



GEOP6050

Environment and Society

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2021

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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Disclaimer

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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 activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face 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

Unit convenor

Emily O'Gorman

emily.ogorman@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

Room B452, Level 4, 25B Wally's Walk

Email for appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnv or MEnvPlan or MPlan or GradDipEnv or GradCertEnv or MSusDev or GradDipSusDev or GradCertSusDev

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

With an emphasis on the Australasian region, this exciting interdisciplinary unit explores how societies and ecologies are entwined and develops creative ways of approaching environmental dilemmas. Bringing together geographic perspectives from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, it examines the concepts of environment, sustainability, and society, together with their past and possible future socio-political and economic framings. The historical and contemporary contexts of key environmental issues in Australia are explained along with their connections to global events and perspectives, including climate change, invasive species, water management, environmental protection movements, and links between consumption and production. Current planning frameworks and management processes, including legal and legislative mechanisms are also considered, along with emerging strategies and social movements that aim to address existing and expected problems.

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: Critically examine the mutually shaping forces of societies and ecologies in producing environmental dilemmas

ULO2: Explain the significance of historical and contemporary contexts to environmental issues at different scales

ULO3: Identify, and critically examine, key environmental issues

ULO4: Evaluate and respond to diverse perspectives and approaches to environments, societies and sustainability

ULO5: Engage with advanced concepts and academic texts

ULO6: Assess, sort, and synthesise information in presentations, small group discussions, and written work

ULO7: Critically evaluate management and planning options for addressing environmental, social and sustainability challenges

General Assessment Information

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All written assessments are to be submitted via Turnitin, the university online submission and marking system - found as a link in iLearn. Turnitin includes Grademark, a paperless grading system where your written assessments are marked by staff online. Submissions are also checked for plagiarism by Turnitin. Turnitin automatically compares your work to the work of your classmates, previous students and material available on the internet. Hard copies of assignments are no longer accepted and will not be marked.

For more information on Turnitin and Grademark: http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/assignments.htm

DEADLINES, EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Deadlines set for assessment submissions will not be altered except in exceptional circumstances. In all cases, extensions must be supported with appropriate documentation (medical certificate, counsellor's certificate, statutory declaration). All extensions must be applied for and granted through the special consideration process. See the Special Consideration Policy <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

Extensions will not be granted in cases of poor time management. Only the Unit Convenor can authorise extensions.

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Students who fail to complete and submit ALL assessments for the unit may not receive enough marks to pass the unit. Penalties will also be incurred for plagiarism, that is, the use of another

persons' work and presentation as your own (see University Policies and http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html).

GRADING

Each assessment will be marked, commented upon and returned to you via Turnitin and Grademark. Grading is conducted in line with the universities grading policy (<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>)

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Tutorial facilitation	25%	No	Weeks 2-11 tutorials
Literature Review Essay	40%	No	5pm 23 April 2021
Take home exam	35%	No	Available 12noon 28 May 2021; due 5pm 4 June 2021

Tutorial facilitation

Assessment Type ¹: Facilitation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 11 hours

Due: **Weeks 2-11 tutorials**

Weighting: **25%**

Undertake discussions and presentations based on unit readings. This will include each student leading the facilitation of a selected tutorial and submitting of a summary of the associated readings. All students are, however, expected to help facilitate the discussion each week.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Explain the significance of historical and contemporary contexts to environmental issues at different scales
- Evaluate and respond to diverse perspectives and approaches to environments, societies and sustainability
- Engage with advanced concepts and academic texts
- Assess, sort, and synthesise information in presentations, small group discussions, and written work

Literature Review Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **5pm 23 April 2021**

Weighting: **40%**

A literature review essay that engages with key concepts from the unit and demonstrates independent research based on a topic provided. Length: 2,500 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically examine the mutually shaping forces of societies and ecologies in producing environmental dilemmas
- Identify, and critically examine, key environmental issues
- Evaluate and respond to diverse perspectives and approaches to environments, societies and sustainability
- Engage with advanced concepts and academic texts
- Assess, sort, and synthesise information in presentations, small group discussions, and written work
- Critically evaluate management and planning options for addressing environmental, social and sustainability challenges

Take home exam

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Available 12noon 28 May 2021; due 5pm 4 June 2021**

Weighting: **35%**

A take-home exam based on lecture material.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically examine the mutually shaping forces of societies and ecologies in producing environmental dilemmas
- Explain the significance of historical and contemporary contexts to environmental issues at different scales

- Identify, and critically examine, key environmental issues
- Assess, sort, and synthesise information in presentations, small group discussions, and written work

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

Technology

This unit has a website which is accessible via www.mq.edu.au/iLearn. Here you can get access to unit materials including recording of lectures, copies of lecture slides, notices and a general discussion place to pose questions to staff.

Students are not required to acquire any specific technology for this unit but are expected to access the iLearn site and to use computers to produce their assignments.

Lecture and tutorials

This unit runs as a series of weekly recorded lectures, and a tutorial program (1 session weekly). All lecture recordings will be made available on iLearn through Echo360. Copies of lecture slides will also be made available through iLearn.

Students will need to enrol in a weekly tutorial and attend the same tutorial session each week. These are offered in a variety of formats. Please check eStudent.

Unit Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Schedule (subject to change)	Tutorial	Assessments
1	22 Feb	Environment and Society	<i>No tutorials</i>	
Part 1: Politics and ethics				

2	1 March	Political ecology	Politics and environments + tutorial leader sign-up	Tutorial facilitation: tutorial leader + class discussion (this assessment runs across tutorial weeks 2-11; see assessment instructions – total 25% across tutorial weeks)
3	8 March	Political ecology of cities	Cities, ecology, and power	
4	15 March	Environments and ethics	Ethics and ecology	
Part 2: Commodities and globalisation				
5	22 March	Circulations	Power and movement	
6	29 March	Place and production	Place and production	
Mid-session break: 3 April to 18 April				
Part 3: Social movements and values				
7	19 April	Climate migration and disasters	<i>No tutorials:</i> Essay preparation	Essay due (40%): 5pm, Friday 23 April
8	26 April	Protected areas and biodiversity	Politics of protected areas	

9	3 May	Species protection and eradication in Australian history	Protection and eradication	
Part 4: Emergent pathways				
10	10 May	Water and society	Water and cities	
11	17 May	Multispecies and more-than-human worlds	Multispecies worlds	
12	24 May	Alternative economies and degrowth + Synthesis and exam preparation	<i>No Tutorials:</i> Take-home exam	Take-home exam (35%): available 12noon Friday 28 May; due 5pm Friday 4 June.
13	31 May	<i>No lecture</i>		

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

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.

Changes from Previous Offering

Assessment changes: New tutorial facilitation structure introduced (tutorial leader + class discussion). Oral presentation assessment removed. Take-home exam replaces exam.