AUSTRALIAN TOPICS COURSES
(from Fall 1998 to present)

AUS 205A Topic: Australian Literature in the 20th Century. Introduces Australian literature from the 1890's to the present by reading and discussing a selection of Australian writers with an emphasis on writing by or about aborigines. Registration priority to Australian Studies minors.

AUS 205D Topic: Australian Dreams and Realities. Examination of contemporary Australian social life and attitudes through the study of literature and film. Prerequisite: Australian Studies minor or consent.

AUS 205H Topic: Indigenous Cultures in Film. Construction of Australian Aboriginal and Native American identities in film. The politics of film-making and the value systems and cultures revealed in the films will be discussed. Note: course ends at mid-term.

AUS 245 Evolution of Life in Australia: A Separate Experiment in Evolution. An investigation of evidence for a southern supercontinent, GONDWANA, splitting from northern hemisphere lands. Subsequent evolution in isolation, producing Australia's unique flora and fauna, especially birds, and egg laying and marsupial mammals.

AUS 245 Evolution of Australian Flora and Fauna. Traces the evolution of animal and plant life in Australia from its origin, as a part of the ancient southern supercontinent Gondwana, to the break-up of Gondwana, and the isolation of Australia. American connection to the evolution of Australia’s unique biota is examined with an emphasis on advanced plants and vertebrates, especially marsupial mammals. Stresses convergent and divergent evolution shown by Australian marsupials after the separation of Australia from Gondwana.

AUS 250 Australian Ecosystems at Risk. Focuses on the ecosystems of Australia. Investigates the changing nature and variety of Australian ecosystems, examines the reasons that they are at risk, looks into the reasons for their protection, and studies strategies to manage the ecosystems. Meets on a shortened, intensive schedule from January 13 to March 3. Registration priority to Australian Studies minors.

AUS 275 Out of Empire: The British Dominion of Australia. Examines Australia in its British imperial context from 1901, the year the Australian colonies federated, to the present. Raises questions about race and coloniztion, power and privilege, education and indoctrination, and the relationship between the imperial center and the colonial fringe. Focuses on the imperial theme under federation, the rise and fall of the British Dominion of Australia, and the acceptance of the Westminster system.