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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor, Lecturer, Tutor
Eve Vincent
eve.vincent@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
W6A
Wednesday 12-1pm

Lecturer
Sophie Chao

Lecturer
Paul Keil

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
39cp or admission to GDipArts

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
We live in a geological epoch increasingly referred to as the 'Anthropocene' - a term that references the profound impact industrialised human society has had on the environment. The central concern of this unit is to consider the complex ‘entanglements' that characterise life in the Anthropocene. How might we think about the range of relationships that humans have with other species, be they animal or plant, as well as human relationships with entities such as minerals, forests and rivers? We will explore theoretical concerns such as interspecies relations, toxic 'externalities' and non-human agency, as well as learning about specific case studies that deal with resource extraction, hunting and poaching, deforestation and others.

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
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/58737/unit_guide/print
Understand the concept of the 'Anthropocene' and critical perspectives on its usage
Gain insight into current theoretical discussions concerning humans' relations with other species
Apply anthropological analysis to contemporary issues to do with environmental degradation, Indigenous rights, conservation and climate change
Enhance communication and interpersonal skills through oral discussion and written work that focuses on conveying understanding, argument and information in a clear and concise fashion
Use the anthropological method of immersion and ethnographic description to analyse an inter-species encounter
Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments.

Assessment Tasks

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Summary</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Friday August 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encountering Another Species</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Monday October 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
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<td>Monday November 14</td>
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Tutorial Participation

Due: **Weekly**
Weighting: **15%**

You are required to attend a minimum of 80 per cent of our tutorials. Please email your tutor directly if you need to miss a tutorial for unavoidable reasons. Active engagement in our class discussions is vital: please come to class having done the required reading, willing to contribute your ideas, and ready to listen to others' contributions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the concept of the ‘Anthropocene’ and critical perspectives on its usage
- Apply anthropological analysis to contemporary issues to do with environmental degradation, Indigenous rights, conservation and climate change
- Enhance communication and interpersonal skills through oral discussion and written work that focuses on conveying understanding, argument and information in a clear and concise fashion
Critical Summary
Due: Friday August 19
Weighting: 15%
You are required to submit a 500 word summary of a reading. Details for this assessment task will be available in Week 1, and will be discussed in class in Week 2.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments.

Encountering Another Species
Due: Monday October 10
Weighting: 30%
For this assignment, you are required to write an ethnographic account of an encounter with another species or with the elements or a natural form (think pets, plants, pests, the sun, wind or even a river). A full description of this task will be released in Week 5. Your Week 7 lecture deals with methodological questions and is designed to help you with this assessment item. Furthermore, in Week 8 we will workshop drafts of this assignment together in class.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Gain insight into current theoretical discussions concerning humans' relations with other species
• Use the anthropological method of immersion and ethnographic description to analyse an inter-species encounter

Research Essay
Due: Monday November 14
Weighting: 40%
Your final essay is due on Monday November 14. Questions and criteria will be released in Week 9.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Understand the concept of the 'Anthropocene' and critical perspectives on its usage
• Apply anthropological analysis to contemporary issues to do with environmental degradation, Indigenous rights, conservation and climate change
• Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments.

Delivery and Resources
All required readings for this unit are available via the library site for this unit or via iLearn. A list
of readings is included as part of the Unit Schedule

Unit Schedule

Week 1 (Wednesday August 3). Unit introduction

Lecturer: Dr Eve Vincent

Please select one of the following readings for the first week. There are no tutorials this week; tutorials begin in Week 2.

Readings


Week 2 (Wednesday August 10) Nature and Culture in Anthropology

Lecturer: Sophie Chao

Required Reading


Week 3 (Wednesday August 17) Wild or Domestic, Native or Alien? Revisiting Dichotomies

Lecturer: Sophie Chao

Required Reading

Further Reading


Week 4 (Wednesday August 24) Resource Frontiers and Extractive Economies

Lecturer: Dr Eve Vincent

Required Reading


Week 5: Extractive Colonialism and Indigeneity in Contemporary Australia

Lecturer: Dr Eve Vincent

Required Reading

- Muecke, S (In Press),’ Indigenous-Green Knowledge Collaborations and the James Price Point Dispute’, In E Vincent & T Neale (eds), Unstable Relations: Environmentalism and Indigenous People in Contemporary Australia, University of Western Australia Publishing, Perth.
- Heritage Fight (We will watch this documentary in class)

Further Reading


Week 6 (Wednesday September 7) Lecture title and readings TBA

Associate Professor Juan Salazar from Western Sydney University will be coming to talk to us about his research in Antarctica.

Week 7 (Wednesday September 14) Flora, Fauna and Fieldwork: Interviewing Plants and Other Methodological Challenges
Lecturer: Sophie Chao


Mid-semester break: Monday September 19-Sunday October 2

Week 8 (Wednesday October 5): NO LECTURES.

We will be workshopping our 'Encountering Another Species' assignments in class. Please attend tutorials as per normal, bringing with you a draft of this assessment task.

Week 9 (Wednesday October 12) Hunting re-visited: Cross-cultural and ecological perspectives

Lecturer: Dr Catie Gressier

Required Reading


Further Reading


Week 10 (Wednesday October 19) Conservation: The politics of living with and protecting ‘natural’ ecologies

Lecturer: Paul Keil

Required Reading

**Further Reading**


**Week 11 (Wednesday October 26) Mutual ecologies: How humans and other animals give shape to, and are given shape by their environment**

**Lecturer: Paul Keil**

**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


**Week 12 (Wednesday November 2) Climate change, social change, and the role of anthropology in the Anthropocene**

**Lecturer: Paul Keil**

**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


**Week 13 (Wednesday November 9) Endpoints: Waste and Toxic Excess**

**Lecturer: Dr Eve Vincent**

**Required Reading**


**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:


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/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/58737/unit_guide/print
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.

Please note: ALL ASSESSMENT ITEMS MUST BE ATTEMPTED IN ORDER TO PASS THIS UNIT

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

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.

Graduate Capabilities

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 outcome**

- Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments.

**Assessment tasks**

- Critical Summary
- Research Essay

**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**

- Gain insight into current theoretical discussions concerning humans' relations with other species
- Use the anthropological method of immersion and ethnographic description to analyse an inter-species encounter

**Assessment task**

- Encountering Another Species

**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**

- Apply anthropological analysis to contemporary issues to do with environmental degradation, Indigenous rights, conservation and climate change
- Use the anthropological method of immersion and ethnographic description to analyse an inter-species encounter
Assessment tasks

• Tutorial Participation
• Encountering Another Species
• Research Essay

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

• Understand the concept of the 'Anthropocene' and critical perspectives on its usage
• Gain insight into current theoretical discussions concerning humans' relations with other species
• Apply anthropological analysis to contemporary issues to do with environmental degradation, Indigenous rights, conservation and climate change

Assessment tasks

• Tutorial Participation
• Encountering Another Species
• Research Essay

Problem Solving and Research Capability

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 outcome

• Gain insight into current theoretical discussions concerning humans' relations with other species
Assessment task

• Encountering Another Species

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

• Enhance communication and interpersonal skills through oral discussion and written work that focuses on conveying understanding, argument and information in a clear and concise fashion
• Use the anthropological method of immersion and ethnographic description to analyse an inter-species encounter
• Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments.

Assessment tasks

• Tutorial Participation
• Critical Summary
• Encountering Another Species
• Research Essay

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

• Understand the concept of the 'Anthropocene' and critical perspectives on its usage
• Gain insight into current theoretical discussions concerning humans' relations with other species
• Apply anthropological analysis to contemporary issues to do with environmental
• Understand the concept of the 'Anthropocene' and critical perspectives on its usage
• Gain insight into current theoretical discussions concerning humans' relations with other species
• Apply anthropological analysis to contemporary issues to do with environmental degradation, Indigenous rights, conservation and climate change
• Use the anthropological method of immersion and ethnographic description to analyse an inter-species encounter

Assessment tasks
• Tutorial Participation
• Encountering Another Species
• Research Essay

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

Assessment tasks
• Tutorial Participation
• Encountering Another Species
• Research Essay

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 outcome

• Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments.

Assessment tasks

• Critical Summary
• Research Essay