



GEOP3000

Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene

Session 1, Online-flexible 2024

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Phoebe Everingham

phoebe.everingham@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The Anthropocene is a proposed new geological epoch in which humanity is driving planetary change. This unit explores how environmental decision making and planning processes can be made more just in the context of the Anthropocene. It draws on perspectives from environmental justice, a field of research and activism focused on addressing the social and geographic inequities associated with environmental change. Environmental justice highlights how responsibility for, and the burdens of, environmental degradation are unevenly distributed across space and scale, and divided between and within social categories such as race, class, gender, ethnicity and species. Environmental justice and decision-making are analysed through a series of case studies that are presented by academic staff and environmental professionals. An important component of the unit focuses on developing analytical and practical skills for pursuing environmental justice, which requires the ability to synthesise geographic information from the social and physical sciences and engage with multiple stakeholders, decision making tools, and forms of communication. The unit makes the relationships between justice and environment more visible in a world of rapid environmental change and provides pathways and tools for pursuing more just and resilient futures.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Assess environmental decisions or plans using environmental justice concepts or

frameworks

ULO2: Synthesise geographic information from the social and physical sciences to identify environmental justice issues

ULO3: Describe and explain common environmental injustices associated with contemporary forms of socioecological change

ULO4: Investigate and appreciate diverse stakeholder perspectives using environmental justice tools and concepts to improve environmental decision-making

ULO5: Argue for improved environmental justice outcomes in a variety of written and spoken forms

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all non-timed written assessments (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc) is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams/quizzes, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation task	30%	No	In class and online TBA
Environmental Justice Assessment Project	40%	No	24th May
Environmental Justice Essay	30%	No	5th April

Participation task

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **In class and online TBA**

Weighting: **30%**

Participatory tasks related to unit content. Many of these activities will be scaffolding for the other assignments.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Assess environmental decisions or plans using environmental justice concepts or frameworks
- Synthesise geographic information from the social and physical sciences to identify environmental justice issues
- Describe and explain common environmental injustices associated with contemporary forms of socioecological change
- Investigate and appreciate diverse stakeholder perspectives using environmental justice tools and concepts to improve environmental decision-making
- Argue for improved environmental justice outcomes in a variety of written and spoken forms

Environmental Justice Assessment Project

Assessment Type ¹: Project

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **24th May**

Weighting: **40%**

Students are required to undertake a project that assesses a recent or upcoming environmental decision or plan from the perspective of environmental justice. The project will comprise a systems mapping task and 2000 word report.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Assess environmental decisions or plans using environmental justice concepts or frameworks
- Investigate and appreciate diverse stakeholder perspectives using environmental justice tools and concepts to improve environmental decision-making
- Argue for improved environmental justice outcomes in a variety of written and spoken forms

Environmental Justice Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 24 hours

Due: **5th April**

Weighting: **30%**

This short essay asks students to explore an environmental justice concept and apply it to a case study (1000 words).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise geographic information from the social and physical sciences to identify environmental justice issues
- Describe and explain common environmental injustices associated with contemporary forms of socioecological change
- Investigate and appreciate diverse stakeholder perspectives using environmental justice tools and concepts to improve environmental decision-making
- Argue for improved environmental justice outcomes in a variety of written and spoken forms

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Unit Schedule

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)

- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2024.02 of the [Handbook](#)