiadis

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 (*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 will be available.

Second/third-year subjects

100-003 Australia and America

Note: Students are not permitted to undertake within a 12-month period more than two subjects offered by the Australian Centre.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Fay Anderson & Dr Graham Willett

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

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-19th 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 cultural and political 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 will be available.

100-005 Exploring Central Australia

Note: Students are not permitted to undertake within a 12-month period more than two subjects offered by the Australian Centre. 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 25 students applies.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof K Darian-Smith/P Ballantyne

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 focusing 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 (at additional cost) 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.

100-210 From Mateship to Mardi Gras

Note: Students are not permitted to undertake within a 12-month period more than two subjects offered by the Australian Centre. This subject includes fieldwork in Sydney. An outline of the fieldwork program is available from the Australian Centre and at the web site <<http://www.australian.unimelb.edu.au>>. Strict enrolment deadlines apply to subjects taught during the Summer Semester. Any enrolment in, or withdrawal from, this subject for the Summer Semester must be made in line with HECS census dates, see page 7.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Graham Willett

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of any first-year subjects with Australian content.

Contact: Sixteen hours of lectures and eight hours of seminars over a two-week period in Melbourne and a Mardi Gras field trip component: four hours of lectures and two hours of seminars in Sydney (*Summer semester*).

Description: This subject introduces students to the history of the construction of homosexual identities in Australia since European arrival. It explores the formation of sexual cultures in the 19th and early 20th centuries and examines the development of gay and lesbian politics and communities from 1969 to the present. A field trip to the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (at additional cost) will form a component of the subject. On completion of the subject students should have developed ways to discuss and theorise a number of homosexual subcultures within an interdisciplinary framework. A knowledge of the complex history of homosexuality and of homosexual identities should enhance students' understanding of debates around identity and identity politics within Australian society in general.

Assessment: Class participation and written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: D L Phillips & G Willett (eds), *Australia's Homosexual Histories*, Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research and the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, Sydney, 2000. • G Willett, *Living Out Loud: A History of Gay and Lesbian Activism in Australia*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2000.

100-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Sara Wills

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

Description: This subject allows students to engage critically with Australian multiculturalism, identifying its complex nature through a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Topics include history and politics of Australian immigration, multicultural policies, theories of multiculturalism, global perspectives on multiculturalism, migrant cultural forms, racial politics, case studies of migrant communities and ethnic/national identity. Students will engage with the work of historians, social and political theorists, policy makers, writers and artists to stimulate their analysis of multiculturalism. This course will appeal to anyone with a specific interest in immigration, ethnicity and national identity and those who seek to understand contemporary Australian society.

Assessment: Class attendance and participation, and two pieces of written work totalling no more than 4000 words. In order to receive credit for class

attendance and participation, students must attend at least 50% of tutorial classes, and class participation will be graded in relation to class presentations equivalent to no more than 500 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader and additional material will be provided to all students.

Fourth-year subjects

100-502 Australian Studies Thesis

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Nikos Papastergiadis

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma of fourth-year honours in Australian studies.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Year long*).

Description: An approved thesis topic selected in consultation with the fourth-year coordinator.

Assessment: A thesis of 12 000 words.

100-503 Australian Studies Thesis (MYE)

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Nikos Papastergiadis

Prerequisites: Mid-year admission to the postgraduate diploma of fourth-year honours in Australian studies.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: An approved thesis topic selected in consultation with the fourth-year coordinator.

Assessment: A thesis of 12 000 words.

100-410 Imaging Australian Life: 1900-2000

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Nikos Papastergiadis

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year combined honours in Australian studies.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: In this subject students will examine and discuss ways in which Australian life was imagined and imaged, particularly within a public forum, throughout the 20th century. Students will explore three key themes through which Australian cultural history and identity is articulated: visual culture will include an engagement with film, photography and fine art; public culture will examine the ways in which Australian life is presented through public displays such as museum exhibitions, parades and processions, monuments and commemoration and other uses of public space; written culture will look at the way that writers, through a variety of genres, including travel writing, literature and the spoken word, have identified aspects of the Australian landscape, both physical and 'natural'. Students will engage with these forms through visits to museums, galleries and a variety of public displays and performances. Artists, writers and performers may be invited to attend specific seminars. On completion of this subject, students will be able to appreciate the various textual forms which have influenced the way in which Australia represents its history and culture throughout the 20th century.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available

