EESC2150
Mass extinctions and the hidden history of Earth
Session 2, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2021
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Contents

General Information
Learning Outcomes
General Assessment Information
Assessment Tasks
Delivery and Resources
Policies and Procedures

Disclaimer
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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.
Unit guide EESC2150 Mass extinctions and the hidden history of Earth

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

**Unit convenor and teaching staff**

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**Credit points**

10

**Prerequisites**

EESC1150 (or GEOS112 or GEOS1110 or GEOS125 or GEOS1120 or GEOS126 or GEOS1130)

**Corequisites**

**Co-badged status**
Unit description
252 million years ago life on our planet was nearly exterminated: 96% of marine life and over
70% of terrestrial life went extinct. The causes for this mass extinction are still debated. In this
unit we explore the geological history of this event. You will visit the site of the extinction
boundary on a field trip and develop geological skills to understand the paleoenvironment and
Earth processes that were changing at this time. You will interrogate continental
reconstructions to uncover why there were glaciers near Sydney in the Permian and delve into
the mantle to understand volcanoes, large igneous provinces and their devastating hazards.
You will discuss how and why the magnetic field was changing at this time and investigate
sediments and geochemistry to understand the link between Earth's interior and the surface.
Through this analysis, we will try to understand one of the biggest questions in Earth Science:
what caused the Permo-Triassic mass extinction? You will develop your skills in field work and
geological mapping, rock and mineral identification in hand samples and under the
microscope, viewing and probing global datasets and continent reconstructions, analysing
geochemical data, and synthesising data to address scientific questions. This is a topical
elective for those interested in how geoscience informs current and future environmental
crises.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are
available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO3: integrate scientific data from multiple sources to solve real-world problems and
effectively communicate scientific information to experts and non-experts.
ULO1: observe, understand and record geological information in the field to map rocks
and structures and interpret geological history including mass extinctions.
ULO2: identify and analyse common sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks to
deduce how they formed.
ULO4: develop team work, problem solving and project management skills to assess
geological settings in Earth's past.

General Assessment Information
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.
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

Details of exam conditions and timetables can be found on the Exams and Results portal. The draft exam timetable will be released approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the exams. The final exam timetable will be published 4 weeks before commencement. All students (including exchange students) are expected to present themselves for the exam at the time and place designated in the exam timetable. Note this may include weekends.

For unavoidable disruptions during exams, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as possible. If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process, the exam time will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination.
period and you will receive an individual notification prior to the exam with the exact date and time of the Supplementary Examination. You will only be allowed one opportunity to sit the Supplementary Exam as outlined in the Special Consideration Policy.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>every week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>30/08/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Report</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>27/09/2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Weekly Quizzes**

Assessment Type: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task: 11 hours
Due: every week
Weighting: 15%

Short weekly quizzes that test knowledge of lecture and workshop material and may be online or in class. See iLearn for a detailed list of quizzes in this unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- integrate scientific data from multiple sources to solve real-world problems and effectively communicate scientific information to experts and non-experts.
- identify and analyse common sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks to deduce how they formed.

**Final exam**

Assessment Type: Examination
Indicative Time on Task: 17 hours
Due: Week 14
Weighting: 40%

Final examination that requires the application of skills and knowledge developed in this unit.
On successful completion you will be able to:

- integrate scientific data from multiple sources to solve real-world problems and effectively communicate scientific information to experts and non-experts.
- identify and analyse common sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks to deduce how they formed.

**Literature Review**

Assessment Type: Literature review  
Indicative Time on Task: 20 hours  
Due: **30/08/2021**  
Weighting: **20%**

A summary, interpretation or an evaluation of research findings in a field of study. See iLearn for details of the literature review.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- integrate scientific data from multiple sources to solve real-world problems and effectively communicate scientific information to experts and non-experts.

**Field Report**

Assessment Type: Case study/analysis  
Indicative Time on Task: 20 hours  
Due: **27/09/2021**  
Weighting: **25%**

A report comprising multiple components that may include preparation for going in the field, field-based tasks and analysis of data collected in the field. See iLearn for details.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- integrate scientific data from multiple sources to solve real-world problems and effectively communicate scientific information to experts and non-experts.
- observe, understand and record geological information in the field to map rocks and structures and interpret geological history including mass extinctions.
- identify and analyse common sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks to deduce
how they formed.
• develop team work, problem solving and project management skills to assess geological settings in Earth's past.

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
11 Workshops of 3h + Reading Assignment (≈1.5h/week)
Fieldwork: 5-day field trip (including 32 hours face to face teaching)

Unit iLearn
This unit has an iLearn page that can be accessed through ilearn.mq.edu.au. It contains important information and other materials relating to the unit, including details and links for assessments.

Communication
The unit iLearn is the primary way that we communicate with you. Please check it regularly for announcements and posts. You are encouraged to use the Discussion Board on iLearn to post questions and generate discussion with other students. Please only email the convenor with private matters – all other questions should be posted on iLearn.

Unit Organisation
This unit is delivered in weekly topics. The organisation of these is outlined in a detailed unit schedule which is available on iLearn.

Classes
The class timetable for this unit can be found through the Timetable portal.

Technology Used and Required
This unit will use iLearn and Echo360. 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

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). 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). 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).

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

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.