9-2002

LS 395.80: Australia Through History, Literature, and Film

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Australia Through History, Literature, and Film
Autumn Semester 2002
3 credits

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Course Description:
This class will provide an historical, literary, and filmic background for our trip to Australia. It will balance an emphasis on the past with an appreciation of the contemporary situation. Topics will include, among others, the significance of Australia's convict past, treatment of the original inhabitants, its relationship to England and the U.S., and its unique fauna and flora. Texts and films occasionally will be augmented by guest lectures.

Tests: The Fatal Shore, Hughes
A Concise History of Australia, Macintyre
Songlines, Chatwin
In a Sunburned Country, Bryson
Granta: Australia (if available)
Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith (optional)
(One more literary text may be added.)

Reading Assignments:
Week 1: Bryson, Chapters 1, 4 & 5
Week 2: Bryson, Chapters 8-10 & 13
Week 3: Bryson, Chapters 15-18; Macintyre, Chapter 1
Week 4: Macintyre, Chapter 2; Hughes, Intro. & Chapter 1
Week 5: Macintyre, Chapter 3; Hughes, Chapter 2
Week 6: Macintyre, Chapter 4; Hughes, Chapter 7
Week 7: Macintyre, Chapter 5; Hughes, Chapter 16
Week 8: Macintyre, Chapter 6; Hughes, Chapter 17
Week 9: Macintyre, Chapter 7; Chatwin, Chapters 1-10
Week 10: Macintyre, Chapter 8; Chatwin, Chapters 11-20
Week 11: Macintyre, Chapter 9; Chatwin, Chapters 21-30, p. 162
Week 12: Macintyre, Chapter 10; Chatwin, Chapters 36-39
Week 13: Granta, TBA
Week 14: Granta, TBA
Week 15: Review
Final Week: Preparation for Australian Journey: Wednesday, December 18, 10:10-12:10.

Film Showings (tentative):
2nd Week: The Castle
4th Week: Walkabout
6th Week: Picnic at Hanging Rock
11th Week: Gallipoli
13th Week: Last Wave
15th Week: Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith

Class Assignments:

1. Term paper, 10-12 printed pages, due December 5 on a topic to be chosen from an assigned list.
2. Spot quizzes on readings, variable, as needed.
3. Oral reports on readings as assigned, focusing on one specific topic chosen from assigned list.

Grading:

1. Final grades will be based on the 3 major assignment categories listed above, according to the following percentages: Term paper, 40%; Quizzes, 20%; Oral reports, 20%; also attendance and active participation, 20%.
2. Excessive absences, meaning more than 3 and/or persistent tardiness will lower your grade.
3. For anyone taking the “P/NP” option, a borderline C will be required for a passing grade.

(Deadline for dropping courses is September 23 (with refund) or October 14 (without refund.)