2018 Student Guide

Indigenous Studies Major

School of Literature, Art and Media
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
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Information in this booklet is to be used as a guide only, as there may be changes closer to the start of the academic year. Please check the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Future Students web page for complete course and study information:

http://sydney.edu.au/arts/future_students/
Welcome

“Welcome to the Indigenous Studies program!

The Indigenous Studies program at the University of Sydney is taught on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We acknowledge and pay our respects to Gadigal country, community and elders past, present and emerging. Our teaching and learning always respects the knowledge and wisdom embedded forever in Aboriginal country.

The Indigenous Studies program welcomes all people to learn about Indigenous cultures from Australia and around the world. With a focus on Indigenous voices, scholarship and content, you can learn about Indigenous knowledges, cosmologies, histories and cultures by studying across disciplines such as Law, Linguistics, English, History, Anthropology, Astronomy, Politics and Social Sciences, Education, Art History, Museum Studies, Agriculture, Music and the Health Sciences. You are encouraged to think about Indigenous Studies through a broadly decolonising and environmentally progressive disciplinary framework, and will build the necessary foundations for successful future career choices that can positively engage with Indigenous communities and support their cultural wellbeing, integrity and expression.

I look forward to seeing you in our year one units, INDG1001 Introduction to Indigenous Cultures and INDG1002 Introduction to Indigenous History!

If you have any questions, you can email me any time at: peter.minter@sydney.edu.au.”

Dr Peter Minter
Director of Indigenous Studies Program
Indigenous Studies

At the University of Sydney

Indigenous Studies gives students an opportunity to develop a deep understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and knowledge systems, drawing upon the ideas and methods of disciplines including history, anthropology, sociology, literature, linguistics, film and health studies. It involves these disciplines in a critical dialogue with traditional and contemporary Indigenous people and cultures, and with social and political histories of colonisation and decolonisation.

The units offered reflect national and international trends in the discipline of Indigenous Studies, and articulate the many voices, perspectives and priorities of Indigenous peoples and communities. Students are given the opportunity to engage in analysis, discussion and debate around key issues that are of significance to Australian and international Indigenous peoples, such as language revitalisation, world-leading Indigenous film and literature, the ongoing efforts to improve Indigenous health outcomes and the broader pursuit of Indigenous self-determination and social justice.

Taught by Indigenous and non-Indigenous academic staff from across the University, and experts from the wider community, Indigenous Studies units are offered through the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and are available to all students.
Major and Minor

in Indigenous Studies

Requirements for completion

A major in Indigenous Studies requires 48 credit points from the Unit of Study table including:

(i) 12 credit points of 1000-level units
(ii) 6 credit points of 2000-level core unit
(iii) 6 credit points of 2000-level selective units
(iv) 6 credit points of 3000-level core unit
(v) 12 credit points of 3000-level selective units
(vi) FASS3999 Interdisciplinary Project unit

A minor in Indigenous Studies requires 36 credit points from the Unit of Study table including:

i) 12 credit points of 1000-level units
(ii) 6 credit points of 2000-level core unit
(iii) 6 credit points of 2000-level selective units
(iv) 6 credit points of 3000-level core unit
(v) 6 credit points of 3000-level selective units
First year
Guided by the rubric of Cultural Wellbeing, Cultural Integrity and Cultural Expression, the Indigenous Studies major and minor commence with two introductory units, INDG1001 Introduction to Indigenous Cultures and INDG1002 Introduction to Indigenous History. In INDG1001 students learn about the Dreaming, cosmology and country, kinship and custodianship, songlines, language revitalization, Aboriginal astronomy, agriculture, aquaculture, and creative expression in art, literature, film and music. In INDG1002 students focus on the history of Indigenous Australia since colonisation, and learn about important political and legal issues such as colonisation, dispossession, assimilation and the stolen generations, and the resurgence of Indigenous rights in twentieth century struggles for civil rights, land rights, self-determination and native title.

Second year
In second year of the Indigenous Studies major and minor, students strengthen and deepen their knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Australia by taking one core unit, INDG2001 Indigenous Land and Culture, and selective units from Art History, Anthropology, History, Linguistics and Latin American Studies. In INDG2001 students explore the social, political, philosophical and cosmological significance of the connection between Land and Culture, and are introduced to more advanced methodological discourses that have emerged within the discipline of Indigenous Studies. Students are able to apply such learning in selective units that provide ample opportunity for a focus on emerging disciplinary interests.

Third year
In third year of the Indigenous Studies major and minor, students further strengthen and deepen their knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Australia by taking one core unit, INDG3001 Indigenous Studies Methodologies, and selective units from Art History, English, Education, Racism, and Politics, and the Faculty Interdisciplinary project. In INDG3001 students undertake an advanced study of key national and international methodological discourses within the discipline of Indigenous Studies. Senior selective units provide opportunities for the advanced application of knowledge and skills within key disciplinary areas.
1000-level units of study
INDG1001 Introduction to Indigenous Cultures
INDG1002 Introduction to Indigenous History

2000-level units of study
Core
INDG2001 Indigenous Land and Culture
Selective
INDG2002 Indigenous Art and Culture
INDG2004 Indigenous Wellbeing
INDG2005 Learning an Australian Language
ANTH2605 Aboriginal Australia: Cultural Journeys
ANTH2630 Indigenous Australians and Modernity
ARHT2636 Contemporary Indigenous Art
HSTY2693 Frontier Violence in Modern Memory
HSTY2696 The Empire Strikes Back
LNGS2611 Australia’s Indigenous Languages
SPAN2615 Indigenous Movements in Latin America

3000-level units of study
Core
INDG3001 Indigenous Studies Methodologies
Selective
INDG3002 Indigenous Studies Research Project
INDG3003 Race, Racism and Indigenous Australia
INDG3006 De/colonising Indigenous Education
INDG3005 Re-awakening Australian Languages
AGEN3008 Indigenous Land and Food Knowledge
ARHT3636 Issues in Indigenous Art
ENGL3705 Writing Country: Indigenous Ecopoetics
GOVT3998 Aboriginal and TSI Politics and Policy
Interdisciplinary project
FASS3999 Faculty Interdisciplinary Unit

Note: not every unit is offered every year. For 2018 INDG units see page 10.
## Example Pathways

### Indigenous Studies Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Additional Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Year</td>
<td>Sem One</td>
<td>INDG1001 Introduction to Indigenous Culture</td>
<td>1000 level unit</td>
<td>1000 level unit in another major/minor from Table A or S*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sem Two</td>
<td>INDG1002 Introduction to Indigenous History</td>
<td>1000 level unit</td>
<td>1000 level unit in another major/minor from Table A or S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Year</td>
<td>Sem One</td>
<td>INDG2001 Indigenous Land and Culture</td>
<td>2000 level unit</td>
<td>2000 level unit/OLE* in another major/minor from Table A or S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sem Two</td>
<td>One 2000 level selective unit from the Indigenous Studies major table</td>
<td>2000 level unit</td>
<td>2000 level unit/OLE in another major/minor from Table A or S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Year</td>
<td>Sem One</td>
<td>INDG3001 Indigenous Studies Methodologies</td>
<td>One 3000 level selective unit from the Indigenous Studies major table</td>
<td>3000 level unit in another major from Table A or S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sem Two</td>
<td>One 3000 level selective unit from the Indigenous Studies major table</td>
<td>FASS3999 Interdisciplinary project unit</td>
<td>3000 level unit in another major from Table A or S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*OLE: Open Learning Environment unit of study
* Table A: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences majors, minors and units of study
* Table S: University shared pool of majors, minors and units of study
2018 Indigenous Studies Units

Semester 1
INDG1001 Introduction to Indigenous Cultures
INDG2001 Indigenous Land and Culture
INDG3001 Indigenous Studies Methodologies
INDG3003 Race, Racism and Indigenous Australia

Semester 2
INDG1002 Introduction to Indigenous History
INDG2005 Learning an Australian Language
INDG3005 Re-awakening Australian Languages

Check the availability of interdepartmental selective units in the Indigenous Studies Major here:

“Frill Necked Lizard Totem” © Lynette Riley. Used with permission.
1000 Level Units

INDG1001 Introduction to Indigenous Cultures
This unit introduces students to Indigenous Australia in a stimulating, in-depth study of traditional and contemporary forms of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural expression. Ranging from the Dreaming and ancient knowledges, ceremony and lore, to the lives and societies of Indigenous peoples today, students learn in areas such Aboriginal kinship, language, story and art, Indigenous agriculture, aquaculture and astronomy, and contemporary Indigenous cultures and cultural currents.

INDG1002 Introduction to Indigenous History
This unit of study focuses on the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples since colonisation, exploring key social, political and legal events, issues and debates, and the people behind them. Students will learn about important historical events and social issues in areas such as civil and political rights, land rights, self-determination and reconciliation, developing an understanding of how these events and issues have shaped the shared history of Australia. The unit introduces a decolonising methodology that will underpin further work in the major.

2000 Level Units

INDG2001 Indigenous Land and Culture
This unit explores the centrality of the connection between land and culture to the continuity and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Students learn about Country and Indigenous relationships with, responsibilities to and care of place, and the maintenance of land, language and culture. A rights based perspective is used to explore Indigenous political history and activism in maintaining and protecting Country and culture. Students survey local and international case studies to illuminate the links between land, cultural rights and human rights.

INDG2005 Learning an Australian Language
Gamilaraay is an Indigenous Australian language from the mid-northwest of NSW that is currently undergoing revitalisation. This unit of study will provide students with a basic competence in speaking, understanding, reading and writing Gamilaraay sufficient to recognise and construct simple utterances in the language, and to understand its relationships with other languages. Classes will progressively develop each student’s abilities in the language.
3000 Level Units

**INDG3001 Indigenous Studies Methodologies**

In Indigenous Research Methods, students will be encouraged to understand and critically evaluate the range of methodologies used in Indigenous Studies. This will serve as preparation for students' independent research project, also undertaken in the third year, providing them with an understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural protocols and ethical approaches to Indigenous Studies research.

**INDG3003 Race, Racism and Indigenous Australia**

In this unit students critically examine race and racism and their impacts on Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Students consider theories of structural and cultural violence; how racism is linked to poverty, justice and human rights; critical whiteness theory; and race representation. With an emphasis on Indigenous Australia, students gain an understanding of visible and invisible racism and skills for unmasking racism in a process of constructive individual and social change.

**INDG3005 Re-awakening Australian Languages**

Australia holds an unenviable record for its loss of Indigenous languages and actively pursues a de facto policy of English monolingualism. This unit examines how Indigenous communities are resisting this trend and reviving so-called extinct languages through examining the roles of language policy and planning, community activism, language centres, education, technology and the linguistic processes involved. Lecture and tutorial content is supplemented by a fieldwork excursion (at additional cost) to a regional language centre and associated school programs.
Dr Peter Minter
peter.minter@sydney.edu.au
Dr Peter Minter shares Koori and Celtic heritage, and is Program Director of the Indigenous Studies Major. He is an ARC Chief Investigator on the “AustLit: The Australian Literature Resource” consortium, contributing to the national “BlackWords” Aboriginal literature digital humanities infrastructure project. He is author and editor of numerous books, including the Macquarie PEN Anthology of Aboriginal Literature, and was a founding member of the First Nations Australia Writers’ Network.

Mr Stephen Gilchrist
stephen.gilchrist@sydney.edu.au
Belonging to the Yamatji people of Western Australia, Stephen Gilchrist is the Associate Lecturer of Indigenous Art. He has curated numerous exhibitions in Australia and the United States and has worked with the Indigenous collections of the National Gallery of Australia, The British Museum and the National Gallery of Victoria.

Mr John Hobson
john.hobson@sydney.edu.au
John joined the University in 1995 as the coordinator of student support services in the Koori Centre after spending 10 years working with Aboriginal languages in Central Australia. During that time he held a range of positions including linguist at the Institute for Aboriginal Development, linguist/ literature production coordinator for Yipirinya School and coordinator of the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics of Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in Alice Springs.
Ms Susan Poetsh  
susan.poetsch@sydney.edu.au
Susan is undertaking a PhD thesis as part of the *Aboriginal Child Language Acquisition Project*. She joined The University of Sydney in 2010 as a lecturer in the Koori Centre. She teaches units of study in Indigenous education, Indigenous languages education in the Faculty of Education and Social Work, and units of study in the Indigenous Australian Studies major in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Dr Lynette Riley  
lynette.riley@sydney.edu.au
Lynette Riley is a Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi woman from Dubbo and Moree. She is currently employed as a Senior Lecturer within the University of Sydney, Sydney School of Education & Social Work. Lynette has more than 30 years working experience as a teacher and in Aboriginal education and administration within primary schools, high schools, TAFE, state office and universities.

Ms Katrina Thorpe  
katrina.thorpe@sydney.edu.au
Katrina Thorpe is a descendant of the Worimi people of Port Stephens, New South Wales. She was appointed to the Koori Centre in 1996 and for a short period (1999-2002), was a Lecturer at the Aboriginal Research and Resource Centre at the University of New South Wales. Katrina has taught Indigenous Studies across a number of Faculties including Education and Social Work, Arts and Social Sciences, and Nursing.

Dr Lorraine Towers  
lorraine.towers@sydney.edu.au
Lorraine is a lecturer at the School of Education and Social Work in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The themes of her research and teaching are: social structures, inequality and justice; and educational history, sociology and philosophy.
Key dates for 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Info Day</td>
<td>Lectures Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Dec 2017</td>
<td>30 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures begin</td>
<td>Census date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Mar</td>
<td>31 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census date</td>
<td>Open Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Mar</td>
<td>26 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester Break</td>
<td>Semester Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Apr - 6 Apr</td>
<td>24 Sep - 28 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of lectures</td>
<td>Last day of lectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Jun</td>
<td>3 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuvac</td>
<td>Stuvac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Jun - 15 Jun</td>
<td>5 Nov - 9 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam period</td>
<td>Exam Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Jun - 30 June</td>
<td>12 Nov - 24 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester ends</td>
<td>Semester ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Jul</td>
<td>24 Nov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prizes, Scholarships & Financial Assistance

Information on Departmental prizes and scholarships can be found on the Department’s website. Other scholarships and financial assistance available through the University can be found at:

sydney.edu.au/arts/future_students/scholarships

Policies

For information on policies that apply to current students, please visit: sydney.edu.au/students/

Summer & Winter Schools

Students can accelerate their program, catch up on a failed subject, balance their timetable, or study subjects outside their current program. Recent high school graduates can enrol in first year subjects. More Information can be found at:

sydney.edu.au/summer
Indigenous Studies Program

School of Literature, Art and Media (SLAM)

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

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sydney.edu.au/arts

Contact us

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