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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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LS 395.80

TR 9:40-11:00

DHC 117

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.)