

Is This Course Right For You?

Course: NCEP315 – Australia: Its Land and Peoples May – June 2018

Course requirements:

We meet two hours weekly in the spring semester to study and discuss Australia history and culture including: politics, education, healthcare, multinational relations, economic foundation, geology and environmental concerns. Most discussions are student-led. The culmination of the course is a 4 week travel experience in Australia.

Graded assignments:

Students work with two others in the course to lead two course discussions. The quality of the presentation and ability to facilitate a discussion is evaluated. Students submit three reflective writings (one at start of on-campus course, one near the end of the on-campus course and the last after the return from Australia). All students complete a photoessay using photographs taken in Australia on some topic of their interest. A small portion of the course grade is based on participation in course discussions.

Travel required:

We will fly to Australia and travel in the country for 3-4 weeks. With an optional 10 day extension to New Zealand.

Transportation:

Air flights: O'Hare to LAX
LAX to Sydney, Australia
Sydney, Australia to Alice Springs, Australia
Darwin, Australia to Brisbane, Australia
Harvey Bay, Australia to Lady Elliot Island, Australia
Lady Elliot Island, Australia to Harvey Bay, Australia
Brisbane, Australia to Sydney, Australia
Sydney, Australia to LAX
LAX to O'Hare

Ground Transportation:

From Alice Springs to Darwin (about 1,000); we will travel on a coach bus

Climate:

We will be in Australia in their late autumn which means that it will be very comfortable in Sydney and Brisbane and only mildly uncomfortable in the interior of the country. Darwin is in the Tropics and so is quite warm and humid during the days, but does cool at night. The interior and much of the route Alice Springs to Darwin will be warm during the days and quite cool at night.

Physical Requirements:

We will be doing some hikes of up to about 5 miles, but most of the walking will be short distance and relatively flat. We will walk over some rocks and dirt so good walking shoes or boots are needed.

Accommodations:

We will stay in a youth hostel in Sydney. These are very safe and clean. Most of the nights between Alice Springs and Darwin we will camp in two person tents in established campgrounds. The tour company we work with provides tents and sleeping pads, but students will be expected to provide their own sleeping bags. The campgrounds have showers, toilets, and laundry facilities. We will stay in beach bungalows on Lady Elliot Island

Cultural considerations:

We will have MANY opportunities to interact with native Australians. The tour company we work with has unique access to Aboriginal people and we will spend multiple evenings with these people listening to their stories, eating traditional food and asking many questions. We will also interact with European ranchers, business people, teachers, health care professionals and many others.

Food:

There is a wide range of food available in larger cities from McDonalds to unique ethnic restaurants. While on camping tour, we will have our own cook travel with us and prepare our meals. They can work with students with food allergies and on restricted diets.

Not covered in the budget:

Food in Sydney and Darwin is not covered. Additional tour activities that you choose to do while in Sydney are not covered. Snack food and souvenirs are not covered.

Free time:

There will be 3 days in Sydney for which students can plan their own activities and tours.

Electronic communication:

There will be access to email in the larger cities, but only very limited access while on tour from Sydney and Darwin. There will be internet access at some of the campgrounds for a fee. Use of US phone carriers in Australia is a bit expensive, but is possible. Coverage will be spotty outside of larger cities.

Parental Involvement:

Parents will be able to contact us via the Carroll University Emergency Protocol Process that is available 24-hours a day. They should contact CU Safety office at 262-524-7300

Instructors:

Dr. Bruce Strom and Dr. Michael Schuder have traveled internationally with students many times and have lived in Australia for 9 months (Schuder) and 3 years (Strom). This will be the seventh group of students that we have taken to Australia.

Estimated costs:

The conservative estimated cost for Australia is \$6800

Includes all air flights, all ground transportation, all lodging, all meals except in Sydney and Darwin, all activities except those scheduled by you out of Darwin. This does include 4 days and 3 nights of snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef off Lady Elliot Island.

The conservative estimated cost for the optional New Zealand extension is \$1700

Includes all in-country flights, all ground transportation, all lodging and group organized activities. It does not include meals.

For more information:

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