

Australian Studies

Conveners: Professor Kate Darian-Smith (The Australian Centre) and Associate Professor John Murphy (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.

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, see general estimates of the total time commitment required to study a 12.5-point single semester subject in the Faculty of Arts (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.
Australian studies	
102-111 Australia Now (p.2)	1 rep 2
History	
131-102 Australia in the World: 1914-2001 (p.3)	2
Political science	
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.
Australian studies	
No more than two of the following Australian studies 102-coded 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

Second/third year	Sem.
102-005 Exploring Central Australia (p.2)	1 rep 2
102-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity (p.3)	1
102-213 Face, Place, Race: Images of Australia (p.3) (winter intensive)	2

Cinema studies	
107-085 Australian Cinema (p.3)	N/A

Geography	
121-021 Environmental Politics and Management (p.3)	1

History	
131-022 You Beauty! Sport & Australian Identity (p.6)	2
131-026 Picturing Australia (p.6)	1
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.10)	N/A
131-240 Controversies in Australian History (p.16)	1

Linguistics and applied linguistics	
175-018 Language in Aboriginal Australia (p.4)	N/A

Political science	
166-038 Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (p.6)	2

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.
Australian studies	
No more than two of the following Australian studies 102-coded 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.2)	1 rep 2
102-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity (p.3)	1
Art history	
107-046 Contemporary Australian Art (p.4)	N/A
107-080 Commodity Culture (p.3)	N/A
107-028 Australian Art: Colonial to Pop (p.3)	2
107-030 Contemporary Aboriginal Art (p.3)	1
Cinema studies	
107-077 Television and Australian Culture (p.2)	N/A
107-087 Contemporary Australian Cinema (p.4)	1
107-085 Australian Cinema (p.3)	N/A
107-037 Film and the Body (p.2)	N/A

English	
106-033 Writing After Empire (p.6)	2
106-045 Aboriginal Writing (p.7)	1
106-063 Aboriginal Cultural Studies (p.9)	2
106-064 Contemporary Cultural Studies (p.9)	2
106-050 Australian Authorship (p.8) (winter intensive)	2

Geography	
121-021 Environmental Politics and Management (p.3)	1
121-017 Society and Environments (p.2)	2
121-226 Native Title (p.4)	N/A
121-231 Indigenous Peoples & Resource Management (p.5)	2

History	
131-051 Aboriginal & Pacific Islander Histories (p.9)	1
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.10)	N/A
131-071 Museums, Objects, Spectacles (p.10)	N/A
131-021 Great Moments in Australian Sport (p.6)	N/A
131-022 You Beauty! Sport & Australian Identity (p.6)	2
131-026 Picturing Australia (p.6)	1
131-093 Migrants, Refugees & Australian Society (p.12)	2
131-210 Total War: Asia & the Pacific 1931-1952 (p.12)	2
131-222 Digging for Gold: Cultural Landscapes (p.13)	N/A
131-230 Resisting Colonialism: Australia-Pacific (p.14)	2
131-243 Australian Cultural Landscapes (p.16)	N/A
730-394 Indigenous People, History and the Law (p.11)	N/A

History and philosophy of science	
136-213 Environmental History of Australia (p.5)	Summer
136-313 Environmental History of Australia (Sc3) (p.7)	Summer

Political science	
166-004 Change & Conflict in Australian Society (p.3)	2

Second/third year

166-012	Australian Political Economy (p.4)	Sem.	2
166-022	Public Policy Making (p.5)		1
166-035	Australian Foreign Relations (p.6)		1
166-038	Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (p.6)		2
166-230	On Country Learning: Indigenous Studies (p.7)	N/A	

School of Creative Arts

760-213	Australian Theatre (p.15)		1
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Third/fourth year

Anthropology		Points	
121-457	Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (p.4)		12.5

Geography

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

Australian studies		Points	
102-511	Imaging Australian Spaces (p.3)		12.5
102-512	From Cosmopolitanism to Transnationalism (p.4)		12.5

Art history

107-424	Australian Artists in Europe 1880-1960 (p.8)		12.5
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History

131-471	Postcolonial and Indigenous Histories (p.21)		12.5
131-474	New Histories of Australian Politics (p.21)		12.5
131-466	Reading Australia (p.21)		12.5

Political science

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

Available to fourth year students with permission of the subject coordinator:		Points	
102-507	Themes in International Studies (p.4)		12.5
102-508	Theories in International Studies (p.4)		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.

For information on how to apply see *Applying for Honours* (p.13).

Combined honours requirements

Although it is possible to complete an honours thesis in Australian studies and there are two fourth-year/postgraduate subjects, 102-511 Imaging Australian Spaces (p.3) and 102-512 From Cosmopolitanism to Transnationalism (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 102-coded undergraduate subjects offered by the Australian Centre. This subject is recommended for students wishing to complete a major in Australian studies.

Availability: 1st and 2nd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Mr M Cathcart & A Prof N Papastergiadis

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 for Aborigines; immigration and asylum seekers; environmental concerns; social inequality; the relationships between men and women; Australia's identity and the impact of globalisation. 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 and Australian films and documentaries.

Assessment: An essay of 1500 words 25% (due mid-semester) and an essay of 2500 words 65% (due during the examination period). Students must complete all assignments and attend at least 70% of classes to be eligible for assessment 10%.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available to purchase.

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

Note: Students are not permitted to undertake within a 12-month period more than two 102-coded undergraduate subjects offered by the Australian Centre.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Fay Anderson

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: frontier histories and the rights of Indigenous people; issues of civil rights explored through ethnicity and gender; immigration and its resulting social and political consequences; war and society; crime and punishment; style and representation of political leadership and cultural influences; foreign policy and the ramifications of terrorism. 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 document exercise of 1500 words 30% (due mid-semester) and a research essay of 2500 words 60% (due after the examination period). Students must complete all assignments and attend at least 70% of classes to be eligible for assessment.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available to purchase.

102-005 Exploring Central Australia

Note: Students are not permitted to undertake within a 12-month period more than two 102-coded undergraduate subjects offered by the Australian Centre. This subject includes fieldwork in central Australia. An outline of the field-

work 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: Prof Kate 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.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available to purchase.

102-211 Migrant Nation: Culture and Identity

Note: Students are not permitted to undertake within a 12 month period more than two 102-coded undergraduate subjects offered by the Australian Centre.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Sara 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 Australia as a migrant nation, identifying its complex nature through a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Topics covered include the history and politics of Australian immigration, multicultural policies, theories of multiculturalism, migrant cultural forms and display, racial politics, refugee issues, case studies of migrant communities and ethnic/national identities. Students will engage with the work of historians, social and cultural theorists, policy makers, activists, writers and artists. This course will appeal to anyone with an interest in immigration, multiculturalism, ethnicity and national identity and those who seek to understand contemporary Australian society.

Assessment: A class paper 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). Students must complete all assignments and attend at least 70% of classes to be eligible for assessment.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available to purchase.

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

Note: Students are not permitted to undertake within a 12 month period more than two 102-coded undergraduate subjects offered by the Australian Centre.

Strict enrolment deadlines apply to subjects taught during the Winter Recess. Any enrolment in, or withdrawal from, this subject must be made in line with HECS/course fee census dates.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Caroline Jordan

Contact: This subject is taught intensively on 29, 30 June and 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 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 available to purchase.

Fourth-year subject

102-503 Australian Studies Thesis

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 37.5

Coordinator: Prof Kate Darian-Smith

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).

Fourth-year/postgraduate subjects

102-505 Australian Studies 5A

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Assoc Prof John Murphy

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%.

102-506 Australian Studies 5B

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Assoc Prof John Murphy

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%.

102-511 Imaging Australian Spaces

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Sara Wills

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: This subject allows students to examine the ways in which images of Australian culture and identity have been, and continue to be, challenged by changes to the nation's social and cultural fabric since the Second World War. The subject explores how images of Australia - conceived in a visual, literary and physical sense - have developed in the post-war years, and how these have been represented and promoted in local, national and international contexts. Through a series of case studies, the subject examines topics and issues such as rural and urban landscapes; cross-cultural, migrant and racialised spaces; senses of place and belonging; transnational understandings of Australia's place in the region and world; and how all these are shaped and affected by cultural memories of the past and the cultural politics of the present.

Assessment: There are 2 assessment components for this subject (and a hurdle requirement of attendance at a minimum of 8 out of 12 seminars). The components are: 1) a seminar presentation (25%) accompanied by a 1500 word discussion paper submitted within a week of the presentation; and 2) a major essay (75%) of 3500 words due at the end of semester.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available to purchase.

102-512 From Cosmopolitanism to Transnationalism

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Sara Wills

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 1*).

Description: This course offers an historical survey of ideas and experiences of empire, colonialism, nationalism, cosmopolitanism, transnationalism and globalism. These are all large and diffuse categories, but one key question they try to get at is about where do we feel we belong, and how is identity situated in place. The course first examines the imaginaries and social experiences of imperialists and anti-colonial movements - the latter frequently drew on nationalist ideas about identity. In the de-colonisation period, the self was often located between, and across, ideas of the nation-state and cosmopolitanism / internationalism. More current examples will be drawn from contemporary debates about transnational governance, refugee dislocation and people movements, global culture, and local/ethnic identities. The assessment for the course offers students an opportunity to undertake either original archival/textual research or oral history interviews.

Assessment: Each student will give a formal class presentation of a piece of original research based on either archival/textual analysis or oral history interviews. This will be of 1500 words and worth 35% (due during the semester), followed by an essay of 3500 words, worth 65% (due at the end of the semester). There is a hurdle requirement of 80% seminar attendance.

Assessment: Written assignments totalling 5000 words, comprising two 1000 word assignments 25% each (due over the course of the semester) and a 3000 word assignment 50% (due at the end of semester). Students must attend the seminars to be eligible for assessment.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available to purchase from the Bookroom before the start of teaching.

Postgraduate subjects

102-507 Themes in International Studies

Note: Available to fourth year students with permission of subject coordinator.

Strict enrolment deadlines apply to subjects taught intensively. Any enrolment in, or withdrawal from, this subject must be made in line with HECS/course fee census dates.

Availability: postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Prof K Darian Smith & A Prof J Murphy

Prerequisites: Admission to the Master of International Studies.

Contact: Intensive: Saturday and Sunday (9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.) March 18 and 19, and April 8 and 9 and two 2.5-hour seminars (4.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.) March 9 and May 11 (*Semester 1*).

Description: The subject offers students an introduction to the key themes in the International Studies program. Graduates of the MIS should be equipped with the skills to analyse and assess thematic approaches to International Studies in relation to issues of governance, conflict, and citizenship; globalization: modernity, migration, and communication; cultures and regions. The subject has an interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary structure.

Assessment: Written assignments totalling 5000 words, comprising two 1000 word assignments 25% each (due over the course of the semester) and a 3000 word assignment 50% (due at the end of semester). Students must attend the seminars to be eligible for assessment.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available to purchase from the Bookroom before the start of teaching.

102-508 Theories in International Studies

Note: Available to fourth year students with permission of subject coordinator.

Strict enrolment deadlines apply to subjects taught intensively. Any enrolment in, or withdrawal from, this subject must be made in line with HECS/course fee census dates.

Availability: postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Prof K Darian Smith & A Prof J Murphy

Prerequisites: Admission to the Master of International Studies.

Contact: Intensive: Saturday and Sunday (9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.) August 12 and 13, and September 2 and 3 and two 2.5-hour seminars (4.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.) August 3 and October 12 (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject will introduce students the most recent theoretical approaches and debates in International Studies, the historical context of these concerns, and their regional permutations. These include state-formation, world systems, post-colonialism, gender, identity, and globalisation. The subject has an interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary structure.