

LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE
AUSTRALIAN STUDIES PROGRAM 2017
Australian Area Studies

Summary

The *Australian Area Studies* course introduces students to the history of European settlement in Australia and the development of Australian public institutions by looking at some of the major events in Australian history since 1788. Additionally, this course examines ideas relating to nation-building and cultural identity: how the identity of the country and its people is linked to the unique physical environment of the Australian continent and how that identity is conveyed in Australian art, literature and film. *Area Studies* also provides an historical framework for understanding the ways in which contemporary Australian society has developed.

Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- outline the factors leading to the first European settlement in Sydney;
- outline the factors influencing the pattern of subsequent European settlement throughout Australia;
- describe influences upon the formation of an Australian national identity and 'typical' characteristics of Australians;
- discuss how Australian art, literature and film have contributed to the development of an Australian national identity;
- describe the Australian political system and discuss major differences between it and the US political system;
- discuss the relationship of non-indigenous Australians to their physical environment; and
- draw conclusions about the appropriateness of a dominant Australian identity in the context of modern society.

List of activities

Sydney

AS-L1	Introduction to the Australian continent <i>(geomorphology, geology, vegetation and land use)</i>
AS-L2	Introduction to Australia's climate <i>(climatic zones, climatic phenomena, seasonality, weather patterns, topographical effects and human influence on climate)</i>
AS-L3	European settlement of Australia I <i>(the First Fleet, the penal colony at Sydney Cove, other penal colonies, early contact with Aborigines)</i>
AS-L4	European settlement of Australia II <i>(exploration, agriculture and grazing, gold rushes, pioneer lifestyles)</i>
AS-Ex1	European settlement of Australia III <i>(visit the Hyde Park Barracks: Exploring colonial Sydney)</i>
AS-L5	An Australian national identity? <i>('typical' Australian characteristics, the function of national mythologies and symbols, problems with defining a national identity, evolving identities)</i>
AS-L6	ANZAC (Australian participation in World War I, the emergence of the Digger as hero, trauma of war and return, development of post-war Anzac commemoration and myth-making)
AS-Ex2	Visit ANZAC memorial
AS-L7	Women in Australian history <i>(colonial women, pioneer women, Aboriginal women, evolution of women's rights)</i>
AS-L8	Australian environmental history since European settlement <i>(attitudes towards the environment over time, the role of nature in forging a national identity, separate notions of the bush, suburbia and the city, the rise of environmentalism)</i>
AS-Ex3	Telling Australian stories I – Art <i>(visit New South Wales Art Gallery: Non-indigenous Australian art from early colonial times onwards)</i>
AS-V1	Film viewing – 'Ten Canoes'
AS-L9	Telling Australian stories II – Film <i>(history of Australian film, theoretical approaches to viewing Australian films)</i>
AS-D	Film Discussion – 'Ten Canoes'

Key: AS = Area Studies; L = Lecture; Ex = Excursion; Wsp = Workshop / discussion; V = Video.

Brisbane

- AS-L10** Political institutions in Australia
(Federation and the Australian Constitution, the Westminster system and the Australian “Washminster” mutation, the Australian government – Parliament, Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Public Service)
- AS-L11** The Australian electoral and party systems
(elections and systems of voting, party-based politics, the major parties, the role of minor parties and independents)
- AS-Ex4** Australian politics in action
(visit Queensland Parliament House)
- AS-L12** Australia at war
(Australia’s military history since the nineteenth century, war and the rise of Australian nationalism)
- AS-L13** Telling Australian stories III – Literature
(history of non-indigenous Australian writing, theoretical approaches to reading Australian literature)
- AS-Wsp1** Aboriginal storytelling
- AS-L14** Management of Australia’s natural resources – environmental destruction
(introduced approaches to land management, depletion and degradation)
- AS-L15** Management of Australia’s natural resources – environmental rehabilitation
(rehabilitation, sustainability, responsibility for management)
- AS-L16** Sport in Australia
(history and culture of sport, sport and nationalism, Aborigines, migrants and women in Australian sport)