

Australian Indigenous Studies

Convenor: Professor Marcia Langton (SAGES)

The University of Melbourne and the Faculty of Arts currently teach a range of subjects across many departments in the field of Indigenous studies. The appointment of Professor Marcia Langton to the Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies created the opportunity to bring together this teaching and research into a coordinated interdepartmental program in Australian Indigenous studies.

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.

Completing an Australian Indigenous studies co-major

The Faculty of Arts offers BA students the opportunity to undertake a co-major in Australian Indigenous studies. The co-major must be taken in conjunction with another BA major. The structure of the co-major varies according to the combining major. There are four co-major options with Australian Indigenous studies:

- a major in anthropology or geography;
- a major in history;
- a major in political science;
- a major in other areas of study in the humanities.

It is not possible to complete an Indigenous studies co-major without also completing a separate major in another area.

A co-major in Australian Indigenous studies requires the completion of subjects totalling 112.5 points (usually nine 12.5-point subjects), which must be taken alongside, and separate to, a major in another area of study. The co-major comprises:

two first-year subjects (25 points):

121-104 Introduction to Indigenous Cultures (*p.1*)
and

166-120 Indigenous People and the State (*p.3*)

seven second/third-year subjects (87.5 points):

four of these subjects (50 points) must be selected from the list of second/third-year or third/fourth-year specialist subjects below;

the remaining subjects (37.5 points) may be selected from the list of second/third-year or third/fourth-year specialist or comparative subjects below.

Students enrolled in some BA combined degrees (arts/engineering, arts/geomeng, arts/law, arts/social work, arts/teaching, and arts/medicine) will not be able to complete a co-major in Australian Indigenous studies without over-enrolling their arts course, see *Taking extra subjects (over-enrolling)* (*p.10*). BA combined degree students wishing to complete a co-major in Australian Indigenous studies should choose their first-year subjects carefully to ensure that they complete the correct prerequisite subjects for both majors.

Australian Indigenous studies subjects

Students are advised to check subject prerequisites before enrolling. Students wishing to undertake subjects below that are taught by the Faculty of Education or the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences must contact these faculties before enrolling for course advice and to obtain written permission to enrol.

Specialist subjects	Sem.
Faculty of Arts	
First year	
121-104 Introduction to Indigenous Cultures (<i>p.1</i>)	2
166-120 Indigenous People and the State (<i>p.3</i>)	2
Faculty of Education	
First year	
472-106 Indigenous Culture and Learning (<i>p.1</i>) (study abroad subject available to international students only)	1 rep 2
Faculty of Arts	
Second/third year	
102-005 Exploring Central Australia (<i>p.3</i>)	1 rep 2

Specialist subjects	Sem.
106-045 Aboriginal Writing (<i>p.7</i>)	1
106-063 Aboriginal Cultural Studies (<i>p.9</i>)	2
107-030 Contemporary Aboriginal Art (<i>p.3</i>)	2
121-224 Garma Fieldwork (<i>p.4</i>) (25 points)	2
121-226 Native Title (<i>p.4</i>)	2
131-051 Aboriginal & Pacific Islander Histories (<i>p.9</i>)	1
166-038 Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (<i>p.6</i>)	1
166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (<i>p.3</i>)	1
166-230 On Country Learning: Indigenous Studies (<i>p.8</i>)	Summer
175-018 Language&Society in Aboriginal Australia (<i>p.4</i>)	2
730-394 Indigenous People, History and the Law (<i>p.8</i>)	N/A

Third/fourth year

121-434 Fieldwork Research Project (<i>p.7</i>)	2
121-458 Australian Quaternary Environments (<i>p.7</i>)	2
131-471 Indigenous Politics and History (<i>p.22</i>)	2
175-417 Structure of Aboriginal Languages (<i>p.5</i>)	N/A
191-427 Crime Ethnicity and Race (<i>p.4</i>)	2

Faculty of Education

Second/third year

476-202 Education 2B Indigenous Aust Studies (<i>p.4</i>)	1
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Third/fourth year

472-402 Indigenous Australian Studies (<i>p.7</i>)	1
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Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

505-435 Koori Health: Past to Present

505-436 Policy Processes in Aboriginal Health 1

505-437 Ethical Practice in Aboriginal Health 1

Comparative subjects with Indigenous studies components

Faculty of Arts

First year

131-109 Australian Colonial (<i>p.3</i>)	1
131-190 Australian Modern (<i>p.4</i>)	2
136-175 The Ecological History of Humankind (<i>p.2</i>)	2
166-111 Australian Society (<i>p.3</i>)	2
175-108 Cross-Cultural Communication (<i>p.2</i>)	2

Second/third year

102-003 Australia and America (<i>p.2</i>)	1 rep 2
106-003 Media and Cultural Difference (<i>p.3</i>)	2
107-085 Australian Cinema (<i>p.4</i>)	2
121-231 Indigenous Peoples & Resource Management (<i>p.5</i>)	2
131-025 Empire, Race and Human Rights: 1800-2000 (<i>p.6</i>)	Summer
131-073 Human Rights in Australian History (<i>p.11</i>)	1
136-213 Environmental History of Australia (<i>p.5</i>)	1
166-004 Change & Conflict in Australian Society (<i>p.3</i>)	2
166-021 International Relations and its Others (<i>p.5</i>)	2
166-081 Quantitative Social Research (<i>p.2</i>)	2
175-020 Language & Culture (<i>p.4</i>)	2

For more information

Prospective students are advised to consult with the Australian Indigenous Studies Program Office, housed in the School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies (SAGES):

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The University of Melbourne

Victoria 3010

Tel: +61 3 8344 9156

Fax: +61 3 8344 9162

Email: indigenous-studies@unimelb.edu.au

Web: <http://www.indigenous.unimelb.edu.au>

First year subject

121-104 Introduction to Indigenous Cultures

Note: With the approval of the Anthropology undergraduate coordinator this subject may be included in a major in Anthropology.

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: To be advised

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

Description: This subject will introduce aspects of cultural expression among Indigenous peoples in Australia across a range of contemporary contexts with emphasis on conceptualisations of identity, place, community and ownership.

Students who complete this subject will have a sound knowledge of these concepts and the ability to pursue a major in Australian Indigenous studies. Contemporary practices in music, dance and theatre among Indigenous Australians will be a primary focus, and comparative international case studies will also be discussed. This subject will explore issues of cultural representation, authenticity, appropriation, syncretism, mediation and cultural activism through its examination of the projection of identity, place, community, and ownership through performative media. Texts and other materials by scholars and leading practitioners in the fields of music, dance, theatre, anthropology, cultural geography and cultural studies will be made available in a student manual and listed in a bibliography. Guest lecturers from these fields will be invited to deliver case-study presentations.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words comprising a performance review of 1500 words 30% (due in week 5), a research essay of 2500 words 55% (due in week 12) and tutorial and workshop participation 15%.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.