General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Craig O’Neill
craig.oneill@mq.edu.au

Mark Lackie
mark.lackie@mq.edu.au

Yingjie Yang
yingjie.yang@mq.edu.au

Suzanne O’Reilly
sue.oreilly@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
6cp in GEOS or MATH or PHYS units at 200 level including GEOS205

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit integrates recent advances in geodynamics, geophysics, geochemistry, and geology to understand the long-term tectonic evolution of the Earth, and its impact on the surface. Topics covered include structure and dynamics of the Earth, physical processes driving Earth dynamics, fundamentals of modern earthquake seismology, plate motions through time, paleomagnetism, global supercycles, and recent developments in the understanding of mantle/lithosphere dynamics.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
1. Understanding of issues concerning the global tectonics of the earth
2. Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
3. Understanding of the basic concepts of tectonic plate motions
4. Understanding scientific methodology
5. Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information
6. Application of knowledge to solving problems and evaluating ideas and information
7. Capacity to present ideas clearly with supporting evidence

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment I</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment II</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment III</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper &amp; Seminar</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>July</td>
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Online Quizzes
Due: Various
Weighting: 7%

Students will complete 5 online quizzes, on each module of the course.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Understanding of issues concerning the global tectonics of the earth
- Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
- Understanding of the basic concepts of tectonic plate motions
- Application of knowledge to solving problems and evaluating ideas and information

Assignment I
Due: Week 4
Weighting: 7%

Assignment on module 1

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
- Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information
- Application of knowledge to solving problems and evaluating ideas and information
Assignment II
Due: **Week 7**
Weighting: **8%**

Assignment on plate tectonics module

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Understanding of issues concerning the global tectonics of the earth
- Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
- Understanding of the basic concepts of tectonic plate motions
- Application of knowledge to solving problems and evaluating ideas and information

Assignment III
Due: **Week 11**
Weighting: **8%**

Assignment on continental lithosphere module

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Understanding scientific methodology
- Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information
- Application of knowledge to solving problems and evaluating ideas and information
- Capacity to present ideas clearly with supporting evidence

Research Paper & Seminar
Due: **Week 12**
Weighting: **20%**

Research Paper

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Understanding of issues concerning the global tectonics of the earth
- Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
- Understanding of the basic concepts of tectonic plate motions
- Understanding scientific methodology
- Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information
- Application of knowledge to solving problems and evaluating ideas and information
- Capacity to present ideas clearly with supporting evidence
Final Exam

Due: July
Weighting: 50%

Final Exam

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Understanding of issues concerning the global tectonics of the earth
• Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
• Understanding of the basic concepts of tectonic plate motions
• Understanding scientific methodology
• Application of knowledge to solving problems and evaluating ideas and information
• Capacity to present ideas clearly with supporting evidence

Delivery and Resources

Lecture Times and Venue:

There will be two lectures (each one hour) and three-hour practicals session on each of week of first semester.

Lectures: Thursday 9am and 10am, E8A 386.

Practical 1: Thursday 11am-2pm, E5A 270.

Practical 2 (pending requests): Friday 11am-2pm, E5A 270.

TEXTBOOK AND TECHNOLOGY USED

The recommended textbook for the unit is “The Solid Earth (2nd Ed)” by Fowler. The book "Global Tectonics" by Kearey, Klepeis & Vine is a useful text and worth considering.

The unit also has a WEB site which can be found through the Online Learning @ MQ WEBSITE at http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/. This site contains information such as copies of colour images, copies of overheads and PowerPoint’s shown in class and copies of the practicals that we do in class. The WEB site will also allow access to the digital version of the lectures recorded through the iLecture system. As well, this site will access the on-line quizzes that will need to be completed during the semester. At the start of the year you should be issued with a username and password to access all the WEB sites available for the units you have taken. This will get you into the front page of the GEOS385 WEB site.

Below is a list of references that may be helpful in expanding certain aspects of the unit.

REFERENCES

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/56629/unit_guide/print 5
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QE501.A7513/1984</td>
<td>Artyushkov E.V., Geodynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC806.C65</td>
<td>Cook A.H., Physics of the Earth and Planets, 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QE509.4.D38/1999</td>
<td>Davies G.F., Dynamic Earth, Plates, Plumes and Mantle Convection, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC827.I7</td>
<td>Irving E., Paleomagnetism, 1964</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html]


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/]

Results

Results shown in iLearn, 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.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://stu...](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/56629/unit_guide/print)
Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
- Understanding scientific methodology
- Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information

Assessment tasks

- Assignment I
- Assignment II
Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Understanding scientific methodology
• Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information

Assessment task

• Research Paper & Seminar

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
• Understanding scientific methodology
• Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information
• Application of knowledge to solving problems and evaluating ideas and information

Assessment tasks

• Assignment I
• Assignment II
• Assignment III
• Research Paper & Seminar
• Final Exam
Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understanding of issues concerning the global tectonics of the earth
- Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
- Understanding of the basic concepts of tectonic plate motions

Assessment tasks

- Online Quizzes
- Assignment I
- Assignment II
- Assignment III
- Research Paper & Seminar
- Final Exam

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understanding of issues concerning the global tectonics of the earth
- Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
- Understanding of the basic concepts of tectonic plate motions
- Understanding scientific methodology
- Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information
- Application of knowledge to solving problems and evaluating ideas and information
Assessment tasks

- Assignment I
- Assignment II
- Assignment III
- Research Paper & Seminar
- Final Exam

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
- Understanding scientific methodology
- Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information
- Capacity to present ideas clearly with supporting evidence

Assessment tasks

- Assignment I
- Research Paper & Seminar

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understanding scientific methodology
- Capacity to present ideas clearly with supporting evidence

Assessment tasks

- Assignment III
- Research Paper & Seminar
- Final Exam
Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**
- Understanding scientific methodology
- Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information

**Assessment tasks**
- Assignment III
- Research Paper & Seminar

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**
- Understanding of mantle and lithosphere dynamics
- Understanding of the basic concepts of tectonic plate motions
- Understanding scientific methodology
- Competence in accessing, using and synthesising appropriate information
- Application of knowledge to solving problems and evaluating ideas and information

**Assessment tasks**
- Online Quizzes
- Assignment I
- Assignment III
- Research Paper & Seminar
- Final Exam