



POIR3970

Global Environmental Politics

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor/Lecturer

Jonathan Symons

jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email: jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au

B341, Level 3, 25B Wally's Walk

Email to make a time - generally available Thursday 11-12 after lecture.

Tutor

Christopher Wright

christopher.wright@mq.edu.au

Contact via Please contact Jon at first instance: jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au

External/OUA tutor

Vince Scappatura

vincenzo.scappatura@mq.edu.au

Contact via Please contact Jon at first instance: jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au

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
<u>International Negotiated Simulation</u>	50%	No	04/09/2026	Individual	No	Observed
<u>Viva Voce</u>	50%	No	Individually scheduled: 30 Oct-13 Nov	Individual	No	Observed

International Negotiated Simulation

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **04/09/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students will participate in a negotiated simulation that reflects a professional scenario.

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.

Viva Voce

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Individually scheduled: 30 Oct-13 Nov**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students will submit a policy memo followed immediately by a 30 minute interview.

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

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: Thursday 9-11 - 17WW G02 Lecture Theatre (Michael Kirby Law School Building)

Tutorials: Thursday 12pm (11WW 180 Tutorial Room) 1pm (11WW 180 Tutorial Room) 2pm (11WW 170 Tutorial Room). 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. The textbook should also be available for purchase through online bookstores (e.g. [Booktopia](#)). All other unit readings will all be available on ilearn or e-reserve.

Unit Schedule

Week 1 - Class Thursday 30 July. *Introduction: The Politics of the 'Anthropocene'*. *Tutorials commence in week 1.

Week 2 - Thursday 6 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.

Week 3 - Thursday 13 Aug *Actors in Global Environmental Politics* Key case study: The Montreal Protocol/ Ozone Layer Depletion.

Week 4 - Thursday 20 Aug *International Environmental Regimes* Key case study: Whaling

**Graded class participation activity opening session commences in this week's tutorial. You are primarily assessed on notes submitted to ilearn by 11.55pm Friday 4 September, but these notes will reflect on your actions in the 20 August tutorial (or discussion board for external students) **

Census date Friday 21-Aug-26

Week 5 - Thursday 27 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.

Week 6 - Thursday 3 Sep. *Common Pool Resources: Forests, Airsheds and Fisheries*

Week 7 - Thursday 10 Sept. *Global Public Goods: Climate change*

Week 8 - Thursday 17 September. *Energy Security & Electricity Supply*

MID SEMESTER BREAK: 21-Sept — 5-Oct-26

Week 9 - Thursday 8 October. *Food, Agriculture & Engineering Biology*

Week 10 - Thursday 15 Oct *Biodiversity and Animal rights.*

Week 11 - Thursday 22 Oct. *Capitalism, Degrowth & Socialist Modernism*

Week 12 - Thursday 29 October - *Citizenship & decision-making in the Anthropocene.*

Week 13 - Thursday 5 November - *Conclusion*

Viva-voce spoken exams to be scheduled between 30 October and 13 November.

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.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)