GEOP3020
Disasters and Resilient Communities
Session 2, Online-flexible 2023

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Phoebe Everingham
phoebe.everingham@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
130cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Disasters and extreme events, such as storms, floods, disease or bushfires, cause significant social, economic and environmental upheaval that directly affects people and places around the world. Resilience refers to the capacity of communities to anticipate, prepare and adapt to the risk of disaster and respond and recover when events occur. In the context of rapid climate change and ecological degradation, it is becoming increasingly urgent that communities plan for disaster and develop resilience strategies. This unit examines the social and biophysical origins of contemporary disasters, how disasters unfold at a range of sites and scales, how they are shaped by diverse geographies and vulnerabilities, the limits of community resilience, and how resilience can be improved. Contemporary cases from Australia and the Asia-Pacific region will be used to highlight key issues and policy debates. Overall, the unit will provide an understanding in both theory and practice about the ways in which communities respond to disaster and allow students to develop the skills and knowledge needed to pursue more resilient futures.

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: Identify and discuss the causes and consequences of contemporary disasters
ULO2: Engage with and critique the concepts of vulnerability and resilience in theory and practice
ULO3: Evaluate projects and policies that seek to create more resilient futures
ULO4: Synthesise data from the social and environmental sciences to assess disaster risks and develop strategies to improve local community resilience
ULO5: Communicate to diverse audiences using appropriately selected written, oral and visual means

General Assessment Information
Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-time sensitive assessment (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resilience strategy report and presentation</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>week 12 27.10.23 11.59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 7 Friday 8.9.23 11.59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logbook</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Part A week 6 Part B week 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resilience strategy report and presentation
Assessment Type: Report
Indicative Time on Task: 50 hours
Due: week 12 27.10.23 11.59pm
Weighting: 50%

2000 word report and short presentation developing a resilience strategy for a case study area

On successful completion you will be able to:
Identify and discuss the causes and consequences of contemporary disasters
Engage with and critique the concepts of vulnerability and resilience in theory and practice
Evaluate projects and policies that seek to create more resilient futures
Synthesise data from the social and environmental sciences to assess disaster risks and develop strategies to improve local community resilience
Communicate to diverse audiences using appropriately selected written, oral and visual means

**Essay**

Assessment Type: Essay
Indicative Time on Task: 30 hours
Due: **Week 7 Friday 8.9.23 11.59pm**
Weighting: 30%

1500 word essay drawing connections between disasters and resilient communities

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and discuss the causes and consequences of contemporary disasters
- Engage with and critique the concepts of vulnerability and resilience in theory and practice
- Evaluate projects and policies that seek to create more resilient futures

**Logbook**

Assessment Type: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task: 20 hours
Due: **Part A week 6 Part B week 12**
Weighting: 20%

A logbook with written reflections about the connections between disasters and resilience, drawing on media reports of Australian and Asia-Pacific case studies

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and discuss the causes and consequences of contemporary disasters
- Engage with and critique the concepts of vulnerability and resilience in theory and practice
Communicate to diverse audiences using appropriately selected written, oral and visual means.

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**

**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
- 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). 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](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
Unit guide GEOP3020 Disasters and Resilient Communities

- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
- Student Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

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.