



GEOS8823

Literature Project in Earth and Environmental Sciences

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2021

Archive (Pre-2022) - Department of Earth and Environmental 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

Convenor and Lecturer

Kira Westaway

kira.westaway@mq.edu.au

Contact via 98508429

12WW 429

by email appt

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Permission by special approval

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This foundation unit develops generic scientific research skills in (i) critical review and synthesis of literature, (ii) scientific writing style, clarity and succinctness, (iii) bibliography management and (iv) time management. Students select topics relevant to their specific research interests and undertake literature research in consultation with a research mentor from the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences such as academic staff and/or postdoctoral researchers. A presentation of a seminar and written reports are required on completion of this project.

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: perform background research and synthesise existing scientific literature to investigate an active research topic

ULO2: write a scientific literature review consistent with the standards of a Masters thesis

ULO3: use oral presentation and scientific argumentation to present ideas from your

report clearly with supporting evidence

ULO4: develop a working relationship with an academic supervisor in the department and understand their research field

General Assessment Information

Study Plan

Due: 08/03/2021 Weighting: 0% This is a hurdle assessment task (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Complete Study Plan with your chosen supervisor and submit to iLearn by the start of week 3. This is a hurdle assessment, i.e. pass/fail.

Annotated Bibliography

Due: Week 5 Weighting: 15%

The student will provide a bibliography including at least 10 relevant papers. For each paper you should include a short description (up to 300 words) of the main points and relevance of the paper to the aims of your reading project.

Seminar

Due: Week 12 Weighting: 25%

The student will give a 5-minute seminar outlining their reading topic and then answer questions. The format should be as per a conference presentation. In addition the student will prepare a 200 word abstract written for a non-specialist that will be circulated prior to the presentations.

Report or Literature Review

Due: Week 13 Weighting: 60%

Students are to complete report or literature review (around 2500 words) on their chosen topic. Students are to engage with their supervisor through regular meetings to define the the structure and content of the report.

Assessment Criteria

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 will be made available when the assessment tasks are released to you on iLearn.

Submission of two of your assessments 2 and 4 must be submitted online through Turnitin. Links for the submission of each assignment will be available on iLearn. The due dates for all four assessment tasks are not negotiable. If you have commitments that will significantly impact your study during the session then you must plan for this in advance as part of an effective individual study plan and you may need to contact the unit convenor for advice.

Hurdle Requirement

A hurdle requirement is an activity for which a minimum level of performance or participation is a condition of passing the unit (see the Assessment Policy). In this unit, the hurdle requirement is that the study plan is submitted by 08-3-2021. Failure to meet the hurdle requirement will result in failure of the unit.

Marking of Assessments

Your two major assignments will be marked through Turnitin and feedback will be noted on the assignment. Do not submit your assignments via email or in hard copy. Your grades will be returned using the Grades Report on iLearn. Grades from your quizzes and the exam will also be made available on iLearn.

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 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 by the lecturer responsible for the assignment 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 documentation (e.g. medical certificate - see advice for Special Consideration requests). The final decision regarding the granting of an extension and/or a late penalty lies with the unit convenor/lecturer responsible for the assignment. Permission for extension must be sought well before the due date unless this is absolutely impossible. 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 flexible in our requirements if you follow this advice.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Study Plan	0%	Yes	8/3/21
Annotated Bibliography	15%	No	Week 5
Virtual Report Seminar	25%	No	Week 12
Literature Review	60%	No	Week 13

Study Plan

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **8/3/21**

Weighting: **0%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

A written framework describing the structure and workload of the literature project. Negotiated with supervisor via email or Zoom

On successful completion you will be able to:

- develop a working relationship with an academic supervisor in the department and understand their research field

Annotated Bibliography

Assessment Type ¹: Annotated bibliography

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Week 5**

Weighting: **15%**

A bibliography including at least 10 relevant papers including a short description/summary

On successful completion you will be able to:

- perform background research and synthesise existing scientific literature to investigate an active research topic
- write a scientific literature review consistent with the standards of a Masters thesis

Virtual Report Seminar

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **25%**

An oral presentation online summarizing the findings of the students report including a 100 word summary (abstract) written for a non-specialist.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- perform background research and synthesise existing scientific literature to investigate an active research topic
- use oral presentation and scientific argumentation to present ideas from your report clearly with supporting evidence

Literature Review

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **60%**

A comprehensive report or literature review on the students chosen topic

On successful completion you will be able to:

- perform background research and synthesise existing scientific literature to investigate an active research topic
- write a scientific literature review consistent with the standards of a Masters thesis
- develop a working relationship with an academic supervisor in the department and understand their research field

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

This is a unit designed to provide students with reading projects in advanced topics from an area of earth and environmental sciences. There are no lectures or practicals. Students are expected to scope out a suitable reading project with their Academic Supervisor, and complete a Study Plan accordingly. Student will arrange a meeting schedule with their Academic Supervisors as part of this process. Academic Supervisors provide guidance and feedback on progress at these meetings.

Example study plans and a proforma are provided on the unit iLearn site.

Web pages and electronic resources:

The main unit web page will be on iLearn: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/>

iLearn is Macquarie's learning management system. Assignments, hand-outs, and reading material will be available from this site - please ensure you have a valid login in

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 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.

Changes from Previous Offering

This unit was previously only a geosciences unit but it has been expanded during the departmental merger to incorporate both earth and environmental sciences