POIR3970

Global Environmental Politics

Session 2, Online-flexible 2025

School of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor/Lecturer
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Email to make a time - generally available Tues 10-11am for drop-in.

Christopher Wright
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
130cp at 1000 level or above OR (20cp in POL or POIR or POIX units at 2000 level).

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Environmental issues are gaining prominence in both national and international politics and it is increasingly apparent that human activities are driving significant changes in our planet's environment. This unit provides a critical introduction to the theory and practice of global environmental politics and its interaction with other areas of global governance. Students will be introduced to debates in green political theory, to developing world perspectives on the environmental movement and to the ways in which environmental issues are conceptualised by major theories of international relations. Cases covered will be drawn from both Australian and international contexts. They will include climate change, geoengineering, energy security, biodiversity, human-animal relationships, food security and management of common pool resources such as forests, airsheds and fisheries.

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: Explain and critically evaluate theoretical and practical debates related to global environmental politics.

ULO2: Identify and analyse interconnections between environmental issues and broader dynamics in international politics.

ULO3: Discuss international institutional responses to the claims of environmental movements.

ULO4: Communicate information accurately and clearly on global environmental issues in oral, written and graphic forms.

ULO5: Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on 'environmental citizenship' and individual responsibilities concerning global environmental challenges.

General Assessment Information

AI Use Policy

Students are required to include a "Declaration concerning AI Use" on all submissions to turnitin. If AI was used in completing the assignment the declaration will explain the ways in which AI was used. Example declarations are provided in the Assessments tab on ilearn.

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

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-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, class participation notes 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

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
International negotiation simulation.	25%	No	20/8/2025		No	
Research essay.	50%	No	30/10/2025		No	

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Test based on weekly readings	25%	No	Choice of weekly quizzes or spoken test in week 13.		No	

International negotiation simulation.

Assessment Type [1]: Demonstration
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 25 hours
Due: **20/8/2025**
Weighting: **25%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

Students will submit a position paper on behalf of a specific actor to iLearn, present this paper in class or an online discussion forum, and then participate in a negotiation simulation as this actor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and critically evaluate theoretical and practical debates related to global environmental politics.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between environmental issues and broader dynamics in international politics.
- Discuss international institutional responses to the claims of environmental movements.
- Communicate information accurately and clearly on global environmental issues in oral, written and graphic forms.

Research essay.

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 45 hours
Due: **30/10/2025**
Weighting: **50%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

Research essay requiring independent research. Essay questions and marking criteria will be provided on iLearn. Completion of task will require a short presentation summarising essay's

argument.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and critically evaluate theoretical and practical debates related to global environmental politics.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between environmental issues and broader dynamics in international politics.
- Discuss international institutional responses to the claims of environmental movements.
- Communicate information accurately and clearly on global environmental issues in oral, written and graphic forms.

Test based on weekly readings

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **Choice of weekly quizzes or spoken test in week 13.**
Weighting: **25%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

A test based on weekly readings – details provided on ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and critically evaluate theoretical and practical debates related to global environmental politics.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between environmental issues and broader dynamics in international politics.
- Communicate information accurately and clearly on global environmental issues in oral, written and graphic forms.
- Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on 'environmental citizenship' and individual responsibilities concerning global environmental challenges.

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[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

- Academic Success 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.

[3] An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the Service Connect Portal.

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

For lecture times and classrooms please use the Class Finder tool in eStudent to see when and where your classes are being held and if they have space.Class Finder web page link: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/enrolling/create-timetable eStudent web page link: https://student1.mq.edu.au

Internal students are expected to attend the following classes each week:

Lecture: Tuesday 3-5pm 23WW T1 Lecture theatre.

Tutorials: Tuesday 5pm or Wednesday. See timetable for details.

NOTE: Tutorials will begin in Week 1.

External students: The lecture is digitally recorded and can be watched live or downloaded from echo360 on iLearn. Of course you are always welcome to attend weekly lectures in person too. Lecture slides will be uploaded to ilearn each week. External students are expected to participate actively in discussion on the iLearn discussion forums.

Required resources:

There is one required text for this unit:

O'Neill, Kate (2016 2nd Edition) The Environment and International Relations. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press. If you have access to a copy of the first edition (2009) that will also be sufficient.

Access to this text will be necessary in order to complete the reading quizzes. The library does have an electronic copy of this text. However, access through the library cannot be guaranteed at all times - so if you plan to rely on the library copy make sure you complete readings well ahead of quizzes being due. The textbook should also be available for purchase through Booktopia or via a variety of other online bookstores. All other unit readings will all be available on ilearn or e-reserve.

Unit Schedule

Week 1 - Class Tuesday 29 July. *Introduction: The Politics of the 'Anthropocene'.* *Tutorials commence in week 1.

Week 2 - Tuesday 5 August *International Relations Theory and Global Environmental*

Problems Key case study: solar geoengineering, which is the Week 3-4 class activity is introduced in the lecture this week. *In this unit you have a choice between completing 8 of the 11 weekly reading quizzes that are due on a Monday night OR as an alternative you can complete a single test based on the entire semester's readings in Week 13. If you are choosing the weekly quiz option the Week 2 reading quiz should be completed on ilearn **prior to class** at 11.55pm on Monday 4 August.)

Week 3 - Tuesday 12 Aug *Actors in Global Environmental Politics* - Key case study: The Montreal Protocol/ Ozone Layer Depletion. - Week 3 reading quiz due 11.55pm on **Monday** 11 Aug

NB: Please nominate which essay question you will address this week via the iLearn discussion forum this week.

Week 4 - Tuesday 19 Aug *International Environmental Regimes* - Key case study: Whaling - Reading quiz due 11.55pm on **Monday** 18 Aug

Graded class participation activity due in this week's tutorial. Class participation notes to be submitted to ilearn by 11.55pm Wednesday 20 August.

Census date Friday 22-Aug-25

Week 5 - Tuesday 26 Aug *Intersecting Regimes: Environment, Trade and Security* - Key case studies: The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, and US tariffs on Chinese solar panels, batteries and electric vehicles. - Reading quiz due 11.55pm on **Monday 25** Aug

Week 6 - Tuesday 2 Sep. *Common Pool Resources: Forests, Airsheds and Fisheries* - Reading quiz due 11.55pm on Monday 1 Sept

Week 7 - Tuesday 9 Sept. *Global Public Goods: Climate change* - Reading quiz due 11.55pm on Monday 8th Sept

Week 8 - Tuesday 16 September. *Energy Security & Electricity Policy* - Reading quiz due 11.55pm on Monday 15th September

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MID SEMESTER BREAK: **22 September to 6 October**

Week 9 - Tuesday 7 October. *Food Security, Agriculture & Engineering Biology* - Reading quiz due 11.55pm on **Monday 6th** Oct

Week 10 - Tuesday 14 Oct *Biodiversity and Animal rights.* - Reading quiz due 11.55pm on Monday 13th Oct

Week 11 - Tuesday 21 Oct. *Capitalism, Degrowth & Socialist Modernism* - Reading quiz due 11.55pm on Monday 20 Oct

Week 12 - Tuesday 28 October - Reading week. No classes - but see ilearn for details of pre-submission essay workshops)

****Essay Due Thursday 30th October 11.55pm****

Week 13 - Tuesday 4 November *Citizenship and political change in the Anthropocene.*

Students taking a spoken reading quiz rather than the weekly quiz will schedule a 15 minute test (via zoom or in person) with the convenor during this week.

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

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 connect.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://stu

dents.mq.edu.au/support/

Academic Success

Academic Success 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 the Service Connect Portal, 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.

Unit information based on version 2025.04 of the Handbook