**BSCI 40195**

**Distance, Time, and Change: Ecology, Evolution, and History in Australia**

**Kent State University**

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**Travel Tips**

I’ve been a few places over the years, and I have developed a few habits that take some of the hassle and out of travel and make it a bit more comfortable.

**Hurry up and wait**

One of the most important things to bear in mind is that travelling can be a stressful experience. Make sure you have things to occupy your time – books, crosswords or other puzzles, cards.

**Carry-On Bags**

Please see this website for guidance about what you CAN and CAN’T bring in your carry-on. (The link is also on the course website). <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/whatcanibring>

**Checking bags**

**Luggage tags**: We will all be checking a bag in the airport. Make sure your luggage is tagged with your name and address. Paper tags are provided at the check-in but you should get permanent ones (they are more durable). They are available at Target, Walmart, Bed, Bathe, and Beyond.

**Don’t lock bags**: Because the TSA has to inspect your bag, you should not lock your bag. You should bring locks to use while in Australia.

**Passport**: Have your passport handy when checking in. You can use it for automated check-in (I’ll explain when we are there) or give it to the attendant so they can check you in.

**Boarding passes**: After your bag is checked, you will be given your boarding passes for our entire flight. We will likely be stopping somewhere (either LA o San Francisco) to change planes. You will not need to deal with your checked bag until we get to Australia – it will be transferred to our second flight automatically.

**Before security**

You will have to go through a TSA security checkpoint – both the metal detector and x-ray machine.

Keep your passport and boarding pass handy – they will want to see it.

Take **EVERYTHING** **else** from your pockets and elsewhere (phone, change, wallet, jewelry, etc.), remove your belt (if it has a metal buckle) and put it all in your carry-on.

Take your shoes off (I recommend wearing shoes that are easily taken off and put on).

If you have a laptop, tablet, or other device, take it **OUT** of your bag.

There will be **bins** to put your stuff in for the trip through the x-ray:

* carry-on bags can go through the X-ray machines without a bin
* shoes, passport/boarding pass into one bin
* laptop or tablet into a separate bin

**Carry-ons and access to stuff during the flight**

Once past security, I typically put anything I will need during the flight (stuff to read, a pen (for customs and immigration forms), passport, travel pillow, headphones, music, etc.) in my personal item. That way when I stow my carry-on, I don’t need to have access to it until we land.

**Changing money**

I typically change money in the airport. There will be places near where we will pick up our checked luggage. In addition, credit and debit cards should work pretty much everywhere.

**REMEMBER: INFORM YOUR BANK THAT YOU WILL BE TRAVELING IN AUSTRALIA AND GIVE THEM THE SPECIFIC DATES. IF YOU DON’T, YOUR CARDS WILL PROBABLY NOT WORK.**

**Immigration and Customs**

Near the end of the flight, each of us will be given an incoming passenger form that we will fill out present to immigration and customs. I have posted an example on the course website.

There is a typical series of events that happens when you arrive in a foreign country.

* When we arrive, we will first go through immigration – an immigration agent will look at your passport and incoming passenger form, ask you the purpose of your visit, and stamp your passport.
* We will then go to the baggage area and get our bags (this is typically when I change money).
* We will then go through customs, where a customs agent will look at our passports and take your incoming passenger form.

We will also have to fill out a customs form when we return to the US. I have posted an example on the course website.

**Clean clothes for the return**

One last little thing that I usually do is have a set of clothes that I save for the return flight. I pack them in the bottom of my bag and don’t touch them until the end of the trip. This depends on how much you have packed – remember the weight limits!! (**See the Packing List**)