



GEOP6050

Environment and Society

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Phoebe Everingham

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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

Geop2050

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:

ULO1: Critically examine the mutually shaping forces of societies and ecologies in producing environmental dilemmas

ULO2: Explain the significance of historical and contemporary contexts to environmental issues at different scales

ULO3: Identify, and critically examine, key environmental issues

ULO4: Evaluate and respond to diverse perspectives and approaches to environments, societies and sustainability

ULO5: Engage with advanced concepts and academic texts

ULO6: Assess, sort, and synthesise information in presentations, small group discussions, and written work

ULO7: Critically evaluate management and planning options for addressing environmental, social and sustainability challenges

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

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|---|-----------|--------|-------------|
| Literature Review Essay | 40% | No | 11/04/2025 |
| Project | 35% | No | 30/05/2025 |
| Facilitation | 25% | No | weekly 2-12 |

Literature Review Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **11/04/2025**

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.

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- Identify, and critically examine, key environmental issues
- Evaluate and respond to diverse perspectives and approaches to environments, societies and sustainability
- Engage with advanced concepts and academic texts
- Assess, sort, and synthesise information in presentations, small group discussions, and written work
- Critically evaluate management and planning options for addressing environmental, social and sustainability challenges

Project

Assessment Type ¹: Project

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **30/05/2025**

Weighting: **35%**

Students will undertake a project on a contemporary environmental issue using multimedia tools

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Explain the significance of historical and contemporary contexts to environmental issues at different scales
- Identify, and critically examine, key environmental issues
- Assess, sort, and synthesise information in presentations, small group discussions, and written work
- Critically evaluate management and planning options for addressing environmental, social and sustainability challenges

Facilitation

Assessment Type ¹: Facilitation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 11 hours

Due: **weekly 2-12**

Weighting: **25%**

Undertake discussions and presentations based on unit readings. This will include each student leading the facilitation in a selected week and submitting of a summary of the associated readings. All students are, however, expected to help facilitate the discussion each week.

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- Engage with advanced concepts and academic texts
- 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

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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 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://students.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 2025.01R of the [Handbook](#)