



GEOP1080

Cities and Climate Change

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit convenor

Sara Fuller

sara.fuller@mq.edu.au

25WWB265

Please email for an appointment

Lecturer

Donna Houston

donna.houston@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The unit focuses on two big ideas: urbanisation and climate change. For the first time in human history, over half of the world's population live in cities. Urbanisation and the political, cultural and economic structures that sustain urban life are key drivers of global environmental change. The unit asks the question: how are we to imagine, plan and govern cities under conditions of climate change? How are cities contributing to global environmental change and what solutions might cities offer? Key dimensions of urban and planning theory and practice are introduced, including: urban infrastructures and mobilities, social change and social justice, urban political economy and governance, and sustainability transitions. Students will apply theory and practice to case studies of Australian and international cities to explore the problems and possibilities of living on an urbanised planet.

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 describe historical and contemporary processes of urbanisation

ULO2: Discuss the interconnections between cities, climate change and social justice

ULO3: Explain how cities are imagined, planned and governed in theory and practice

ULO4: Apply urban and planning theories to case studies of Australian and international cities

ULO5: Communicate to diverse audiences using appropriately selected written, oral and visual means

General Assessment Information

Assignment requirements and submission

Detailed requirements and marking rubrics for each assessment are available from the iLearn site. All written assignments should be submitted online to Turnitin via the relevant links provided in iLearn. You are **not** required to submit a hardcopy of any assignments or include a cover sheet.

Assessment extensions and late penalties

Circumstances that affect your ability to complete assignments by the deadline must be discussed with the convenor (Sara) prior to the due date. Extensions will be granted only in unforeseen or exceptional circumstances according to the University [Special Consideration policy](#). Students must apply for extensions online via [Service Connect](#) and provide appropriate supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate).

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 feedback

All feedback for assignments will be made available online.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Urban policy case study	30%	No	04/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Logbook	30%	No	19/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Justice essay</u>	40%	No	30/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Urban policy case study

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **04/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

A digital output exploring a specific urban policy/practice initiative in the context of a case study city

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and describe historical and contemporary processes of urbanisation
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Logbook

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **19/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Written reflections using a specified template based on readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Discuss the interconnections between cities, climate change and social justice
- Explain how cities are imagined, planned and governed in theory and practice
- Communicate to diverse audiences using appropriately selected written, oral and visual means

Justice essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **30/10/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

2000 word case study essay exploring the connections between cities, climate change and justice

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- 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
- [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

Classes

In-person offering

Students should attend the 2 hour lecture and a 1 hour tutorial each week. Please sign up for your preferred option tutorial and attend the same class throughout semester.

- Lecture: Wednesday 9-11am (14SCO T4 Lecture Theatre)
- Tutorials:
 - Wednesday 12-1pm (01CC 207 Groupwork Learning Space)
 - Wednesday 1pm-2pm 01CC 208 Groupwork Learning Space)

Online offering

Lectures will be recorded and available via Echo in iLearn. Tutorials for online students are asynchronous and take place through weekly discussion forums. You should listen to the recorded lecture, *prior* to making contributions to the discussion forums.

Reading

There are a range of journal articles and chapters that are required reading. These will be listed on iLearn and available via Leganto.

Technology used and required

All enrolled students have access to the GEOP1080 website via iLearn. iLearn will provide access to lectures (powerpoint presentations for download and recordings through the University's Echo lecture recording facility) as well as readings, links and forum discussions. Regular access to iLearn is required in order to complete the unit.

Unit Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
MODULE 1: Urban planet		
1	29th July	Introducing cities and climate change (SF)
2	5th August	Just cities (SF)
3	12th August	Global cities (SF)
4	19th August	Everyday cities (SF)
MODULE 2: Urban challenges		
5	26th August	Urban resilience (SF)
6	2nd September	Urban nature (DH)
7	9th September	Urban mobilities (DH)
8	16th September	Urban regeneration (DH)
Learning and teaching break 21st Sept-2nd Oct		
9	7th October	Urban energy transitions (SF)
MODULE 3: Urban futures		
10	14th October	Urban imaginaries (SF)
11	21st October	Smart cities (DH)
12	28th October	Sharing cities (DH)
13	4th November	Urban futures: towards climate justice (SF)

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 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)