BIOL8750

Contemporary Conservation in Australia

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024

School of Natural Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Adam Stow
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MBiotech or MBioBus or GradDipBiotech or MConsBiol or GradDipConsBiol or GradCertConsBiol or MEnv or MEnvPlan or GradDipEnv or MMarScMgt or MSusDev or GradDipSusDev or MPlan or MSc or MSclInnovation or MSclInnovationBioConsMgmt or BBioConsMConsBiol

Co-requisites

Unit description
This unit provides a current perspective of the values, threats to existence and conservation of Australian wildlife. The special characteristics of the Australian biota (plants, animals and other organisms) and the key threatening processes are discussed as well as its global and historical context. The role of biological research in informing conservation management is explored, and how conservation-based research is communicated and interpreted. An emphasis is placed on case studies in conservation biology with critical analysis of conservation successes and failures.

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: Describe theoretical concepts in conservation biology and current conservation issues in Australia and abroad
ULO2: Communicate scientific research and issues in conservation to various target audiences in verbal and written form
ULO3: Evaluate literature on conservation issues within peer-reviewed scientific
literature and present them in the popular media

ULO4: Identify how research in conservation biology influences environmental management practices and assess how effectively this is undertaken  

ULO5: Demonstrate a capacity for undertaking literature-based research into key topics in conservation biology and synthesising the current state-of-knowledge

**General Assessment Information**

**Requirements to pass this Unit:**

Achieve a total mark equal to or greater than 50%

**Late Penalties**

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark of the task) will be applied for each day a written report or presentation assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of ‘0’ will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. The submission time for all uploaded assessments is **11:55 pm**. A 1-hour grace period will be provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For any late submission of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, please apply for **Special Consideration**.

**Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted**

- Commentary Article and Scientific Report – YES, Standard Late Penalty applies
- Seminar and Problem Tests - NO, unless Special Consideration is Granted

**Special Consideration**

The **Special Consideration Policy** aims to support students who have been impacted by short-term circumstances or events that are serious, unavoidable and significantly disruptive, and which may affect their performance in assessment. If you experience circumstances or events that affect your ability to complete the assessments in this unit on time, please inform the convenor and submit a Special Consideration request through **ask.mq.edu.au**.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Popular science article</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>17/5/2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Abstract</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>12/4/2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Online Quizzes</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>weekly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Popular science article

**Assessment Type**: Essay  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 50 hours  
**Due**: 17/5/2024  
**Weighting**: 40%

You will write a popular science article for The Conversation (see [https://theconversation.com/au](https://theconversation.com/au)). To do this, you will choose a recently (less than 1 year old) published scientific paper from a journal within conservation biology. The chosen journal article may focus on conservation issues occurring in any part of the world (i.e. not restricted to Australia or New Zealand).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe theoretical concepts in conservation biology and current conservation issues in Australia and abroad
- Evaluate literature on conservation issues within peer-reviewed scientific literature and present them in the popular media
- Demonstrate a capacity for undertaking literature-based research into key topics in conservation biology and synthesising the current state-of-knowledge

## Research Abstract

**Assessment Type**: Summary  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 16 hours  
**Due**: 12/4/2024  
**Weighting**: 10%

A short abstract to summarise your presentation, as if you were presenting it at an international scientific conference.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate scientific research and issues in conservation to various target audiences in verbal and written form
- Identify how research in conservation biology influences environmental management
practices and assess how effectively this is undertaken
- Demonstrate a capacity for undertaking literature-based research into key topics in conservation biology and synthesising the current state-of-knowledge

**Weekly Online Quizzes**

Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 30 hours  
Due: weekly  
Weighting: 24%

iLearn quizzes will be available for completion following the delivery of lecture content. The online exercises will consist of short answers and multiple-choice questions that revise the topic of each lecture (including workshop discussions). The quizzes may involve consulting peer-reviewed literature discussed in lectures, external websites, and chapters within Austral Ark. The schedule for the availability and due dates of each online quiz will be available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Describe theoretical concepts in conservation biology and current conservation issues in Australia and abroad  
- Communicate scientific research and issues in conservation to various target audiences in verbal and written form  
- Demonstrate a capacity for undertaking literature-based research into key topics in conservation biology and synthesising the current state-of-knowledge

**Research Presentation**

Assessment Type 1: Presentation  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 30 hours  
Due: 19/4/2024  
Weighting: 26%

Your task is to give a presentation (using powerpoint slides with audio only) to provide a RESEARCH UPDATE AND SYNTHESIS on a conservation issue of interest, integrating scientific literature published in the last FIVE years around your topic. You are required to choose a topic of conservation interest in Australia or New Zealand/ Oceania. The topic you choose may, e.g., be in relation to a threatened/invasive species, a threatened habitat, or threatening processes such as fire, disease spread or human disturbance.
On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate scientific research and issues in conservation to various target audiences in verbal and written form
- Identify how research in conservation biology influences environmental management practices and assess how effectively this is undertaken
- Demonstrate a capacity for undertaking literature-based research into key topics in conservation biology and synthesising the current state-of-knowledge

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**

Lectures will be mostly prerecorded and available via ECHO. Tutorials will be face-to-face. Resources will be made available via ilearn.

Week 1 Lectures commence
Tutorials commence week 2

**COVID Information**

For the latest information on the University’s response to COVID-19, please refer to the Coronavirus infection page on the Macquarie website: [https://www.mq.edu.au/about/coronavirus-faqs](https://www.mq.edu.au/about/coronavirus-faqs). Remember to check this page regularly in case the information and requirements change during semester. If there are any changes to this unit in relation to COVID, these will be communicated via iLearn.

**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
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

**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 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/](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**

We value student feedback to be able to continually improve the way we offer our units. As such we encourage students to provide constructive feedback via student surveys, to the teaching staff directly, or via the FSE Student Experience & Feedback link in the iLearn page.

Student feedback from the previous offering of this unit was very positive overall, with students pleased with the clarity around assessment requirements and the level of support from teaching staff. As such, no change to the delivery of the unit is planned, however we will continue to strive to improve the level of support and the level of student engagement.

[Handbook](#)