



BIOX1310

Organisms to Ecosystems

Session 1, Infrequent attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Biological Sciences

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Bruno Buzatto

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8, Wally's Walk - room 209

Co-convenor

Mariella Herberstein

biol1310@mq.edu.au

Technical Officer

Winnie Man

biol1310@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to the essential concepts in current biology. BIOX1310 builds on the laboratory, statistical and communication skills obtained in BIOX1610. BIOX1310 forms the first step for students pursuing a career in the biological sciences, and provides a basis for students in other disciplines who wish to maintain an interest in this dynamic field. The theme of this unit is evolution. The first part of the unit is concerned with the origin of life and discusses current theories on how life may have arisen on a previously lifeless planet. We discuss evolutionary theory in detail including some of the genetic principles that underlie evolution. In the second part we introduce the major groups of organisms examining their diversity and how they function. In the final part we discuss the ecological interactions between organisms from the small scale to global patterns. Throughout the unit, these core concepts are illustrated with examples from current research. BIOX1310 is designed as a companion unit to BIOX1110 in Session 2 and requires attendance at an on-campus session.

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: Define evolution and describe its main mechanisms

ULO3: Differentiate the main groups of organisms and interpret their evolutionary relationships

ULO4: Contrast major ecological processes and describe biogeographical patterns

ULO5: Synthesise experimental results and information from the scientific literature to prepare a scientific report

ULO2: Define the major evolutionary transitions of organisms on earth

ULO6: Demonstrate foundational learning skills including active engagement in the learning process

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](#)

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

BECOME A STUDENT REP IN BIOL1310!

What does a student rep do?

- Works with students and convener to improve the unit experience for students
- Communicates with students about any issues
- Summarises feedback and issues for convener
- Works with convener to find solutions

- Meets with convener, other unit reps and Head of Department

Why should you nominate?

- Develop your leadership skills
- Develop your communication skills
- Learn to receive and provide feedback
- Network with other unit reps
- Be an active contributor to Biology units

Express your interest by emailing the First Year Teaching Coordinator Kate Barry at biol1310@mq.edu.au!

iLEARN

The primary means of communication for this unit is via iLearn™, which can be accessed by most web browsers from inside or outside the University.

We expect you to use iLearn for:

- Doing the Weekly Quizzes
- Regularly checking subject announcements (at least twice per week)
- Discussing the unit and its content with staff and other students
- Downloading Lecture and Practical materials
- Downloading reference materials

Logging in to iLearn

- The iLearn login page is: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>
- Username: your student number
- Problems? Please contact [Student IT Help](#)
- Need extra help due to a disability/health condition? Please visit the Student Services

Website : <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/wellbeing>

UNIT COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum requirements include:

1. Submit all assessments and attempt all exams
2. Attend and participate in all practical sessions (this is a hurdle requirement)

Missed Practicals

If you know you will miss a practical or if you missed one, please email the First Year Coordinator: biol1310@mq.edu.au

There may be alternative practical slots available for you to catch up on the missed practical, including attending the on-campus session. Please contact the First Year Coordinator to ensure there is room for you.

Overall grades

The University grading is: fail (F <50%), pass (P 50%-64%), credit (CR 65%-74%), distinction (D 75%-84%) and high distinction (HD 85%-100%).

Special Consideration

If you apply for Special Consideration for your final examination, you must make yourself available from mid July to the end of July, 2020. If you are not available at that time, there is no guarantee an additional examination time will be offered. Specific examination dates and times will be determined at a later date.

Assignment submission, Turnitin and Plagiarism

This is a paperless unit so no paper submissions will be required. All written assignments will be submitted through iLearn via a Turnitin link.

Turnitin is an online program that detects plagiarised pieces of work by comparing your writing with other published work including:

- websites, books, journal articles
- other submitted assignments - from across the world in the current or past years

Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one's own. To avoid plagiarism,

1. prepare your work well ahead of the due date,
2. write in your own words (no copy paste),
3. cite the source of the information you are writing about.

Do not under any circumstances lend your work to another student. If that student plagiarises

your work you too may be liable.

The penalties imposed by the University for plagiarism are serious and may include expulsion from the University.

A full outline of the Universities policy on plagiarism is found at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html.

The Academic Integrity Module for Students is an iLearn resource created by Learning Skills to help you learn about:

- What 'academic integrity' is and why it's important,
- Acceptable and unacceptable academic behaviours at university,
- What plagiarism is and key strategies to avoid it.

Your responsibilities in relation to academic integrity and your rights under the Macquarie University Academic Honesty Policy. Once you enrol in the Academic Integrity Module for Students, you can access it from your iLearn course list under the category 'Skill Building and Help Resources'.

Extensions and penalties

10% will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. If you are unable to submit the assignment by the due date, then an extension must be sought before the due date unless this is absolutely impossible. **To support your extension you will be asked to submit a special consideration request via ask.mq.edu.au.**

RESOURCES and SUPPORT

How to find the answers

1. Please read the unit outline.
2. Consult iLearn - often the majority of questions have already been asked and answered.
3. If the answer to a question will benefit others, please post it on iLearn. We will answer it in time.
4. **First Year Coordinator:** questions about practical class allocations, mark queries and organising alternative times for assessments or extensions.
5. **Scientific officer:** only during practical classes and only technical questions.
6. **Tutor:** questions throughout practical sessions and specific queries about assignments.
7. **Unit convenors:** lecture content, withdrawal, personal issues.

8. Unexpected adjustments made during the course will be announced via announcements so make sure you check iLearn regularly.

EMAIL PROTOCOL

1. Always put the subject in the subject line i.e. BIOL1310 – if you do not do this you risk the email not being noticed.
2. Please be courteous and patient - we will endeavour to reply to your email within 48 hours.

Text Book

The textbook for BIOL1310 (and BIOL1610) is Campbell Biology (11th Edition, Australian and NZ edition).

The book is available in hard copy from the campus co-op shop (for around \$170) or as ebook (for around \$60).

The textbook comes with an electronic resource called 'Mastering Biology' (for an extra cost), which includes animations, exercises and a question bank for study. We recommend the use of Mastering Biology to fully engage with the material, but will not use it formally during the course.

The text book is also available in the library and there might be earlier editions available second hand that are also suitable.

WRITING AIDS

Pechenik's guide to writing about biology is also recommended for this course as well as the following website.

<http://abacus.bates.edu/~ganderso/biology/resources/writing/HTWsections.html>

This website is comprehensive and will be incredibly useful throughout the semester.

OTHER HELP Macquarie University offers lots of help for you to develop your academic skills. Here is a list:

<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/skills-development>

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

See iLearn for the most current lecture and prac schedule.

Lectures			
Lecture type	Day	Time	Location
Face to Face or iLearn recording	Wednesday	11am - 12pm	14SCO T2 (online for external students)
Face to Face or iLearn recording	Friday	9:00-10:00am	23WW T2 (online for external students)
iLearn Lecture (goes online on Friday)	Monday-Friday	from 9am	Online Only

Oncampus dates (for externals only)

- Saturday April 4th: 9am-5pm
 - Pracs 1, 2, 3
- Sunday April 5th: 9am-5pm
 - Mid-semester test for external will run from 9:15-10:15am
 - Pracs 4 and 6 (**not 5!**)
- Saturday May 16th: 9am-5pm
 - Pracs **5**, 8, 9
- Sunday May 17th: 9am-5pm
 - Pracs 10, 11, 12
 - We will discuss the prac report and the final exam

All pracs will be run in Science Labs 106, 110 and 112, 6 Wallys Walk (E8C).

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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
13/02/2020	Staff change