



# GSE 825

## Sustainable Development: Introductory Principles and Practices

S1 Day 2014

*Dept of Environment & Geography*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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E8A 372

Open: By appointment

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnvEd or PGDipEnvEd or PGCertEnvEd or MEngMgt or MEnvMgt or PGCertEnvMgt or MEnvStud or PGDipEnvStud or MSusDev or PGDipSusDev or PGCertSusDev or MEnvPlan or MDevCult or PGDipDevCult or MIntRel or MEnv or PGDipEnv or PGCertEnv or MPP or PGDipPP or MSc in (Environmental Health or Remote Sensing and GIS) or PGDipSc in (Environmental Health or Remote Sensing and GIS) or PGCertSc in (Environmental Health or Remote Sensing and GIS) or MSocEntre or PGCertSocEntre

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the origins, issues, policies, principles and processes of sustainable development (SD) and the international fora that drive the sustainable development agenda. The unit requires students to explore the global and national debates surrounding SD, analyse these and formulate and substantiate their own views. Students are engaged in a process of identifying how sustainable development principles are interpreted in practice in different sectors including in national frameworks, local government and business. Students undertake research with community groups on their concept of and views of progress on sustainable development. The unit involves the students in analysis of the ideological and value bases of SD and a critical appraisal of the policy and practical approaches that are emerging.

## 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:

Demonstrate an understanding of key scientific concepts and inter-relationships underpinning sustainable development

Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of SD, the values and principles underpinning SD and its contested nature in theory and application

Apply a system and future thinking approach to understand the interactions of environmental changes on aspects such as biodiversity, security, economic and social conditions

Be able to demonstrate a grasp of the international processes and literature relating to sustainable development

Begin to understand the processes of bringing about change towards sustainable development

Research how sustainable development is being undertaken in practice amongst key stakeholders

Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills for policy, programs and actions for key issues of sustainable development

Demonstrate an ability to present in different forms, cogent, structured reports, addressing defined issues

Develop an ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<a href="#">Assignment 1</a>	25%	9th May
<a href="#">Assignment 2</a>	35%	17th May
<a href="#">Assignment 3</a>	40%	20th June

### Assignment 1

Due: **9th May**

Weighting: **25%**

This assignment allows you to demonstrate your grasp of the concept of sustainable development and its application by selecting one of the following aspects to critically assess.

1. sustainable development as a political issue
2. is 'ecologically sustainable development' a tautology?
3. making a business case for sustainability

Further details and readings are provided on the ilearn site

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of key scientific concepts and inter-relationships underpinning sustainable development
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- Be able to demonstrate a grasp of the international processes and literature relating to sustainable development
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## Assignment 2

Due: **17th May**

Weighting: **35%**

This group project offers two options:

### **a) Research: Documentary or report on the perception of Major Groups on progress towards sustainable development.**

b) Communicating for action on sustainable development: The group is required to research an aspect of sustainable development and prepare a self-learning tool for university students

Note 10% of the marks are provided for individual contribution. Further details are on the ilearn site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of SD, the values and principles underpinning SD and its contested nature in theory and application
- Apply a system and future thinking approach to understand the interactions of environmental changes on aspects such as biodiversity, security, economic and social

conditions

- Be able to demonstrate a grasp of the international processes and literature relating to sustainable development
- Begin to understand the processes of bringing about change towards sustainable development
- Research how sustainable development is being undertaken in practice amongst key stakeholders
- Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills for policy, programs and actions for key issues of sustainable development
- Demonstrate an ability to present in different forms, cogent, structured reports, addressing defined issues
- Develop an ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team

## Assignment 3

Due: **20th June**

Weighting: **40%**

This assignment assesses your ability to comprehensively analyse the practical considerations of implementing a sustainable development program or policy.

Further details are on the ilearn site

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of key scientific concepts and inter-relationships underpinning sustainable development
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of SD, the values and principles underpinning SD and its contested nature in theory and application
- Apply a systems and future thinking approach to understand the interactions of environmental changes on aspects such as biodiversity, security, economic and social conditions
- Be able to demonstrate a grasp of the international processes and literature relating to sustainable development
- Begin to understand the processes of bringing about change towards sustainable development
- Research how sustainable development is being undertaken in practice amongst key stakeholders
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- Demonstrate an ability to present in different forms, cogent, structured reports, addressing defined issues

## Delivery and Resources

### Delivery of the Unit

The unit is delivered by face to face block mode sessions. The teaching process includes:

1. Background reading by the students
2. Short presentations to introduce basic concepts.
3. Practical workshop sessions to provide opportunities for experiential learning from discussion with other class members (preparation is essential).
4. Student presentations of tasks undertaken in class in a time pressed environment (like work practice).
5. Talks from guest lecturers that convey the practice of sustainability and the ways change is facilitated.
6. Assignments that require students to practice key skills, including critical and integrative thinking, taking a systems perspective, listening to stakeholders, and communicating through diverse forms including writing and presenting in a logical and clearly argued manner.
7. Assignments provide opportunities for practicing negotiation skills and appreciating differences in different cultural and national contexts.

Students are expected to:

- participate in workshop activities in small groups;
- read set readings in advance for classes; and
- follow current developments with regard to sustainable development in the media/internationally.

### Resources

At the outset students can review the following:

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 *The Future We Want*, UN <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/>

This document is the consensus of aspirations from Rio + 20 intergovernmental meeting on sustainable development UNCSA.

NOTE: the UN has a website on sustainable development - a rich source of information. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

Dennis H 2013 *The world we want to see: perspectives on post-2015* A Christian Aid report

September

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/Post-2015-Christian-Aid-report-September-2013.pdf>

This document presents the vision for sustainable development from an NGO and has a strong values/ethical/ justice (Christian) viewpoint and highlights where action is needed

KPMG *Future State 2030 the global megatrends shaping government*

<http://www.kpmg.com/Global/en/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesPublications/future-state-government/Pages/future-state-2030.aspx>

This document provides an easy read that encompasses the major global forces taking shape now that will significantly impact business for government and private sectors

Or you can look at the Australian research on megatrends

CSIRO Our Future World: Global megatrends that will change the way we live

<http://www.csiro.au/Portals/Partner/Futures/Our-Future-World.aspx>

Raskin, P.D Electrix, C. Rosea, R.A. 2010 The century ahead searching for sustainability *Sustainability* 2:2626-2651

This journal article presents 4 scenarios for the future and looks at various indicators associated with those scenarios. Gives an insight into how sustainable development might be measured - more technically based article

Steffen, W. Persson, A. Deutsch, L. Zalasiewicz, M. Richardson, K, Crumley, C. Crutzen, P. Folke, C. Gordon, L, Molona, M. Ramanathan,, V. Rockstrom, J Scheffer, M. Schellnhuber, H.J. and Svedin, U. 2011 The Anthropocene: From Global Change to Planetary Stewardship *AMBIO*(2011) 40:739-761

This journal article lays out the human-nature relationship, the pace of change, the scientific basis and calls for action

Rockstrom J. et al 2009 Feature: A safe operating space for humanity *Nature* 461:24: 472-475  
September

This article develops a concept of boundaries in the global system for certain impacts, and propose that these set limits for human development

## Unit Schedule

Date	Time	Room	Session
Friday March 7th	6:30pm - 9:30pm	EMC- G240	<b>Introduction to Course Themes</b>  Conceptualising sustainable development  Assignment briefing

<b>Saturday March 8th</b>	10:00am - 5:00pm	EMC- G240	<b>Workshop Session 1 Pathways to Sustainable Development and Themes</b> History of the international SD policy process  Sustainability science  Introduction to law and governance  Politics of sustainable development
<b>Sunday 23 March</b>	10:00am - 5:00pm	EMC- G240	<b>Workshop Session 2: Key trends, programs and action for sustainable development</b>
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10:00am - 5:00pm	E3A 244	<b>Workshop Session 3: Sustainable development in practice - industry and government</b>
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10:00am - 5:00pm	E5A 110	<b>Workshop Session 4</b>  International case studies  Leadership and change management
<b>Saturday 10th May</b>	10:00am - 5:00pm	EMC- G240	<b>Workshop Session 5: Policy Frameworks for Sustainable Development Measuring Progress Towards Sustainable Development</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10:00am - 5:00pm	EMC- G240	<b>Workshop Session 6</b>  Presentations of assignment 2

## Policies and Procedures

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

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of



Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Student Support

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

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

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

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of key scientific concepts and inter-relationships

underpinning sustainable development

- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of SD, the values and principles underpinning SD and its contested nature in theory and application
- Apply a system and future thinking approach to understand the interactions of environmental changes on aspects such as biodiversity, security, economic and social conditions
- Be able to demonstrate a grasp of the international processes and literature relating to sustainable development
- Begin to understand the processes of bringing about change towards sustainable development
- Research how sustainable development is being undertaken in practice amongst key stakeholders
- Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills for policy, programs and actions for key issues of sustainable development
- Develop an ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team

## PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of key scientific concepts and inter-relationships underpinning sustainable development
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of SD, the values and principles underpinning SD and its contested nature in theory and application
- Apply a system and future thinking approach to understand the interactions of environmental changes on aspects such as biodiversity, security, economic and social conditions
- Begin to understand the processes of bringing about change towards sustainable development
- Research how sustainable development is being undertaken in practice amongst key stakeholders
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issues of sustainable development

## PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Apply a system and future thinking approach to understand the interactions of environmental changes on aspects such as biodiversity, security, economic and social conditions
- Begin to understand the processes of bringing about change towards sustainable development
- Research how sustainable development is being undertaken in practice amongst key stakeholders

## PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Begin to understand the processes of bringing about change towards sustainable development
- Demonstrate an ability to present in different forms, cogent, structured reports, addressing defined issues
- Develop an ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team

## PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of SD, the values and principles underpinning SD and its contested nature in theory and application
- Be able to demonstrate a grasp of the international processes and literature relating to sustainable development
- Begin to understand the processes of bringing about change towards sustainable development
- Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills for policy, programs and actions for key issues of sustainable development
- Demonstrate an ability to present in different forms, cogent, structured reports, addressing defined issues
- Develop an ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team

## PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of key scientific concepts and inter-relationships underpinning sustainable development
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of SD, the values and principles underpinning SD and its contested nature in theory and application
- Apply a system and future thinking approach to understand the interactions of environmental changes on aspects such as biodiversity, security, economic and social conditions
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## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
16/01/2014	The Prerequisites was updated.