



# BIOL711

## Topics in Evolution

S1 Day 2019

*Dept of Biological Sciences*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Kate Barry

[kate.barry@mq.edu.au](mailto:kate.barry@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Students will formulate a novel research question within a well-defined topic area, conduct a comprehensive review of the primary literature, synthesise this material to address their research question, and present their findings in oral and written forms. The best reviews will unite evidence from disparate areas to generate novel ideas and hypotheses. This unit provides an opportunity for students to learn about an area of scientific research that they may be unfamiliar with at the outset. The intention is to give students an opportunity to gain exposure to a research area that is completely unrelated to their masters research project. It also provides an opportunity for students to learn about the latest work in a wide variety of research areas through discussions and oral presentations presented by their peers. In the past, some literature reviews by students have been published in refereed scientific journals.

## 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:

Advance skills in oral presentation of a scientific argument

Develop skills in scientific writing

Synthesise primary scientific literature

Construct a scientific argument

Source and frame evidence to critique a scientific argument

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Proposal</u>	10%	No	18/03/2019
<u>Oral presentation</u>	20%	No	30/04/2019
<u>Abstract of literature review</u>	10%	No	07/05/2019
<u>Literature review</u>	60%	No	31/05/2019

### Proposal

Due: **18/03/2019**

Weighting: **10%**

Produce a brief outline of your research topic detailing the question to be addressed, the sub-questions you will consider, an outline of the structure of your review, the title and six key references you intend to use.

Maximum 1 side of A4 paper. The intention of this assessment task is to give early feedback to students on their planned project.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Synthesise primary scientific literature
- Construct a scientific argument
- Source and frame evidence to critique a scientific argument

### Oral presentation

Due: **30/04/2019**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will give a 5-minute oral presentation on their chosen review topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Advance skills in oral presentation of a scientific argument
- Synthesise primary scientific literature
- Construct a scientific argument
- Source and frame evidence to critique a scientific argument

## Abstract of literature review

Due: **07/05/2019**

Weighting: **10%**

Students should submit the title and abstract for their literature review. The abstract must be less than 250 words and include no references. Feedback on abstract and title will be given in time to incorporate suggestions into the final literature review

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Synthesise primary scientific literature
- Construct a scientific argument
- Source and frame evidence to critique a scientific argument

## Literature review

Due: **31/05/2019**

Weighting: **60%**

A written scientific review paper (3500 words max, exclusive of references)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Synthesise primary scientific literature
- Construct a scientific argument
- Source and frame evidence to critique a scientific argument

## Delivery and Resources

### IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 26th February  
E8A280

10am-12pm

Initial meeting, explanation of unit objectives & examples of literature review questions.

Tuesday 5th March

10am-12pm

E8A280

Follow up meeting to discuss choice of review questions.

Tuesday 12th March

9am-12pm

E8A280

Writing workshop part 1

Monday 18th March

4.00pm

Proposal due. Electronic submission via Turnitin accessible through ILearn.

Tuesday 19th March

9am-12pm

E8A280

Writing workshop part 2

Friday 26th April If using powerpoint for seminar presentation submit by 5pm by email to Andrew.Barron@mq.edu.au

Tuesday 30th April

10.00 am –

4:00pm

E8C212

Seminars, attendance at all seminars is compulsory!

Tuesday 7th May

4:00pm

Abstract for literature review due. Electronic submission via Turnitin accessible through ILearn.

Friday 31st May

4.00pm

Literature review due. Electronic submission via Turnitin accessible through ILearn.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). 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](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

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

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@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](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)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](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.

## Graduate Capabilities

### 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

- Synthesise primary scientific literature
- Source and frame evidence to critique a scientific argument

### 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

- Synthesise primary scientific literature
- Construct a scientific argument

### 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

- Advance skills in oral presentation of a scientific argument
- Synthesise primary scientific literature
- Construct a scientific argument
- Source and frame evidence to critique a scientific argument

### 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 outcome**

- Synthesise primary scientific literature

## **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**

- Advance skills in oral presentation of a scientific argument
- Develop skills in scientific writing

## **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 outcome**

- Construct a scientific argument