



# BIOL3630

## Special Interest Topics in Biology

Session 2, Special circumstances 2021

*Archive (Pre-2022) - Department of Biological Sciences*

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#### Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

#### 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 Ken Cheng <a href="mailto:ken.cheng@mq.edu.au">ken.cheng@mq.edu.au</a>
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Permission by special approval
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description Students with a special interest in a particular area of biology may be permitted to enrol in this unit. Students work with an academic mentor to pursue literature-based research on a selected topic in biological sciences. It is necessary for the student to contact the coordinator and arrange for a staff member to supervise their readings and topic development. Assessment is based on two literature reviews, or equivalent, plus a seminar. Students taking this unit must be able to undertake self-directed and independent study.

## 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:** Utilise data mining techniques and skills to comprehensively and rigorously research a topic (or topics) from the primary scientific literature
- ULO2:** Evaluate, synthesise, and assess the evidence presented in scientific literature
- ULO3:** Communicate your understanding of a topic using written scientific conventions
- ULO4:** Discuss and explore the most important data, results, and conclusions from the primary scientific literature

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Essay 2	40%	No	Week 12
Talk	18%	No	Week 13
Short Essay	2%	No	Week 3
Essay 1	40%	No	Week 8

### Essay 2

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 60 hours

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **40%**

Review paper in the form of an opinion piece in the family of Current Opinion journals

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Utilise data mining techniques and skills to comprehensively and rigorously research a topic (or topics) from the primary scientific literature
- Evaluate, synthesise, and assess the evidence presented in scientific literature
- Communicate your understanding of a topic using written scientific conventions
- Discuss and explore the most important data, results, and conclusions from the primary scientific literature

### Talk

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 12 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **18%**

Conference-style oral presentation

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Utilise data mining techniques and skills to comprehensively and rigorously research a topic (or topics) from the primary scientific literature
- Evaluate, synthesise, and assess the evidence presented in scientific literature
- Discuss and explore the most important data, results, and conclusions from the primary scientific literature

## Short Essay

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 5 hours

Due: **Week 3**

Weighting: **2%**

Write one or two paragraphs summarising a key paper for the first essay topic

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Utilise data mining techniques and skills to comprehensively and rigorously research a topic (or topics) from the primary scientific literature
- Evaluate, synthesise, and assess the evidence presented in scientific literature
- Communicate your understanding of a topic using written scientific conventions

## Essay 1

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 60 hours

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **40%**

Review paper in the form of an opinion piece in the family of Current Opinion journals

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Utilise data mining techniques and skills to comprehensively and rigorously research a topic (or topics) from the primary scientific literature
- Evaluate, synthesise, and assess the evidence presented in scientific literature
- Communicate your understanding of a topic using written scientific conventions
- Discuss and explore the most important data, results, and conclusions from the primary scientific literature

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

The only scheduled event in this class is a session for talks in Week 13, to be arranged later. Otherwise, students work on their own to complete their assessments under the guidance of a supervisor.

## Policies and Procedures

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