The Australia Study Group
Spring 2005
Director: Barbara Hoopes

The University of Wollongong, located on the coast of New South Wales, approximately 50 miles south of Sydney, is the study site for the Australia Study Group. This study-abroad program is designed for students who are intending to concentrate in Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division and are interested in experiencing the rich diversity of environments and cultures that are a part of Australia. The academic offerings and extensive resources of the University of Wollongong, as well as the living and studying opportunities with Australian students, allow study-group participants a unique means to broaden and deepen their understanding of the historical, cultural and biological diversity of Australia.

The overall goal of this study group experience is to acquaint students with the historical, geographic and environmental processes that have shaped the modern state of Australia as well as have the opportunity to continue their concentration at a foreign institution. This experience will immerse students in a foreign culture, exposing them to contrasting ways of thinking about and configuring the world, which will deepen their understanding of their own beliefs and identity.

**PROGRAM PREREQUISITES:**
Although students from any department or program are eligible to participate in the Australia Study Group, preference will be given to individuals with a concentration or minor in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division. Preference will also be granted to those students who have completed their distribution requirements in the humanities, the natural sciences and mathematics, and the social sciences at Colgate. Additionally, the University of Wollongong requires a GPA of 3.0 for matriculation in their international student Study Abroad Program.

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**
All participants are required to enroll in and complete four courses during the spring term at the University of Wollongong. Students elect two courses and must enroll in the two required courses described below.

**GEOS 233 Discovering Downunder: Geography of Australia** (Professor Leslie Head and members of the Geosciences faculty): This course provides an overview of the physical and human environments of contemporary Australia. Within individual topics (including landforms, climate, vegetation, indigenous Australia, population, industry and agriculture, cities, suburbs and rural settlement, and interactions with Australia’s neighbors), spatial and temporal scale, interactions between people and the environment, and key research questions are emphasized. Through lectures, workshops, fieldwork, and research students explore the interactions of the physical and social processes that have shaped contemporary Australia.

**CORE3xx. Comparative Public Opinion and Science Policy: Biotechnology** (Barbara Hoopes)
This course explores public opinion in Australia and compares it to opinion in the United Kingdom and the U.S. as it pertains to aspects of biotechnology. How science policy is formed in the governmental systems is also considered. The course focuses on three aspects of biotechnology that are current controversies: human genetic testing, genetically modified foods, and the cloning of mammals. Students are expected to use an interdisciplinary approach to explore how similar attitudes are toward these uses of technology in the three nations and examine differences in the history and cultures that could produce differences in public attitudes. Differences between the governmental systems are also explored to understand how public opinion impacts science policy for these nations. Students are expected to write a major interdisciplinary paper examining one particular similarity or difference between the societal characteristics of Australia and either the US or the UK and how this factor impacts societal attitudes toward one aspect of biotechnology.

**Two Course Electives:**
The remaining two courses are electives that will be chosen by the student in consultation with the program director and the student's academic advisor at Colgate University. The Australian History Seminar (Professor John McQuilton):
is a three day history seminar held during the second half of orientation week. Students are required to read an outline of Australian History produced by Professor McQuilton before they arrive in Australia. The first day includes a general discussion of this outline. Day two explores in-depth the theme of Australians and War. In day three, there is a day-long trip to Canberra where the group will visit the Australian War Memorial and tour Parliament House.

**LIVING ARRANGEMENTS:**
Although the specific sites have not yet been identified, students will be living in several residence halls on East Campus or in the International House of the University of Wollongong. These, of course, are possibilities only; final accommodation prospects for Colgate students will be known sometime later. As in the past, it is expected, although not guaranteed, that students may request single or shared rooms with living accommodations arranged with Colgate study group members and/or other students at the University. Meals are available in the dining facilities within each hall; also, limited cooking facilities are available in bedroom suites for the preparation of snacks and light fare. Each resident maintains computers (Macintosh) which are networked to the University's computer center. Colgate students have full access to the social, athletic, recreational, computer, and library facilities of the University of Wollongong.

**EXTRA COSTS TO STUDENTS:** Costs above Colgate's tuition, room, and board are estimated to be between $2500 and $3200, depending on the departure location for each participant, as well as the choice of residence accommodations and personal spending habits. Financial-aid students at Colgate can expect an enabling adjustment, provided that this is their first study group experience.

**CALENDAR AND DEADLINES:**
The deadline for applications to the 2005 Australia Study Group is December 10, 2003. Student notification of selections will be completed in early February 2004. Written confirmation of participation is expected by no later than April 1, 2004. The application process to the University of Wollongong will commence in earnest in September and course selections in late October and early November. During the fall term, the study group director will work closely with students to prepare visa applications and to complete required medical examinations and clearances. The Study Group will depart for Australia around February 25, 2005. The academic calendar for the autumn session at the University of Wollongong runs for fourteen weeks (classes start on March 1, 2005) with a scheduled one-week-long intercession recess in April. Final examinations are scheduled during June 2005.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**
You may gather additional information from the University of Wollongong's web site for international students at [www.uow.edu.au](http://www.uow.edu.au). Also, you may contact Barbara Hoopes in 208 Olin Hall, Department of Biology (phone: 315-228-7344; email: bhoopes@mail.colgate.edu).