ENVG700

Research Frontiers in Environment and Geography 1

S1 Day 2015

Dept of Environmental Sciences

Contents

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit is designed to engage students with current research in Environment and
Geography. It will introduce students to a number of the current open research questions
across the discipline. The unit is based on focused 'Dialogue' sessions in which the frontiers
of core research topics are introduced by a variety of staff members who explain how the topic
is influencing their work. The unit addresses research across the breadth of the discipline,
while also requiring students to apply core concepts to their preferred research topics.
Activities may include such things as weekly classes, cross-university seminar attendance,
directed reading of research papers, and the discussion and critiquing of research topics.
Presentation of a seminar and a written report / essay based on the topics examined are
required for completion of this unit.

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:

Ability to reflect upon and identify the importance of environmental research

Understanding of core research frontiers in environmental research

Awareness and appreciation for how different disciplines approach similar environmental research topics

Awareness of the potential and challenges of adopting multidisciplinary research approaches.

Ability to critically assess seminars and identify research processes

Ability to contribute to academic discussion and present ideas

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
1 Understanding research	15%	Thursday 19 March
2 Seminar report	20%	Thursday 30 April
3 Research presentation	20%	Thursday 21 May
4 Research frontiers essay	40%	Monday 9 June
5 Participation	5%	all semester

1 Understanding research

Due: **Thursday 19 March**
Weighting: **15%**

Why is environmental research important? Write a short essay that reflects on why you have chosen to pursue a research project focused on environmental issues. Your report should be reflective, discussing your own goals and motivations, while also reflecting on a discussion with at least one staff member in a related field. You are welcome to utilise academic articles, however, this is not essential. 1000 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Ability to reflect upon and identify the importance of environmental research

2 Seminar report

Due: **Thursday 30 April**
Weighting: **20%**

How do people do environmental research? This assessment requires students to attend and report on at least five research seminars they attended during semester. These seminars can be from across the university or at other research institutions. Students are required to write five reports detailing the research components of the seminars in accordance with a pro-forma to be distributed in class. The combined word length of all reports should not exceed 2000 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Ability to reflect upon and identify the importance of environmental research
- Understanding of core research frontiers in environmental research
- Awareness and appreciation for how different disciplines approach similar environmental research topics
- Awareness of the potential and challenges of adopting multidisciplinary research approaches.
- Ability to critically assess seminars and identify research processes

3 Research presentation

Due: **Thursday 21 May**
Weighting: **20%**

What are the frontiers in environmental research? This assessment requires students to give a brief oral presentation (10-15 minutes) in which they discuss how researchers are approaching a particular environmental issue. They should focus on the current state of knowledge, debates and future challenges. The presentation should conclude with some ideas about how students would like to contribute to these debates through a research project and why.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Understanding of core research frontiers in environmental research
- Awareness and appreciation for how different disciplines approach similar environmental research topics
- Awareness of the potential and challenges of adopting multidisciplinary research approaches.
- Ability to contribute to academic discussion and present ideas

4 Research frontiers essay

Due: **Monday 9 June**
Weighting: **40%**

How do different disciplines research environmental issues? Different disciplines approach environmental issues in different ways. In this essay you are required to analyse the research frontiers of at least two different disciplines (or sub-disciplines) in relation to a particular environmental issue. The environmental issue you choose and the disciplines or sub-disciplines

you focus upon should be agreed upon with a course convenor. Your essay should contrast how different disciplines conceptualise and approach the research area, the different types of methods used, and key findings and insights different disciplines bring. Your essay should conclude with a discussion on the strengths and challenges of multi-disciplinary environmental research. 2500 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understanding of core research frontiers in environmental research
- Awareness and appreciation for how different disciplines approach similar environmental research topics
- Awareness of the potential and challenges of adopting multidisciplinary research approaches.

5 Participation

Due: **all semester**
Weighting: **5%**

You are expected to attend and participate in all class workshops. The quality of your contribution each week in terms of preparation, interaction and understanding will be assessed to determine the final grade for this assessment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Ability to contribute to academic discussion and present ideas

Delivery and Resources

ENVG700 will make use of web-based teaching support through iLearn. Students will require access to the internet and regular contact with the unit's iLearn site. To complete assignments students will need access to basic word processing programs and some may wish to make use of PowerPoint for class presentations.

Unit Schedule

Program Thursdays 3-5pm EMC-G240

The program is arranged around a series of group workshops that align with upcoming assessment tasks. In addition you are expected to be in regular contact with either course convenors or other staff members most aligned to the research frontiers you are exploring for assessments 3 and 4.

Week	Date	Topic	Assessment	Staff
1	26/2	Introduction + doing research		AM / TR

2	5/3	No class		
3	12/3	Seminar report workshop		AM / TR
4	19/3	No class	Assessment 1	
5	26/3	Research topic workshop		AM / TR
6	2/4	No class		
Mid semester break				
7	23/4	Research frontiers workshop		AM / TR
8	30/4		Assessment 2	
9	7/5	Presentation workshop		AM / TR
10	14/5			
11	21/5	Student presentations	Assessment 3	AM / TR
12	28/5			
13	4/6		Assessment 4	

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

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

Disruption to Studies Policy 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/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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.

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) 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

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

- Ability to reflect upon and identify the importance of environmental research
- Understanding of core research frontiers in environmental research
- Awareness and appreciation for how different disciplines approach similar environmental research topics
- Awareness of the potential and challenges of adopting multidisciplinary research approaches.

Assessment tasks

- 1 Understanding research
- 2 Seminar report
- 3 Research presentation
- 4 Research frontiers essay

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

- Ability to reflect upon and identify the importance of environmental research
- Understanding of core research frontiers in environmental research
- Awareness and appreciation for how different disciplines approach similar environmental research topics
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- Ability to critically assess seminars and identify research processes

Assessment tasks

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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

- Ability to reflect upon and identify the importance of environmental research
- Understanding of core research frontiers in environmental research
- Awareness and appreciation for how different disciplines approach similar environmental research topics
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Assessment tasks

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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 outcome

- Ability to contribute to academic discussion and present ideas

Assessment tasks

- 3 Research presentation
- 5 Participation

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

- Ability to reflect upon and identify the importance of environmental research
- Ability to contribute to academic discussion and present ideas

Assessment tasks

- 1 Understanding research
- 2 Seminar report
- 3 Research presentation
- 5 Participation