



ENVS8525

Sustainable Development: Introductory Principles and Practices

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Peter Davies

peter.davies@mq.edu.au

Lecturer

Thelma Raman

thelma.raman@mq.edu.au

Lecturer

Louise Metcalf

louise.metcalf@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnvEd or MSc or MEngMgt or MEnvMgt or MEnvStud or MSusDev or MEnvPlan or MPlan or MDevCult or MIntRel or MEnv or MPPP or MSocEntre or GradDipEnv or GradCertEnv or GradCertSusDev or GradDipSusDev or GradDipIntRel or MPH or MDevStud or GradCertDevStudGlobalHlth or MTransInterMIntRel or MMarScMgt or GradCertSocEntre or MEngEnvSafetyEng or MScInnovationEnvSc

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. 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:

ULO1: Demonstrate a knowledge of the Goals, their role in sustainable development and generate applications to policy/ practice.

ULO2: Articulate a position on 'sustainable development' and explain the bases for contestation

ULO3: Apply critical and analytical skills to policies, strategies and practices to bring about change for sustainable development

ULO4: Research sustainable development practice with key stakeholders, analyse findings and reflectively report on the findings and research process

ULO5: Communicate and present findings in different forms including multimedia, and cogent, structured reports, addressing defined issues

Assessment Tasks

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

General Assessment Information

Assessment Criteria

Assessment at Macquarie University is standards-based, as outlined in the [Assessment Policy](#). This means that your work will be assessed against clear criteria, and these criteria will be made available when the assessment tasks are released to you on iLearn.

Submission of Assessments

All assignments must be submitted online through [Turnitin](#) unless otherwise indicated. Links for the submission of each assignment will be available on [iLearn](#).

Marking of Assessments

Assignments will be marked through Turnitin with grades and feedback provided through GradeMark. Please do not submit your assignments via email or in hard copy.

We aim to return your assignments with feedback within two to three weeks of the date that you submit your assignment, and before your next assignment is due. We appreciate your patience and will advise you through iLearn when your marked assignments and feedback are available

for viewing.

Penalties for Late Assessments

The penalty for late submission of assessments in this unit is **ten percent (10 %) of the assessment value per day**, calculated from the due time and date. This means that if the assignment is worth a total of 30 marks (or 30 % of the unit) you will lose 3 marks for each day late. This is a hefty penalty designed to make you aware of the importance of organising yourself around assessment due dates. The penalty will be applied over weekdays and weekends unless you have been granted an extension prior to the due date.

Extensions for Assessments

To obtain an extension for an assessment task, you will need to follow the formal process as outlined in the [Special Consideration Policy](#), and you must provide appropriate supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate - see advice for [Special Consideration](#) requests). The final decision regarding the granting of an extension and/or a late penalty lies with the unit convenor. Permission for extension must be sought **well before the due date** unless this is absolutely impossible. Let us know of problems in advance or as soon as possible, not after the event: we are likely to be much more sympathetic and flexible in our requirements if you follow this advice.

Delivery and Resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

Class schedule and organisation

The class timetable can be found through the [Timetable](#) portal.

The unit is delivered by face to face interaction in block mode sessions. This means all day sessions spread over the semester. The teaching process includes:

- Background reading by the students
- Short presentations to introduce basic concepts
- Practical workshop sessions to provide opportunities for experiential learning on tasks and through discussion with other class members (preparation is essential)
- Student presentations of tasks prepared in advance
- Talks from guest lecturers that convey the practice of sustainability and the ways change is facilitated
- A field trip to appreciate the practical, technical and socio-political aspects of

sustainability.

- 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 digital stories, writing and presenting in a logical and clearly argued manner.
- Assignments provide opportunities for presenting in different formats, working with people of different skills and cultural perspectives.

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 to start you off

Good books that give an overview of sustainable development

- Baker S. 2016 *Sustainable Development* London: Routledge
- Blewitt J. 2018 (3rd ed) *Understanding Sustainable Development* London Earthscan
Routledge

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
UNCSD
- The Sustainable Development Goals 2015 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>
- NOTE: the UN has a website on sustainable development - a rich source of information. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>
- Countries have filed Voluntary National Review Reports on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates>
- Targets and Indicators for each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals can be found in the UN Document *Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* at <https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/313>

Unit Schedule

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult [iLearn](#) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

DAY/DATE	TIME	SESSION	ROOM
Saturday February 29 th	9.30 – 5.00	Workshop Session 1 (PD and TR) Morning session 1. (PD) Introduction to the unit and overview of assignments and brief overview of sustainable development Morning session 2. History of sustainable development (TR) Afternoon session: key theoretical concepts, UN SDGs (TR)	3 Innovation Road (EMC) G230
Saturday March 7 th	9.30 – 5.00	Workshop Session 2 (PD) Morning session. Key global concerns Afternoon session. Sustainability governance and drivers	3 Innovation Road (EMC) G230
Saturday March 14 th	9.30 – 5.00	Workshop Session 3 (TR) Morning session. Emerging economies and sustainability Afternoon session: Presentations on SDGs (Assessment 1) and recap on UNSDGs (Assessment 1 due)	3 Innovation Road (EMC) G230
Saturday March 21 th	9.30 – 5.00	Workshop Session 4 (PD) Morning session. Sustainability as a legal and policy construct Afternoon session. Socio-economic and environmental perspectives and transition theories	3 Innovation Road (EMC) G230
Friday March 27 th	9.30 – 5.00	Workshop Session 5 (PD) Sustainability in Action (City Campus) Guest presenters (Assignment 2 due March 30)	Macquarie University City Campus, Level 24, 123 Pitt Street, Sydney
Saturday 2 nd May	9.30 – 5.00	Workshop Session 6 (LM) Morning session: Pathways to bring about sustainability (LM) Afternoon session: Case studies, Assignment 3 group work (PD)	3 Innovation Road (EMC) G230

Friday May 8th	9.30 – 5.00	Field Trip (PD) (Assessment 3 due)	Off Campus
Friday May 29th		No class (Assessment 4 due)	

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.*)

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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact 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) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [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

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact 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/.

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.