BIOL3420

Biodiversity and Conservation

Session 2, Special circumstances, Other 2021

Archive (Pre-2022) - Department of Biological Sciences

Contents

Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update

The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities.

Visit the MQ COVID-19 information page for more detail.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor
Jane Williamson
jane.williamson@mq.edu.au
Contact via BIOL3420@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
130cp at 1000 level or above including (BIOL2410 or BIOL227)

Corequisites
(BIOL3310 or BIOL316) or (BIOL3410 or BIOL347) or (BIOL3430 or BIOL368) or (BIOL3510 or BIOL369) or (BIOL3440 or BIOL373)

Co-badged status

Unit description
Conservation of populations, species and ecosystems are essential in maintaining biodiversity. Any loss or deterioration in the condition of biodiversity can compromise ecological and human wellbeing. This PACE unit covers the major themes of biodiversity and conservation: patterns of biodiversity, principles of conservation biology, human impacts and management principles. Topics include global biodiversity, threatening processes, protected areas, habitat fragmentation, restoration ecology, climate change impacts and management of threatened species. Practical work is conducted in two compulsory intensive sessions in collaboration with a partner organisation, one on campus during a weekend and the other off campus in Sydney for three consecutive days. This unit is beneficial for students interested in conservation and management of marine, freshwater and/or terrestrial ecosystems.

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: Evaluate the major patterns and services provided by biodiversity globally

ULO2: Identify key threatening processes that lead to the loss of biodiversity, including

those experienced through the PACE activity

ULO3: Critically evaluate and synthesise diverse information sources on a current, real-world conservation issue, and communicate that understanding using a variety of techniques

ULO4: Understand conservation management plans for practical application using principles of conservation biology

ULO5: Evaluate the efficacy of new conservation management strategies in a professional context

General Assessment Information

This unit cannot be completed entirely online. Students are required to attend a three-day field trip face-to-face

Assessment Submission

Digital copies of all written tasks will be required. Assessments will be submitted through the appropriate Turnitin portal on iLearn.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is the presentation of thoughts and work of another as one's own. Examples include:

• Copying thoughts or work of another without appropriate acknowledgment

• Paraphrasing another person's work with very minor changes

• Piecing together sections of the work of others into a new document.

All assessments need to be written in the student's own words. The penalties imposed by the University for plagiarism are serious and may include expulsion from the University. ANY evidence of plagiarism will be dealt with following University policy. Penalties for plagiarism will be imposed for each assessment and clearly defined in marking grades. Further and harsher penalties may be imposed by the Faculty Disciplinary Committee.

Extensions, Penalties and Disruption to Studies

The deadlines for assignments are not negotiable so please do not ask. If an assignment is submitted late a penalty of -5% of the mark allocated for the assignment will be deducted per day (i.e. 6 days late = -30% of marks available). Submission must occur within one week (7 days) of the due date or the assignment will not be marked.

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. Informal requests for extensions, or requests for extensions that have not been approved via the university online system will not be considered.

Unit Completion

To pass this unit, students need to achieve an overall minimum grade of 50% and attend the entirety of the field trip on 13-15 September.

Supplementary Exams

If you receive special consideration for the final exam, a supplementary exam will be scheduled in the interval between the regular exam period and the start of the next session. By making a special consideration application for the final exam you are declaring yourself available for a resit during the supplementary examination period and will not be eligible for a second special consideration approval based on pre-existing commitments. Please ensure you are familiar with the policy prior to submitting an application. You can check the supplementary examination information page on FSE101 in iLearn (bit.ly/FSESupp) for dates, and approved applicants will receive an individual notification one week prior to the exam with the exact date and time of their supplementary examination.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Poster	15%	No	20 August 2021
Species Assessment	25%	No	10 September 2021
Individual Research Project	25%	No	15 October 2021
Final Exam	35%	No	TBA

Poster

Assessment Type [1]: Poster
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **20 August 2021**
Weighting: **15%**

You will prepare a poster that summarises and critically appraises a scientific journal article from the recent conservation biology literature. You will submit this online.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the major patterns and services provided by biodiversity globally
- Identify key threatening processes that lead to the loss of biodiversity, including those

experienced through the PACE activity
- Critically evaluate and synthesise diverse information sources on a current, real-world conservation issue, and communicate that understanding using a variety of techniques
- Understand conservation management plans for practical application using principles of conservation biology
- Evaluate the efficacy of new conservation management strategies in a professional context

Species Assessment

Assessment Type [1]: Literature review
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **10 September 2021**
Weighting: **25%**

You will write a document on the status of an animal or plant species occurring in NSW. You will identify the history of the species in NSW, threats challenging the species' persistence and nominate a level of threat to the species based on IUCN Red List criteria.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Evaluate the major patterns and services provided by biodiversity globally
- Identify key threatening processes that lead to the loss of biodiversity, including those experienced through the PACE activity
- Critically evaluate and synthesise diverse information sources on a current, real-world conservation issue, and communicate that understanding using a variety of techniques
- Evaluate the efficacy of new conservation management strategies in a professional context

Individual Research Project

Assessment Type [1]: Case study/analysis
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **15 October 2021**
Weighting: **25%**

You will research an allocated project on an aspect of conservation and/or biodiversity relevant to Sydney. You will be given data to manipulate and you will produce a scientific report, which you will submit electronically.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key threatening processes that lead to the loss of biodiversity, including those experienced through the PACE activity
- Critically evaluate and synthesise diverse information sources on a current, real-world conservation issue, and communicate that understanding using a variety of techniques
- Understand conservation management plans for practical application using principles of conservation biology
- Evaluate the efficacy of new conservation management strategies in a professional context

Final Exam

Assessment Type [1]: Examination
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 3 hours
Due: **TBA**
Weighting: **35%**

You will sit a final examination during the examination period at the end of the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the major patterns and services provided by biodiversity globally
- Identify key threatening processes that lead to the loss of biodiversity, including those experienced through the PACE activity
- Critically evaluate and synthesise diverse information sources on a current, real-world conservation issue, and communicate that understanding using a variety of techniques
- Understand conservation management plans for practical application using principles of conservation biology
- Evaluate the efficacy of new conservation management strategies in a professional context

---

[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

Delivery

Lectures will be available online. There will also be an optional online question and answer time for the lectures that week immediately after the lectures at 1 pm. It is expected that you have listened to the lectures if you attend these. More information will be given in iLearn.

A field trip consisting of three consecutive days will run at the Coal Loader Centre of Sustainability, Waverton from 13 to 15 September, inclusive. These are day trips only and do not require overnight stay as part of the trip. The field trip will run from 9 am to 5 pm each day. Times will be flexible depending on your research project. You must attend the field trip face to face unless you are ill or the University directs the trip to be held online.

Resources

Students are expected to access all unit material through the iLearn website. Students will be required to use internet resources for sourcing information and to use appropriate software, particularly Excel and a statistics package for data analysis. Knowledge of data storage and analysis is assumed as these skills are not taught in the unit. Students will need access to a portable computer and preferably an independent internet connection for the field trip.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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

Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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.

BIOL3420 as a PACE unit

BIOL3420 is a PACE unit within the Department of Biological Sciences. This unit provides an opportunity for students to engage directly with the community by working alongside those in the industry. Students visit Balls Head Reserve and the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability where they collect data that will be utilised by the local community and industry as part of a longitudinal study of the area.

Biodiversity and conservation researchers and industry partners give guest lectures within the unit, giving students direct exposure to transitional links to the workplace. Partners benefit by interacting with enthusiastic discipline-specific students on the cusp of entering the workforce, and through exposure to new advances in the field of biodiversity and conservation. BIOL3420 gives back to the community through the sharing of data and viewpoints. More information on the role of PACE in BIOL3420 will be given in the lectures and field trip.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
13/08/2021	Added BIOL3420@mq.edu.au mailbox as contact, as directed by Sharyon O'Donnell.