

AUSTRALIA PROGRAM (GAUS) COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GAUS 330 – Culture, Place and Identity in Australia (3 units)

This interdisciplinary seminar provides students with an overview of Australian history and an introduction to Australian culture and representations of national identity. Through readings, films, excursions, guest speakers and class discussions, students will consider the major social, political, and cultural themes of contemporary Australian society and how they have been shaped by past policies and practices. Of particular importance will be the impact of colonialism, issues of social justice and the question of human rights for Indigenous peoples, for those seeking asylum in Australia, and for other marginalized groups. Students will explore the impact and application of important theoretical concerns and relevant contemporary debates in Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Studies and Indigenous Studies to enrich their understanding of local, national and global issues. To this end, comparisons with North America and other settler societies will be included in course discussions, enabling students to both learn about Australia as well as consider their own identity, culture and history in light of the critiques presented in this course.

GAUS 331 – Environmental Sustainability (3 units)

In addition to offering an ongoing critique of current approaches to resource use in modern fossil-driven, industrial-based society, the course provides an overview of principles and applications of ethically sound and ecologically sustainable approaches to resource and land use, energy harvesting and applications, and architectural design in both the Australian and global context. We will study the principles of other appropriate designs for sustainable living, including a focus on the use of Permaculture and its importance for sustainable land settlement, and on alternative agriculture as a path to sustainable food production in local and regional communities. We will also look at the issue of local, community-based economics, and the notion of 'Alternative Economics' as a basis for a sustainable society. We will use a combination of classroom lectures, readings, DVDs, workshops, field trips, site visits, and hands-on experience to present course material. Classes will be held in student houses or at designated sites when workshop and site visits are involved.

GAUS 332 –Encountering Australia's Environment (3 units)

Based on an experiential learning framework consisting of preparatory study, field trips and structured reflection, this innovative outdoor course allows students to directly experience and relate to Australia's unique environment as well as challenge their own understanding of concepts such as nature, culture and wilderness. Via outdoor activities such as camping in bushland, swimming under waterfalls, hiking in forests and climbing rocks in national parks and other protected areas, students will explore and gain a first-hand understanding of diverse ecosystems, different ways of knowing and relating to the land, and the relationships between natural and cultural landscapes, particularly by spending time with Indigenous peoples on their lands. While individual venues are subject to change, the course typically includes group travel to coastal areas of northern New South Wales such as Cape Byron, Broken Head and other coastal national parks, several national parks on the New England Tableland, including those exemplifying subtropical rainforest and open-canopy bushlands, and Bald Rock - the second largest monolith in Australia. Furthermore, students will spend up to a week camping at Gudhum Wadjelah, a Bundjalung-run Aboriginal bush learning camp and spend time with custodians on their land. Finally, the course involves independent travel towards the end of semester where students are free to visit environments of their choice, such as Tasmania's ancient forests, the Outback, the Great Barrier Reef, the Daintree Rainforest, and Fraser Island – the world's largest sand island.

GAUS 333 - Australia's First Peoples (3 units)

The Course introduces students to the diversity and complexity of Indigenous Australian Peoples, philosophy and cultures. Through quality print and audio-visual materials, guest lectures, field trips and class discussions students will be introduced to a diverse and challenging range of Indigenous perspectives, cultural values and practices. Students will consider Indigenous knowledge as valid contemporary ways of knowing, relevant to informing a sustainable and socially just global future. Students will be encouraged to develop a critical awareness of the issues pertaining to human rights and social justice for Indigenous Australian peoples through an investigation of the interactions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian society and the dominant processes of Indigenous exploitation.

GNYC 310 – Globalization (3 units)

This innovative blended course will provide students in several LIU Global centers and programs around the world with the opportunity to engage with the phenomenon of globalization within a virtual global classroom. Combining high-quality interactive online learning platforms with LIU Global's signature pedagogy of culturally immersive experiential learning, the course will explore the history and contemporary manifestations of globalization in its relationship to various local contexts. By drawing on cutting-edge scholarship on globalization, engaging with local communities through targeted field work experiences, and connecting with their peers in other centers and programs around the world, students will be able to gain a comprehensive multi-faceted understanding of key issues of the global age – such as social justice and global labor markets, media and the internet, crime and regulation as well as language and popular culture – and how these play out in different cultural, economic and social contexts.

GNYC 340 Junior Research Seminar (2 units)

This online required course provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to research, organize and write a thesis proposal as well as a fully developed research paper that incorporates multiple primary and secondary resources that students evaluate according to the pyramid of sources and through critical readings. Students also learn to narrow down a general topic into a manageable project, organize it through scheduling, notes and interviews, and become familiar with the various ways of citing sources and avoiding plagiarism. This course is a prerequisite for the Independent Study Semester.