General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Adam Stow
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
130cp at 1000 level or above including BIOL2110 or BIOL206

Corequisites

Co-badge status

Unit description
Ongoing advances in molecular technology, statistics and bioinformatics have revolutionized our ability to gather and apply genetic information. This unit deals with the distribution of genetic variation among individuals, populations and species, and the relevance of such variation to evolutionary processes. Specific topics include selection and adaptive potential; mutation; inbreeding; population divergence; speciation; effective population size and extinction risk. Approaches to the study of genetic variation are explored at levels ranging from pedigree analysis to molecular genomics. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of evolutionary genetics to the conservation, management and restoration of wild populations.

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: Explain why and how genetic factors have key importance in conservation biology
ULO2: Explain the importance of genetic diversity, and identify the phenomena that influence and maintain genetic diversity in populations
ULO3: Identify and apply appropriate statistical formulae to solve questions in conservation and evolutionary genetics
ULO4: Apply conservation genetic theory in order to propose management strategies for both wild and captive populations

ULO5: Synthesise and evaluate information on contemporary topics in conservation and evolutionary genetics

**General Assessment Information**

Overdue assignments will attract a penalty at the rate of 5% of the total mark allocated for the assignment per day past the due date. Weekend days are included in this calculation. The penalty will be capped at 75%, which means that once your submission is more than 15 days overdue you can earn up to a maximum of 25% of the assessment grade. The date and time of your submission will be taken as registered by TURNITIN.

Deadlines for assessments are **not negotiable** except under circumstances when you have experienced a serious and unavoidable disruption. In such instances, you should formally lodge a disruption to studies notification via ASK@MQ. University policy and procedure in regard to disruptions is given in the links below, but please note in particular:

1. To be eligible for special consideration, you must notify the University of a serious and unavoidable disruption within five (5) working days of the commencement of the disruption;
2. Such requests must be lodged for the specific assessment task for which you experienced disruption. Special consideration cannot be granted retrospectively (i.e., beyond the 5-day window of each assessment due-date);
3. Unit staff will NOT be held responsible for assessing special consideration unless a disruption notification is formally lodged via ASK@MQ.

**Grading & return of assessment tasks**

Assessments for assignments and mid-semester tests will be communicated via ilearn, in class to internal students and electronically to external students, along with feedback (specific and general) via text, structured rubrics and orally.

**One disclaimer:** Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Ratified results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent.
Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy

http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment policy:


Grade Appeal Policy:


Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public:


Disruption to Studies Policy (*This replaces the former Special Consideration Policy)*:


Other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

As a Macquarie University student, you have a responsibility to be familiar with (and adhere to) the Student Code of Conduct, available at: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commentary Article</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
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### Commentary Article

**Assessment Type**: Professional writing  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 6 hours  
**Due**: Week 3  
**Weighting**: 5%  
*

**This is a hurdle assessment task** (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

You are required to write a short commentary article on a published paper dealing with genetic variation and conservation. This will require a short literature search to identify a relevant paper from among the leading journals in conservation genetics (incl. *Science, Nature, PNAS, PLOS biology, Evolution, Molecular Ecology, Conservation Biology, Conservation Genetics* + many others). You should then familiarize yourself with the paper and its methodologies and write a commentary in the style of those appearing in the ‘Perspectives’ section of the journal *Science*. This is an early assessment task, with assessment criteria weighted for participation and genuine effort (given the early stage of unit material delivery). You will submit this assignment via TURNITIN.

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- Synthesise and evaluate information on contemporary topics in conservation and evolutionary genetics

### Seminar

**Assessment Type**: Presentation

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[1] *For more information on hurdle assessment tasks, visit the assessment policy.*
Indicative Time on Task: 8 hours
Due: Week 9
Weighting: 15%

You are required to give an oral presentation using Powerpoint, based on one to several topical research paper(s) in conservation/ecological genetics. Conference presentations are a primary means of communicating knowledge in science, and these sessions will be conducted in the manner of a formal scientific conference. Time limits will be strictly enforced, and will constitute part of the assessment criteria for this task.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Explain why and how genetic factors have key importance in conservation biology
- Explain the importance of genetic diversity, and identify the phenomena that influence and maintain genetic diversity in populations
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Problem Tests
Assessment Type: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task: 16 hours
Due: Week 6 and Week 13
Weighting: 30%

Students will submit two mathematical problem sets based tutorial work.

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Final Examination

Assessment Type 1: Examination
Indicative Time on Task 2: 38 hours
Due: Exam Period
Weighting: 30%

You will be tested on your knowledge of course content, including information from all lectures and tutorials, plus prescribed reading from the textbook (Frankham et al.) and other sources. No mathematical problem solving will be required in this examination. Check online (www.mq.edu.au) for scheduling updates towards the end of the teaching session.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain why and how genetic factors have key importance in conservation biology
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Scientific Report

Assessment Type 1: Report
Indicative Time on Task 2: 34 hours
Due: Week 11
Weighting: 20%

You are required to prepare a scientific manuscript based on the data analysed in the computer lab tutorial. Your manuscript should structured according to the author instructions for ‘original articles’ in the journal Evolution:

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291558-5646/homepage/ForAuthors.html

This will be submitted via TURNITIN. Further information, discussion and resources (including a marking rubric) will be provided prior to and during the computer lab tutorial.
On successful completion you will be able to:

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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 Learning Skills Unit 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

Lectures will be delivered online via zoom. Tutorials are available both face to face and via zoom.

Unit materials will be available on iLearn™ (https://ilearn.mq.edu.au). This is the primary conduit for communication in this subject. Use it for:

- Regularly checking subject announcements and communications;
- Downloading lecture, laboratory and reference materials;
- Uploading Assignments to TURNITIN via embedded links;
- Checking your grades.

Your user name is your student number, and your password is your myMQ student portal password.

If you are having problems logging on, please contact Student IT Help, Phone: (02) 9850 4357 (in Sydney) or 1 800 674 357 (outside Sydney).

If you are having trouble accessing your online unit due to a disability or health condition, please go to the Student Enquiry Services website at http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/ for information on how to get assistance.
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 Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

**Equity Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/disability_service) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**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](https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

**Changes since First Published**

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<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03/02/2021</td>
<td>SC linkage</td>
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