

INTRODUCTION TO AUSTRALIA

Lecturer: Török Gábor PhD

Classes: Thursday 16:15-17:45 Danubianum, "Z" 414

Contact: gabphone2014@gmail.com

Welcome to an introductory course on the "Land Down Under". Contrary to popular belief, or symbolic icons which immediately spring to mind, there are several more layers of interest to Australia than kangaroos, koalas, sun, sand and the sea. For example, courtesy of Indigenous inhabitants of the island, Australia possesses one of, if not the oldest continuous cultures in the world. This semester we will aim to take an insight into some of the lesser-known multifaceted aspects of the country, along with investigating topics in line with Australia's reputation for a laid-back and easy-going approach. By the conclusion of the semester, we will aim to understand that Australia is a more complex entity than the aforementioned symbolic icons suggest.

Methods and organization

After a few years of COVID, remote and hybrid classes, we now have the relatively new phenomena of a Spring semester starting in March and ending in late May.

Our course will be structured around two modules. In the first two-thirds of the semester, we will overview key events in Australia's history in an attempt to grasp phenomena bearing significant current relevance. This module incorporates the unique geographical features of the land. The shorter second module will build on this background and incorporate specific fields such as Australia's economy. The survey of these themes will predominantly be executed via individual presentations. Depending on the number of participants, in-class presentations will overlap with module one and commence in mid-April.

Keeping in line with a seminar format, classes will encourage active discussions. Readings, videos and podcasts will be assigned (underlined in the course calendar below) and overviewed accordingly.

Requirements and grading

In order to be given a pass grade or above, you will be expected to fulfil the following tasks:

- Prerequisite for a valid course is no excessive absences; a max. of 3 times absence is allowed.
- Active participation during the class discussions and activities
- An outline map test and spontaneous short tests connected to the assigned weekly tasks
- An individual presentation of a chosen/delegated Australian state/city, focusing on one specific sub-topic (culture, economy, education, environment, religion, society, migration, sports, travel).
- An end term written test.

Graded components of the course with an approximate proportion of the grade:

- (1) aggregate of outline map test and other short test results (20%) (2) presentation (30%) (3) end term test (50%)**

Qualitative and quantitative participation during class activities (or lack of it) will be decisive in case of split grades.

Plagiarism

As with all other university courses you must respect academic ethics, especially regarding plagiarism. Plagiarism, in our course the deliberate theft of another PPT/Prezi etc. from the internet during the in-class presentation will incur the failure of the course. You are required to clearly indicate your sources at the end of your presentation.

Course calendar

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Contents / Activity / Readings</i>	<i>Tasks and deadlines</i>
7 Mar	Presentation of the course: Procedure and tasks A country and continent of contradictions: Geography of Australia	
14 Mar	Outline map test Geography of Australia II. Indigenous Australia.	Prepare for test. Choose Australian state/city and sub-topic for your presentation
21 Mar	Indigenous Australia and the newcomers <u>Reading: Chapter 2: Aboriginal History in West, Barbara A.; Murphy, Frances T. <i>A Brief History of Australia</i>. pp. 13-30.</u>	(Cf. reading)
28 Mar	Easter break	
4 Apr	Colonial Australia <u>Podcast: Hunt, David and Dom Knight. "Mothers of a nation." <i>Rum, Rebels and Ratbags</i>. ABC Podcast series, 2015.</u> www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/rumrebelsratbags/rum-rebels-ratbags-10/8612858	(Cf. podcast)
11 Apr	Gold rush and Federation <u>Video: Carland, Susan and Bruce Scates, narrators. "Creating a Nation. Federation of the states and creation of the Commonwealth of Australia." <i>Our Journey</i>. Episode 10. Monash University and National Museum of Australia series, vimeo.com/272295446</u>	(Cf. video)

18 Apr	<p>World War I, depression, World War II</p> <p><u>Video: Carland, Susan and Bruce Scates, narrators. "Creating a Nation. The ANZAC Legend." <i>Our Journey</i>. Episode 12. Monash University and National Museum of Australia. vimeo.com/272288226</u></p> <p>Commencement of presentations</p>	<p>Prepare for presentation (Cf. video)</p>
25 Apr	<p>Post-war and modern Australia</p> <p><u>Podcast: "Revealing the Palace Letters." <i>Nightlife</i>. ABC Radio Sydney, 2024. https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/nightlife/revealing-the-palace-letters/103295930</u></p>	<p>Prepare for presentation (Cf. podcast)</p>
2 May	<p>Environment and the economy</p> <p><u>Reading: Hall, Matthew. "Adani's Carmichael coal mine controversy explained." <i>Mining-Technology</i> https://www.mining-technology.com/features/adani-carmichael-controversy-explained/</u></p> <p><u>Video: CNBC. "Why Australia hasn't had a recession in decades?" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhQ1xb7_bdw</u></p>	<p>Prepare for presentation (Cf. reading and video)</p>
9 May	<p>Religion, Education, Migration and Australian society</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p><u>"<i>Religious affiliation in Australia</i>", Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2022 https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/religious-affiliation-australia</u></p> <p><u>"<i>Snapshot of Australia</i>", Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2022 https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/snapshot-australia/2021#data-download</u></p> <p>Conclusion of presentations</p>	<p>Prepare for presentation (Cf. readings)</p>
16 May	<p>End term test</p>	<p>Prepare for end term test</p>
23 May	<p>Overview and conclusion of the course</p>	

Requirements for the outline map test:

Cities:

Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Geelong, Gold Coast, Hobart, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, Sydney

States/Territories:

Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia

Other:

Cape York Peninsula, Great Barrier Reef, Great Dividing Range, Great Victorian Desert, Kangaroo Island, Mount Kosciuszko, Torres Strait, Uluru (Ayers Rock)

Individual presentation information

Individual presentation topics to choose from (choose one):

Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Geelong, Gold Coast, Hobart, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, Sydney

Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia

Sub-topics within the presentation topics (choose one):

Culture, Economy, Education, Environment, Religion, Society, Migration, Sports, Travel

Assessment of the presentations:

Aspects of assessment	Maximum point(s)
I. PRESENTATION	15
1.1 Overall organization of research	8
1.2 Relevance	7
II. ORAL DELIVERY	15
2.1 Fluency, pace, pauses, emphases	6
2.2 Grammar and appropriacy	6
2.3 Audience involvement	3
III. PPT DESIGN AND STRUCTURE	15
3.1 Structure (cover page, table of contents, summary, list of sources)	7
3.2 Esthetic	2
3.3 Visibility	2
3.4 PPT text (spelling, grammar, style)	2
3.5 Correct use of sources (indication of the sources, correct quotation marks)	2
V. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS	5
TOTAL	50

Recommended Literature:

West, Barbara A.; Murphy, Frances T. *A Brief History of Australia*. Facts on File, 2010.

The Cambridge History of Australia. Volume 1: Indigenous and Colonial Australia, ed. Alison Bashford and Stuart Macintyre, CUP, 2013

The Cambridge History of Australia. Volume 2: The Commonwealth of Australia, ed. Alison Bashford and Stuart Macintyre, CUP, 2013

Rickard, John. *Australia: A Cultural History. (Third Edition)*. Monash University Publishing, 2017.

Welsh, Frank. *Great Southern Land: A New History of Australia*. Penguin, 2005.