



GEOP6050

Environment and Society

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit convenor

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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:

- ULO2:** Explain the significance of historical and contemporary contexts to environmental issues at different scales
- ULO1:** Critically examine the mutually shaping forces of societies and ecologies in producing environmental dilemmas
- ULO3:** Identify, and critically examine, key environmental issues
- ULO4:** Evaluate and respond to diverse perspectives and approaches to environments, societies and sustainability
- ULO6:** Assess, sort, and synthesise information in presentations, small group discussions, and written work
- ULO5:** Engage with advanced concepts and academic texts
- 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 – 10 marks out of 100 credit will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than 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 written assessment will be marked, commented upon and returned to you via Turnitin and Grademark. Grading is conducted in line with the University's 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
Literature Review Essay	40%	No	5pm 3 June 2022
Take home exam	35%	No	5pm 30 April 2022

Tutorial facilitation

Assessment Type ¹: Facilitation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 11 hours

Due: **Weeks 2-11**

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:

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

Literature Review Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **5pm 3 June 2022**

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:

- Identify, and critically examine, key environmental issues
- Critically examine the mutually shaping forces of societies and ecologies in producing environmental dilemmas
- Evaluate and respond to diverse perspectives and approaches to environments, societies and sustainability
- Assess, sort, and synthesise information in presentations, small group discussions, and written work

- Engage with advanced concepts and academic texts
- 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: **5pm 30 April 2022**

Weighting: **35%**

A take-home exam based on lecture material.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the significance of historical and contemporary contexts to environmental issues at different scales
- Identify, and critically examine, key environmental issues
- Critically examine the mutually shaping forces of societies and ecologies in producing environmental dilemmas
- 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 lectures, and a tutorial program (1 session weekly). Recording of lectures 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. Tutorial registration is via eStudent.

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture Schedule (subject to change)	Tutorial	Assessments
1	Environment and Society	<i>No tutorials</i>	
Part 1: Politics and ethics			
2	Political ecology	Politics and environments	Tutorial facilitation: tutorial leader + class discussion (this assessment runs across tutorial weeks 2-11; see assessment instructions – total 25% across tutorial weeks)
3	Political ecology of cities	Cities, ecology, and power	
4	Environments and ethics	Ethics and ecology	
Part 2: Commodities and globalisation			
5	Circulations	Power and movement	
6	Place and production	Place and production	

Part 3: Social movements and values			
7	Protected areas and biodiversity	Politics of protected areas	
<i>Mid-session break</i>			
8	<i>No lecture or tutorials (due to public holiday) – Essay preparation</i>		Essay due (40%): 5pm, Friday 30 April
9	Species protection and eradication in Australian history	Protection and eradication	
Part 4: Emergent pathways			
10	Water and society	Water and cities	
11	Alternative economies, degrowth, and multispecies worlds	Multispecies worlds	
12	Synthesis and exam preparation	<i>No Tutorials:</i> Take-home exam	Take-home exam (35%): available 12noon Friday 27 May; due 5pm Friday 3 June.
13	<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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)

- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.