Australian Indigenous Studies

Convenor: Professor Marcia Langton (School of Social and Environmental Inquiry)

The University of Melbourne and the Faculty of Arts currently teach a range of subjects across many disciplines 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 interdisciplinary 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.

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

A co-major in Australian Indigenous studies requires the completion of subjects totalling 100 points (usually eight 12.5-point subjects), which must be taken alongside, and separate to, a major in another area of study. The co-major comprises:

two compulsory first-year subjects (25 points):

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

and

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

six second/third-year subjects (75 points):

four of these subjects (50 points) must be selected from the list of specialist subjects below;

the remaining subjects (25 points) may be selected from the lists of 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.5)*. 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.

First year compulsory subjects		Sem.
121-104	Introduction to Indigenous Cultures *(p.1)*	1
166-120	Indigenous People and the State *(p.3)*	2
additional first year subjects with Indigenous studies components		
121-107	Consuming Culture and Society *(p.2)*	2
175-108	Cross-Cultural Communication *(p.2)*	2
191-110	Law in Society *(p.2)*	2
472-106	Indigenous Culture and Learning *(p.1)* (study abroad subject available to international students only)	1 rep 2

Specialist subjects		Sem.
Faculty of Arts		
Second/third year		
102-005	Exploring Central Australia *(p.3)*	1 rep 2
106-045	Aboriginal Writing *(p.7)*	2
106-063	Aboriginal Cultural Studies *(p.9)*	1
107-030	Contemporary Aboriginal Art *(p.3)*	2
121-224	Garma Fieldwork *(p.4)* (25 points)	2
121-231	Indigenous Peoples & Resource Management *(p.5)*	N/A
131-051	Aboriginal & Pacific Islander Histories *(p.7)*	2
131-230	Resisting Colonialism: Australia-Pacific *(p.12)*	N/A
166-038	Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage *(p.5)*	1
166-230	On Country Learning: Indigenous Studies *(p.7)*	1
175-018	Language in Aboriginal Australia *(p.4)*	N/A
Third year		
166-013	Parliamentary Internship *(p.7)*	1
166-039	Public Affairs Internship (Int.Students) *(p.7)*	1 rep 2
166-043	Public Affairs Internship *(p.8)*	1 rep 2
166-044	Parliamentary Internship (Int.Students) *(p.8)*	1
Third/fourth year		
107-472	Aboriginal Art in the Northern Territory *(p.7)*	2
121-434	Fieldwork Research Project *(p.6)*	N/A
121-458	Australian Quaternary Environments *(p.6)*	2
175-417	Structure of Aboriginal Languages *(p.5)*	N/A
191-415	Youth, Crime and Society *(p.4)*	2
191-417	Corporate and White Collar Crime *(p.4)*	1
Faculty of Education		
Second/third year		
476-202	Education 2B Indigenous Aust Studies *(p.4)*	1
Third/fourth year		
472-402	Indigenous Australian Studies *(p.7)*	1
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences		
505-435	Koori Health: Past to Present	
505-436	Policy Processes in Aboriginal Health 1	
Faculty of Law		
730-391	Law and Indigenous Peoples in Australia *(p.15)*	1

Comparative subjects		Sem.
106-003	Media and Cultural Difference *(p.3)*	N/A
107-007	Prehistoric Archaeology *(p.3)*	N/A
107-085	Australian Cinema *(p.3)*	N/A
121-061	Applied Anthropology *(p.2)*	N/A
131-025	Empire, Race and Human Rights: 1800-2000 *(p.5)*	1
131-071	Museums, Objects, Spectacles *(p.8)*	1
131-073	Human Rights in Australian History *(p.9)*	2
131-240	Controversies in Australian History *(p.13)*	1
166-004	Change & Conflict in Australian Society *(p.3)*	N/A
166-081	Quantitative Social Research *(p.2)*	2
166-086	Qualitative Research Strategies *(p.3)*	1
175-020	Language & Culture *(p.4)*	N/A

Recommended fourth-year subjects		Points
106-459	Postcolonial Writing and Theory *(p.17)*	12.5
107-409	Indigenous Photography, New Media, Film *(p.7)*	12.5
107-429	Ethnographic and Documentary Cinema *(p.6)*	12.5
131-402	Crime Law & Punishment:Colonial Victoria *(p.15)*	12.5
131-443	Social and Cultural History *(p.17)*	12.5
131-455	Gender and Colonialism *(p.17)*	12.5
131-468	Oral History and Life Stories *(p.18)*	12.5
131-471	Postcolonial and Indigenous Histories *(p.19)*	12.5
131-473	Critical Race Theory *(p.19)*	12.5
166-411	Australian Politics:Democracy & Justice *(p.9)*	12.5
166-480	Parliamentary Research Project *(p.10)*	12.5
191-535	Current Research in Criminology *(p.7)*	12.5

For more information

Prospective students are advised to consult with the School of Social and Environmental Inquiry

School of Social and Environmental Enquiry
221 Bouverie Street
Carlton VIC 3010
Phone: +61 3 8344 9311
Fax: +61 3 9349 4218

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 1)*.

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 short exercise of 500 words 10% (due in week 3), a performance review of 1500 words 30% (due in week 5), a research essay of 2000 words 45% (due in week 12) and tutorial and workshop participation 15%.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available from the Bookroom at the beginning of semester