

Australian Communication and Culture

Experience the power of communication across cultures in Australia.

COURSES

COMM 400

ACCOMMODATIONS

Dorms/Hostels in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This course examines how communication patterns are influenced by surrounding cultures and how culture is created and sustained through communication. It is designed to prepare students to effectively adapt and succeed in a contemporary world that is becoming more and more culturally diverse. Students will be exposed to a variety of communication contexts from interacting with Australian students and faculty at Deakin University to a Victorian indigenous outpost. Students will complete an orientation before travel that includes an interactive Australian online component as well as selected readings on Victoria and indigenous and refugee populations to better prepare them for critical analysis upon arrival.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply major communication theories and fundamental concepts of culture and intercultural communication to the real world.
- Enhance respect for diversity of peoples, ideas, and cultures within a global context.
- Demonstrate competent oral and written communication skills appropriate for an educated person within an intercultural context.
- Discuss relevant literature designed to advance understanding of the scope of historical cultural influence on communication patterns in Australia.
- Reflect upon similarities and differences in communication patterns in Australia.

PROGRAM DETAILS

LOCATION: *Australia: Melbourne and Sydney*

ACADEMIC TERM: *Winter 2016: December 28, 2015 - January 12, 2016*

ITINERARY (subject to change)

Dec 28 Depart Nashville for Sydney	Jan 5 Melbourne Laneways
Dec 29 (Travel Time)	Jan 6 ACMI Exhibition
Dec 30 Arrive in Sydney	Jan 7 Surf Lessons
Dec 31 Aboriginal Heritage Museum and Keeping Place	Jan 8 Great Ocean Rd Tour
Jan 1 City Tour and Class Presentations	Jan 9 Class Evaluation and Presentations
Jan 2 Depart to Melbourne	Jan 10 Independent Research and Reflection
Jan 3 City Tour - Melbourne	Jan 11 Begin travel back to Nashville, TN USA
Jan 4 Melbourne Museum	Jan 12 Arrive in Nashville, TN

The schedule is subject to change due to educational opportunities that may arise unexpectedly, the vagaries of weather, final flight plans, and other factors beyond the control of the course instructors and staff.

ELIGIBILITY

- Permission of instructor(s) is required.
- Current WKU student eligible to register for WKU courses may apply. Students from outside WKU may participate as [visiting students](#).
- Students must be 18 years of age or older at time of departure (parent/guardian permission for anyone under 18 at time of departure).
- Students must possess passport valid for at least six (6) months after return date.
- Students must be free of active disciplinary sanctions as verified by Judicial Affairs.
- Students must complete all pre-departure orientations.
- Full payment prior to departure is required.
- Students must complete the [Study Abroad & Global Learning application process](#) prior to being registered in this course. We suggest you start this application process immediately and respond to all emails promptly

BASE PACKAGE

Cost: \$4,925

Included in Base Package

- Undergraduate tuition for 3 credit hours (\$1,090 value)
- Accommodations in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia
- Course-related ground transportation and admissions fees in Australia
- Round-trip flight between Nashville and Australia
- International medical insurance

Excluded from Base Package

- Transportation between your departure airport and your home.
- Independent travel (non-program travel).
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone service, and Internet access
- Travel cancellation/interruption insurance. *Highly recommended.*
- Personal baggage fees and costs associated with flight changes requested by student
- Passport fees
- Any applicable airport taxes
- Meals, services, and beverages not mentioned in the program
- SAGL Study Abroad Application fee of \$150.00

**Study Abroad courses are not eligible for employee tuition waivers or discounts.
Final program fee subject to change due to travel arrangements.**

Green Sheet subject to change due to adjustment in program or pricing.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

<p>Your TopNet Account will be billed according to the following Payment Schedule:</p> <p>October 1, 2015 - Priority deadline for application with non-refundable \$250 deposit*</p> <p>October 1, 2015 – Program Fee will be charged to student's TopNet account. Balance must be paid prior to program departure. Students applying after this date will be billed on a rolling basis.</p> <p>* Deposit paid by student directly with a credit card – NOT billed to student account.</p>	<p>Penalty for Withdrawal or Non-payment:</p> <p>Before October 01: 25% of total program cost After October 01: 50% of total program cost After November 01: 75% of total program cost After December 01: 100% of total program cost (No refund)</p> <p>If a balance remains after the payment due date, the participant may be dropped from the program. A student may remain in the program by providing an award notification from WKU's Student Financial Assistance that verifies ability to pay the program fee immediately after aid is received.</p>
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The total amount due in your semester invoice may reflect the combined charges for multiple terms (i.e. Fall and Winter or Spring and Summer) and includes program fees for your Faculty-Led Study Abroad program. Please see your TopNet account for a breakdown of amounts due per term. Refer to your Faculty-Led Study Abroad program's Green Sheet for final payment due dates and billing information. If you have any questions, please email facultyled.abroad@wku.edu.

LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The course includes a group flight that originates and returns to Nashville.
- Independent travel (before and/or after the programs start and end date) is permitted with prior notification to Program Leaders. There may be medical insurance issues to deal with, as well as changes to the airline reservations (with possible additional cost to participant), so advanced notice is required.
- Students should be prepared to conduct themselves in a mature and respectful manner at all times.
- This program will also include a fair amount of walking in both rural and metropolitan areas. Proper shoes required.
- Australia in January experiences summer weather. Proper attire required
- **Passport Requirements** - Each participant must have a passport that includes an expiration date, which is 6 months beyond the last date of the voyage. The expiration must be beyond July 20, 2017.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

Western Kentucky University and its associates are not responsible for any loss due to theft, personal injury, flight or weather delays, negligence, or default of suppliers, or suppliers changing of itineraries. They and their associates are not responsible for any loss due to travel/flight delays or changes in travel plans due to Acts of Nature or other unforeseen circumstances, nor are we responsible for accidents and medical care. Tour services are furnished by independent contractors who are not agents or servants of Western Kentucky University. Refunds are not available for unused portions of the package.