

# Australian Issues:

**Politics, Culture & Identity.**

**Santa Clara University:**

**Course Code: SYDI ANAU 360**

3 semester credits/5 quarter units



**ARCADIA UNIVERSITY**  
THE COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

**Lecturer: Michael Elphick** Dip Teach. B.Ed. M.Ed. M.A. AIAMA.

## Course Description

This multidisciplinary course provides students with an introduction to Australian society, past and present. Students will consider the major social, political and cultural themes of contemporary Australian society and how they have been shaped by past policies and practice. A particular interest will be the rights of indigenous Australians and their encounters with white Australia. The course will examine the broad architecture of the Australian political system and consider how it differs from that of other western democracies. Australia's role in global affairs and its contribution to issues such as global warming, globalization and the war on terror will also be considered.

## Learning Objectives:

Students will:

- Develop an appreciation of Indigenous Australian culture.
- Appreciate the history of European contact with the Australian continent and Australia's place within the British colonial experiment;
- Explore historical encounters between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
- Develop an appreciation of Indigenous responses to colonization and the continuing struggle for Indigenous rights and justice
- Provide an understanding of the way the Australian identity has been formed over the 20th century.
- Analyze the cultural and political diversity of contemporary Australia
- Consider the dominant cultural and political trends emerging in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Australia.

## Course Requirements

In addition to scheduled classes the course includes out of hours activities such as museum visits, public speaking events, films, theatre outings and other excursions that support the program's themes. Depending on the schedule of events some of these activities are required while others are options. Students receive a percentage of their marks based on attendance and participation at these events.

**Class hours:** Approximately 40 hours in a combination of lectures, seminars and excursions.

Independent study: 40 hours.

## Student Assessment – 5,000 words equivalent

There are two broad categories of formal written assessment – tutorial papers and an essay – as well there is 20% available for attendance at events outside scheduled course hours.

### Task 1: Tutorial papers – 50%

Five short tutorial papers will be required throughout the course. These are based on the content of lectures, films and other activities. They will require thoughtful reflection on a topic discussed in class.

Tutorial papers may also require reference to articles provided during class. Topics will be provided each week. (5 papers at 10 marks per paper)

**Task 2: Class Attendance & Participation – 20%**

Attendance at class is a course requirement. Students should not absent themselves from class without prior arrangement with the course presenter. Active participation and a positive contribution to class discussions is strongly encouraged. The 20% score is awarded for class participation, which includes attendance at lectures, films, theatre events, museum visits, and public lectures as listed in the calendar of lectures.

**Task 3: The Essay – 30%.**

The essay question may be based on an Australian novel or play provided by the lecturer. The question along with the text is made available early in the course.

**Suggested Readings:**

A set course reader is provided for this course. In addition supporting articles are posted on Blackboard. Other relevant texts include:

Broome, Richard. Aboriginal Australians; A history since 1788. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2010.

Clark, Manning. On Gallipoli. Melbourne University Press. 2005.

Curran, James & Ward, Stuart. The Unknown Nation: Australia After Empire. Melbourne University Press, 2010.

Evatt, Herbert Vere. The Tolpuddle Martyrs: Injustice within the Law. Sydney University Press, 2009.

Healey, J.(Ed) 'Government in Australia.' Issues in Society, Vol.192, Spinney Press, Sydney, 2003.

Healey, J. (Ed) 'Racism in Australia.' Issues in Society, Vol.180, Spinney Press, Sydney, 2003.

Jackson, Tim. Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for Finite Planet. Earthscan, London, 2009

Keneally, Thomas. Australians – Origins to Eureka Volume 1. Allen and Unwin, Sydney 2009.

Leuinig, Michael. The Lot In Words. Penguin Australia 2008.

Loewen, James W. Lies My Teacher Told Me. Touchstone Publishers, New York, 2007

Manne, R. (Ed) White Wash: On Keith Windshuttle's Fabrication of Aboriginal History. Black Inc. Agenda, Melbourne, 2003.

Marr, D & Wilkinson, M. Dark Victory. Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2005.

O'Neill, Margaret. Blind Conscience. New South Wales University press, 2008

Perkins, Rachael (ed) The First Australians, An illustrated History. The Miegunyah Press, Melbourne University, 2008.

Schultz, Julianne. The Griffith Review: People Like Us. ABC Books, Sydney 2005

Stilwell, Frank. Who Gets What: Analyzing Economic Inequality in Australia. Cambridge University Press, 2007.

**Sample Course Outline** : Once class dates are established students are provided with a copy of the course outline including an up-to-date class schedule. The sample outline below does not include out of class activities that are scheduled once options and dates are determined.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Class 1	Introduction - Course Overview Australia - The Basics: Facts & Figures	Lecture
Class 2	Aboriginal Australia	Lecture
Class 3	British & European Beginnings	Lecture
Class 4	First Contact: Occupation or Settlement? The Aboriginal Wars The First Australians'	Lecture Film
Class 5	From Convict Colony to Settlement: Lachlan Macquarie & the Early Governors.	Lecture
Class 6	The Museum of Sydney	Excursion
Class 7	Australian Political Institutions	Lecture
Class 8	The NSW Parliament (State House)	Excursion
Class 9	The Making of Modern Australia - Australia and the 20th Century	Lecture
Class 10	The Sydney Jewish Museum Darlinghurst	Excursion
Class 11	A Contemporary Australian Identity	Lecture
Class 12	In class exam - class evaluation.	

\* Each class is 3 hours long