

# 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.

## Time commitment to study

As well as scheduled contact hours for lectures, tutorial and seminars a considerable additional time commitment is needed to complete the academic requirements of each subject.

A subject-specific time commitment to study will be provided by your lecturer or tutor at the beginning of semester to help you schedule your workload and successfully manage your time during the semester. In addition, general estimates of the total time commitment required to study a 12.5-point single semester subject in the Faculty of Arts can be found on page 1.

## 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 complete all of the Australian Centre's undergraduate subjects over the course of their degree. 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.
<b>Australian studies</b>	
102-111 Australia Now (p.2)	1 rep 2
<b>Political science</b>	
166-101 Australian Politics (p.2)	1
166-103 Global Politics (p.1)	2
166-107 Media, Politics and Society (p.2)	1
166-111 Australian Society (p.3)	2
166-120 Indigenous People and the State (p.3)	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.
<b>Australian studies</b>	
No more than <b>two</b> of the following Australian studies subjects may be taken within a 12 month period of enrolment	
102-111 Australia Now (p.2)	1 rep 2
102-003 Australia and America (p.2)	1 rep 2
102-005 Exploring Central Australia (p.3)	1 rep 2
102-210 From Mateship to Mardi Gras (p.3)	N/A
102-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity (p.3)	1
102-213 Face, Place, Race: Images of Australia (p.3)	2
<b>Cinema studies</b>	
107-085 Australian Cinema (p.4)	2
<b>Geography</b>	
121-021 Environmental Politics and Management (p.3)	1
<b>History</b>	
131-022 You Beauty! Sport & Australian Identity (p.6)	N/A
131-026 Picturing Australia (p.7)	N/A
131-051 Aboriginal & Pacific Islander Histories (p.9)	1
131-053 The Irish Abroad: Australia, UK & USA (p.9)	N/A
131-073 Human Rights in Australian History (p.11)	1
<b>Linguistics and applied linguistics</b>	
175-018 Language&Society in Aboriginal Australia (p.4)	2
<b>Political science</b>	
166-038 Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (p.6)	1
<b>United Faculty of Theology</b>	
920-244 MCD-Secular and Sacred in Australia (p.17)	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.
<b>Australian studies</b>	
No more than <b>two</b> of the following Australian studies subjects may be taken within a 12 month period of enrolment	
102-111 Australia Now (p.2)	1 rep 2
102-003 Australia and America (p.2)	1 rep 2
102-005 Exploring Central Australia (p.3)	1 rep 2
102-210 From Mateship to Mardi Gras (p.3)	N/A
102-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity (p.3)	1
<b>Art history</b>	
107-046 Contemporary Australian Art (p.4)	1
107-080 Commodity Culture (p.3)	N/A
107-028 Australian Art: Colonial to Pop (p.3)	1
107-030 Contemporary Aboriginal Art (p.3)	2
<b>Cinema studies</b>	
107-077 Television and Australian Culture (p.2)	1
107-087 Contemporary Australian Cinema (p.4)	N/A
107-085 Australian Cinema (p.4)	2
107-037 Film and the Body (p.2)	N/A
<b>English</b>	
106-033 Writing After Empire (p.5)	2
106-045 Aboriginal Writing (p.7)	1
106-063 Aboriginal Cultural Studies (p.9)	2
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (p.9)	1
106-050 Australian Authorship (p.7)	2
<b>Geography</b>	
121-019 Urbanisation and Urban Development (p.3)	2
121-021 Environmental Politics and Management (p.3)	1
121-017 Society and Environments (p.3)	2
121-226 Native Title (p.4)	2
121-231 Indigenous Peoples & Resource Management (p.5)	2
<b>History</b>	
131-051 Aboriginal & Pacific Islander Histories (p.9)	1
131-022 You Beauty! Sport & Australian Identity (p.6)	N/A
131-033 A History of Sexualities (p.7)	1
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics (p.7)	2
131-073 Human Rights in Australian History (p.11)	1
131-071 Museums, Objects, Spectacles (p.10)	1
131-077 City & the Bush: Australian Identities (p.11)	N/A

**Second/third year**

131-021	Great Moments in Australian Sport (p.6)	Sem. 2
131-022	You Beauty! Sport & Australian Identity (p.6)	N/A
131-026	Picturing Australia (p.7)	N/A
131-051	Aboriginal & Pacific Islander Histories (p.9)	1
131-073	Human Rights in Australian History (p.11)	1
131-109	Australian Colonial (p.3)	1
131-210	Total War: Asia & the Pacific 1931-1945 (p.14)	2
131-222	Digging for Gold: Cultural Landscapes (p.15)	1
131-230	Resisting Colonialism: Australia-Pacific (p.13)	2
730-394	Indigenous People, History and the Law (p.8)	N/A
920-244	MCD-Secular and Sacred in Australia (p.17)	N/A

**History and philosophy of science**

136-213	Environmental History of Australia (p.5)	1
136-313	Environmental History of Australia (Sc3) (p.7)	1

**Islamic studies**

110-223	Islam and Muslims in Australia (p.2)	2
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**Political science**

166-004	Change & Conflict in Australian Society (p.3)	2
166-012	Australian Political Economy (p.4)	N/A
166-022	Public Policy Making (p.5)	1
166-027	Australia in the World Political Economy (p.5)	N/A
166-035	Australian Foreign Relations (p.6)	N/A
166-038	Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (p.6)	1
166-230	On Country Learning: Indigenous Studies (p.8)	Summer

**School of Creative Arts**

760-213	Australian Theatre (p.15)	N/A
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**Third/fourth year****Anthropology**

121-457	Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (p.4)	12.5
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**Geography**

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

102-511	Imaging Australian Spaces (p.4)	12.5
102-512	From Cosmopolitanism to Transnationalism (p.4)	12.5

**Art history**

107-417	Australian Cultural Heritage Management (p.7)	12.5
107-424	Australian Artists in Europe 1880-1960 (p.8)	12.5

**Political science**

166-411	Australian Politics: Democracy & Justice (p.9)	12.5
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**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.

For information on how to apply see *Applying for Honours* (p.12).

**Combined honours requirements**

Although it is possible to complete an honours thesis in Australian studies and there is a specifically developed honours subject, 102-511 *Imaging Australian Spaces* (p.4), 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:

- 102-503 *Australian Studies Thesis* (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**

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**First/second-year subjects****102-111 Australia Now**

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

This subject is recommended for students wishing to complete a major in Australian studies.

**Availability:** 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr G Willett

**Contact:** Thirty hours of contact per semester. Two hours of lectures per week for twelve weeks and one hour of tutorial per week for ten weeks. In addition, first year students are required to attend an essay-writing workshop of two hours and an additional lecture in the final week (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

**Description:** This 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:** An essay of 1500 words 25% (due mid-semester) and an essay of 2500 words 75% (due during the examination period). A hurdle requirement for this subject is attendance of 70% of tutorials.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

**Second/third-year subjects****102-003 Australia and America**

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

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr F Anderson & Assoc Prof G Sluga

**Contact:** A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week for 12 weeks (*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:** Class presentation 10%, a research essay of 2500 words 60% (due mid-semester) and a reflective essay of 1500 words 30% (due after the examination period). Students must attend at least 70% of tutorial classes.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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### 102-005 Exploring Central Australia

**Note:** Students are not permitted to undertake within a 12-month period more than two undergraduate 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

**Coordinator:** Dr F Anderson/Assoc Prof K Darian-Smith

**Contact:** Fieldwork of six days/five nights in central Australia (at additional cost) plus 12 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 an interdisciplinary 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. This subject is taught through a combination of seminars at the University and an intensive field trip (at additional cost) to Central Australia. Students will be exposed to a 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:** Class presentation 10% (during the semester), a 1000 word writing exercise 30% (due before the mid-semester break), a 500 word essay proposition 10% (due before the semester break) and a 2500 word research essay 50% (due at the end of semester). Students must attend all the seminars and the field trip.

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### 102-210 From Mateship to Mardi Gras

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

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

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

**Semester:** Not Offered

**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.

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### 102-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity

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

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr S Wills

**Contact:** A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week for 12 weeks (*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 the 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:** A classpaper of 500 words 10%, a 1500 word analytical essay 35% (due mid-semester) and a 2500 word research essay 55% (due at the end of semester).

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader and additional material will be provided.

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### 102-213 Face, Place, Race: Images of Australia

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

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr C Jordan

**Contact:** This subject is taught intensively on 30 June and 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 July with a daily 1.5-hour lecture and daily 1.5-hour seminar or site visit (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This subject examines the role of visual images and practices in the historical and contemporary development of Australian culture and identity. Themes of 'places', real and imagined: the city, the suburbs, the bush, the beach and the desert, and 'faces': Australian cultural icons and representations of masculinity, femininity, indigenous and 'ethnic' Australians, will be explored through the study of visual cultures, which ranges from traditional visual forms of painting and photography to media forms of film, TV and advertising to the visual in everyday life. Students will familiarise themselves with using techniques of visual analysis and visual evidence drawn from many media and will have the opportunity to participate in off-site classes, eg. at the Melbourne Museum, the Art Gallery at Federation Square and the Immigration Museum.

**Assessment:** A 1500 word exercise 30% (due during the teaching period), a 2500 word research essay 60% (due after completion of classes) and class participation 10%.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be provided.

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### 760-213 Australian Theatre

See full subject details on page 15.

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## Fourth-year subject

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### 102-503 Australian Studies Thesis

**Availability:** 4th year and postgraduate

**Credit points:** 37.5

**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof G Sluga

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

**Contact:** Regular meetings with the supervisor over two consecutive semesters of enrolment (*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% (due at the end of the second semester of enrolment).

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## Fourth-year/postgraduate subjects

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### 102-505 Australian Studies 5A

**Availability:** 4th year and postgraduate

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr N Papastergiadis

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in Australian studies and permission of the subject coordinator.

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

**Description:** This is a directed reading seminar on public culture that is driven by the research interest of both the students and the staff. Details of the programs being offered will be available at the Australian Centre.

**Assessment:** Written work totaling 5000 words 100%.

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**102-506 Australian Studies 5B**

**Availability:** 4th year and postgraduate

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof G Sluga

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma of fourth-year honours in Australian studies and permission of the subject coordinator.

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

**Description:** This is a directed reading seminar on public culture that is driven by the research interest of both the students and the staff. Details of the programs being offered will be available in the Australian Centre.

**Assessment:** Written work totaling 5000 words 100%.

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**102-511 Imaging Australian Spaces**

**Availability:** 4th year and postgraduate

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof K Darian-Smith

**Prerequisites:** Admission to a coursework masters program. Fourth-year honours or postgraduate diploma students may take this subject with permission from the postgraduate coordinator.

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

**Description:** In this subject students will examine and discuss the ways in which Australian spaces have been represented in visual and written culture. From the populist mythology of the bush to the urbanisation of Australia, with particular reference to post 1945 suburbanisation and urban development, this subject will explore the ways that Australians have produced cultural images of space and society, and how these have been represented and promoted in nationalist and international contexts. Through a series of case studies we will examine issues such as cross cultural, racial and gendered spaces; migration place and belonging; how space is shaped by memory of the past and the cultural politics of the present; and ideas of Australian spaces within public culture at both localised and global levels.

**Assessment:** Each student will offer a formal presentation to the seminar accompanied by a 2000 word essay 35% (submitted during the semester) and a major essay of 3000 words 65% (due at the end of semester) and seminar attendance and discussion.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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**102-512 From Cosmopolitanism to Transnationalism**

**Availability:** 4th year and postgraduate

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof G Sluga

**Prerequisites:** Admission to a coursework masters program. Fourth-year honours or postgraduate diploma students may take this subject with permission from the postgraduate coordinator.

**Contact:** A 2-hour seminar per week (*Not Offered*).

**Description:** The aim of this course is to offer an intellectual history of the ideas of cosmopolitanism, nationalism, internationalism, and globalism, and international studies, and to introduce students to current theoretical debates concerning these terms. The course will also discuss the application of these debates and their historical background to the current interest in the international and transnational as a thematic and analytical framework for research in the social sciences and humanities more generally, and, for Australian Studies students, in the Australian context. The assessment for this course offers students the opportunity to undertake original archival and textual, and or oral history research.

**Assessment:** Each student will offer a formal presentation of a piece of original archival/textual/oral history research of 1000 words 10% (due during the semester), a 1000 word essay 40% (due during the semester) and an essay of 3000 words 50% (due at the end of semester). There is a hurdle requirement of 80% seminar attendance.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

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