



ENVS8519

Environmental Health

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convener, Lecturer

Mark Taylor

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By appointment

Lecturer

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnv or MSc or GradDipEnv or GradCertEnv or MEnvPlan or MPlan or MPH or MSusDev or GradDipSusDev or GradCertSusDev or GradCertDevStudGlobalHlth or MWldMgt or MMarScMgt or MConsBiol or GradDipConsBiol or MDevStud or MScInnovationEnvSc

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores those aspects of human health determined by physical, chemical, biological and social components of the environment. The unit explores this relationship through a broad range of local, regional, national and international topics including the interrelationships between physical, biological and socio-economic environments; population and environmental health measures and methods; identifying the causes, impacts and mitigation of environmental hazards; the regulatory framework covering various aspects of local and national environmental health; and emerging issues in environmental health such as climate change and globalisation.

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 broad understanding and knowledge of the nature of environmental health issues at different geographic scales - local, regional, national and global.

ULO2: Evaluate information in key environmental health reports, journals, and internet resources, and contribute to the public discourse on a range of environmental health issues

ULO3: Prepare and present a detailed research investigation on a specific environmental health topic.

ULO4: Demonstrate critical, analytical and integrative thinking through class discussions, problem-solving activities and written tasks

ULO5: Explain the interdisciplinary nature of the skills and knowledge employed by environmental health professionals in the context of other units of study.

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 (e.g. in a rubric) will be made available when the assessment tasks are released to you on iLearn.

Hurdle Requirements

A hurdle requirement is an activity for which a minimum level of performance or participation is a condition of passing the unit (see the [Assessment Policy](#)). Failure to meet the hurdle requirement will result in failure of the unit. There is no hurdle activity for this unit.

Submission of Assessments

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

You should always check that you have uploaded the correct file. If you have a problem, please email the Unit Convenor with your correct file. You must also keep a copy of your assessments until the end of semester in case there is a problem with your submission. It is your responsibility to ensure that you can provide a copy of your assessment if requested.

Marking of Assessments

Assignments will usually be marked through Turnitin with grades provided through Gradebook on iLearn. Please do not submit your assessments via email or in hard copy unless requested (e.g. a sketch or drawing).

We aim to return your assessment grades and feedback within two to three weeks of the date that you submitted it. We appreciate your patience and will advise you through iLearn when your marked assessments 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 it is 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 evidence (e.g. medical certificate - see advice for [Special Consideration](#) requests). The final decision regarding the granting of an extension lies with the unit convenor. Permission for extensions must be sought **before the due date** unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please 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 able to accommodate your circumstance if you follow this advice.

Exams

There is no exam for this unit.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Task 1 - Research literature review	30%	No	25 September 2020
Task 2 - Research project report	50%	No	23 October 2020
Task 3 - Class presentation	20%	No	2 November 2020

Task 1 - Research literature review

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 22.5 hours

Due: **25 September 2020**

Weighting: **30%**

The research literature review is the first of three related components that comprise the major assessment for ENV58519 - which is to undertake an original investigation into a contemporary environmental health topic drawn from any of the ENV58519 lecture topics.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a broad understanding and knowledge of the nature of environmental health issues at different geographic scales - local, regional, national and global.
- Evaluate information in key environmental health reports, journals, and internet resources, and contribute to the public discourse on a range of environmental health issues

Task 2 - Research project report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 37.5 hours

Due: **23 October 2020**

Weighting: **50%**

The project report will present the results of your research and investigation into the topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate information in key environmental health reports, journals, and internet resources, and contribute to the public discourse on a range of environmental health issues
- Prepare and present a detailed research investigation on a specific environmental health topic.
- Demonstrate critical, analytical and integrative thinking through class discussions, problem-solving activities and written tasks

Task 3 - Class presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **2 November 2020**

Weighting: **20%**

The oral presentation and background slide will provide a summary of your research project communicating key ideas and issues.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate information in key environmental health reports, journals, and internet resources, and contribute to the public discourse on a range of environmental health issues
- Explain the interdisciplinary nature of the skills and knowledge employed by environmental health professionals in the context of other units of study.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Unit Organisation

This unit is delivered in weekly pre-recorded lectures and on-line classes. The class timetable for this unit can be found through the [Timetable](#) portal.

Students are required to attend classes that will be made available via zoom and attend the presentations (via Zoom unless otherwise identified) in weeks 12 and 13. The weekly class session will include going over the lecture material, identifying the primary elements of interest and then working in small group activities to evaluate key issues and report back on your findings. This will require reviewing the lecture slides and associated materials ahead of the scheduled class time. The objective of this format is for the class to actively engage with the weekly material to enhance understanding and learning.

Pre-recorded lectures and on-line classes

The weekly 3-hour lecture block is the main mode of face-to-face delivery in this unit. Due to COVID-19 the class sessions will be online. The format is a mix of formal presentations, class discussions and student exercises. Active student participation and engagement is expected for all students.

The lectures will be pre-recorded and can be accessed via the ENV58519 iLearn page. They will need to be reviewed **ahead** of the scheduled class time.

The on-line class sessions will be recorded using Zoom and student attendance at these sessions is a requirement because we will be discussing and evaluating the issues raised in the pre-recorded lecture material in small groups.

Four (3) online modules have been developed for completion in Weeks 4, 6, 8, 11.

In Weeks 12 and 13, all students are required to be available and present their research project

to the class - this is Assessment task 3. At this point in time we expect that the presentations will be NOT be on campus.

iLearn

ENV58519 makes extensive use of iLearn as the primary portal for information and class communication. All lecture materials, supplementary resources, background readings, key reports and articles and websites are provided via the iLearn page.

iLearn "Announcements" and the "Discussion Forums" are utilised and all students are required to login regularly (at least once per week). It is expected that all students will actively engage and participate in the online and class discussions. Please only email the convenor with private matters – all other questions should be posted on iLearn.

Given the contemporary nature of this subject, regular use is made of the Environmental Health News service: <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/> and all students are encouraged to subscribe to the daily "EH News" e-letter to assist with learning.

Workload

The expected workload for this 10-credit point unit is 150 hours of activity, comprising **readings, pre-recorded lectures, class discussions and active learning, and assignments.**

Requirements to complete this unit satisfactorily

1. Achieve a pass grade or higher.

The descriptions for grades common to all coursework units offered by Macquarie University are outlined in [Schedule 1 of the Assessment Policy](#).

Recommended Texts and/or Materials

There is no set textbook for this unit. These books are highly recommended along with the materials provided in association with the weekly lectures:

- Frumkin, H. (ed.) (2016) **Environmental Health: From Global to Local**, 3rd Edition. Jossey-Bass.
- Friis, R. (2012) **Essentials of Environmental Health**. 2nd edition. Jones and Barlett Learning.
- Cromar, N., Cameron, S., and Fallowfield, H. (eds) 2004. **Environmental Health in Australia and New Zealand**. Oxford University Press. Melbourne.
- McCracken, K. and Phillips, D. (2017) **Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends**. 2nd edition. Routledge.
- Malik et al (2014) **Environmental deterioration and human health: natural and anthropogenic determinants**. Springer. e-book **free download** <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-94-007-7890-0.pdf>
- Prüss-Ustün, A. et al (2016) **Preventing disease through healthy environments: a global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks**. World

Health Organisation. e-book **free download** http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204585/1/9789241565196_eng.pdf?ua=1

A good reference book to assist with writing and communication is: Hay, I. (2012) **Communicating in Geography and the Environmental Sciences**. Oxford University Press. Melbourne. 4th edition

Key websites include:

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>
- Australian Indigenous Health InfoNet <http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/>
- Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CARE) <http://www.cccare.com/>
- Environmental Health Australia knowledge centre <https://www.eh.org.au/resources/knowledge-centre>
- NSW Environment Protection Agency (EPA) <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/>
- NSW Ministry of Health Environmental Health Branch <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/Pages/default.aspx>
- Pure Earth <https://www.pureearth.org/>
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/>
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) <https://www.epa.gov>
- WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) <https://www.iarc.fr/>
- World Health Organization (WHO) Public Health and Environment <http://www.who.int/phil/en/>

Technology Used and Required

This unit will use iLearn and Zoom. See the [Instructions on how to log in to iLearn](#) and the [iLearn quick guides for students](#) which will help you:

- [Getting started](#) - Find out how to navigate and familiarise yourself with the iLearn environment.
- [Activities](#) - Learn how to effectively complete the activities required of you in iLearn.
- [Assignments and Gradebook](#) - Find out how to submit assessments and view your grades using iLearn.
- [Online study tips](#) - Studying online is a unique experience, learn how to navigate it here.
- [Discussion forums](#) - Explore the different types, and features of discussion forums in iLearn.
- [Lecture recordings](#) - Find out how to access lectures online, as well as the features available to you.

Unit Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	27 July	Introduction to the unit
2	3 August	Risk assessment and management.
3	10 August	Hazardous materials: the good, the bad and the ugly
4	17 August	<u>ONLINE MODULE 1</u> Water and sanitation in developing countries
5	24 August	Conflict, natural hazard crises and environmental health
6	31 August	<u>ONLINE MODULE 2</u> Pollution: a global public health crisis
7	7 September	Certain infectious and parasitic diseases + Assignment planning, preparation and discussion
	14 September — 25 September	UNIVERSITY RECESS
25 September: Task 1 – Research Literature Review due (30 %)		
8	28 September	<u>ONLINE MODULE 3</u> Environmental Justice
9	5 October	Public holiday (no classes)
10	12 October	Air quality: indoor, outdoor
11	19 October	<u>ONLINE MODULE 4</u> Water, climate and environmental health
23 October Task 2 – Research Project Report due (50 %)		
12	26 October	Student research project presentations
26 October Task 3 – Class presentations due (20 %)		
13	2 November	Student research project presentations (cont)

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.