BIOL362
Freshwater Ecology
S2 Day 2016
Dept of Biological Sciences

Contents

General Information .................................................................................................................. 2
Learning Outcomes .................................................................................................................. 2
General Assessment Information ............................................................................................. 3
Assessment Tasks ..................................................................................................................... 4
Delivery and Resources .......................................................................................................... 6
Unit Schedule ........................................................................................................................... 7
Policies and Procedures ............................................................................................................ 8
Graduate Capabilities .............................................................................................................. 9

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Grant Hose
grant.hose@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
39cp including (BIOL208 or BIOL227 or ENVE334 or ENVE339 or ENVS339)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit introduces the diverse nature of freshwater ecosystems, their biota, and the physical and chemical factors that have shaped their structure and function. The unit provides a holistic catchment perspective, covering lakes, rivers and estuaries, fish, invertebrates and ecosystem processes. Fieldwork is an important part of this unit, with essential supporting and contextual knowledge provided by laboratory classes and lectures. Students will come to understand the key ecological components in freshwater systems, such as trophic structures, interspecific interactions, and the role of disturbance. Students will also understand how ecological knowledge can be applied to water resource management issues.

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:

- Describe the characteristics and ecological roles of the major biotic groups in freshwater ecosystems.
- Identify common freshwater invertebrate taxa to the family level
- Apply various field methods for sampling freshwater biota
- Identify and address the risks associated with fieldwork in and around water
- Describe the various ecosystem services provided by freshwater ecosystems and their biota
- Identify physical, chemical and biotic factors in rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers that
influence the biota and ecosystem functions
Assess the health of river and stream ecosystems using the AUSRIVAS method, including sampling
Prepare and edit scientific reports to a professional standard

General Assessment Information

Assignment description

Reviewing the work of others is an important part of scientific writing and research. Students will bring to class completed introduction and methods sections of their scientific report. These sections will be distributed among the class and each student will edit and review the work of another. Submissions will be anonymous. You will receive the feedback and comments made by your classmates who have reviewed your work.

Scientific Report

Students will complete a scientific report on a field-based survey of aquatic habitats in the Kangaroo River-Shoalhaven Catchment. Biological data will be collected on the field trip. Students will be expected to identify the invertebrates collected and report on the diversity found and process other samples collected as directed in class. The report will follow the standard format for a professional scientific report, i.e., it will have an abstract/summary, introduction, materials and methods, results and discussion sections and appendices. It will be appropriately referenced. Further details of the assignment requirements will be given in class or online.

Completion of prac tasks

Short written exercises will be completed. The exercises relate to the tasks undertaken in prac classes.

Mid-semester Quiz

A quiz will be held during class time. The quiz will cover all material from prac classes, lectures and online learning activities given prior to the quiz date.

Attendance at guest lectures

Attendance at five guest lectures. Marked as pass/fail based on attendance for whole lecture.

Assignment submission
Unit guide BIOL362 Freshwater Ecology

The scientific report must be submitted to Turnitin. Details of submission for Turnitin will be provided in class or online.

The report editing and review exercise will require you to bring hard copy of your work to the designated class.

Extensions and penalties

10% of the mark allocated for the assignment will be deducted per day that any work is submitted late.

If you have a serious and unavoidable disruption to your studies and require an extension please submit a Disruptions to Studies notification via Ask.mq.edu.au with supporting documentation, and a Professional Authority Form completed by your health care professional. Every effort should be made to seek an extension before the due date unless this is absolutely impossible. If you anticipate any potential problems speak to the unit convenor early.

The penalties imposed by the University for plagiarism are serious and may include expulsion from the University. ANY evidence of plagiarism WILL be dealt with following University policy.

Returning assessment tasks

Where practicable, assessment tasks will be returned in class; otherwise they will be available for collection from the Faculty of Science Centre.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid semester quiz</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>15/9/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prac Tasks</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report editing &amp; review</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>27/10/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Report</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>10/11/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest lecture participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>multiple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mid semester quiz

Due: 15/9/16

Weighting: 28%

In-class quiz on all material presented during lectures and prac classes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the characteristics and ecological roles of the major biotic groups in freshwater
ecosystems.
• Describe the various ecosystem services provided by freshwater ecosystems and their biota
• Identify physical, chemical and biotic factors in rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers that influence the biota and ecosystem functions
• Prepare and edit scientific reports to a professional standard

Prac Tasks
Due: Multiple
Weighting: 17%
Completion of tasks associated with practical classes

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Assess the health of river and stream ecosystems using the AUSRIVAS method, including sampling

Report editing & review
Due: 27/10/2016
Weighting: 5%
Students will bring to class completed introduction and methods sections of their scientific report. These sections will be distributed among the class and each student will edit and review the work of another.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Prepare and edit scientific reports to a professional standard

Scientific Report
Due: 10/11/2016
Weighting: 45%
Students will complete a scientific report on a field-based survey of aquatic habitats in the Kangaroo River-Shoalhaven Catchment.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Identify common freshwater invertebrate taxa to the family level
• Apply various field methods for sampling freshwater biota
• Identify and address the risks associated with fieldwork in and around water
• Identify physical, chemical and biotic factors in rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers that influence the biota and ecosystem functions
• Prepare and edit scientific reports to a professional standard

Guest lecture participation

Due: multiple
Weighting: 5%

Attendance at guest lectures.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Describe the characteristics and ecological roles of the major biotic groups in freshwater ecosystems.
• Describe the various ecosystem services provided by freshwater ecosystems and their biota
• Identify physical, chemical and biotic factors in rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers that influence the biota and ecosystem functions

Delivery and Resources

This course is delivered as 2 x 1 h lectures and 1 x 3-4 h prac class per week.

Attendance at practical sessions is compulsory and attendance at at least 2/3 of all practical classes is required to pass this unit.

Lectures will be recorded but some classes will be delivered in workshop or tutorial format for which the usual audio recording will not capture all class content. Students are advised to attend all classes where possible.

The course includes a compulsory field trip on the 7-9 September 2016. There will be a cost of $25 for travel during the trip. Students will be responsible for organising and providing their own food and accommodation. Further details of the trip will be provided early in semester.

There is an on campus session on 22 September 2016.

Lecture graphics and iLectures will be available on iLearn http://ilearn.mq.edu.au

We expect you to use iLearn for:
• Regularly checking subject announcements;
• Downloading lecture materials;
• Downloading laboratory materials;
• Downloading reference materials;
• Checking your grades.
Suggested Reading


**Unit Schedule**

**Unit completion requirements**

Students must complete all assessable tasks AND receive a final mark of >50% to pass this subject.

**UNIT SCHEDULE**

**Website**

*Lecture graphics and iLectures will be available on iLearn* http://ilearn.mq.edu.au

iLearn is a web-based computer mediated communication package and can be accessed by most web browsers from inside or outside the University. iLearn and email will be the principle method of communication in this subject.

We expect you to use iLearn to:

• Regularly check subject announcements
• Download lecture materials
• Download laboratory materials
• Download reference materials
• Check your grades

*How do you log in?* The URL for the iLearn log in page is: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/. You will need to log in to iLearn each time you use it. Your user name is your student number. If you are having
trouble accessing your online unit due to a disability or health condition, please go to the Student Services Website at http://sss.mq.edu.au/equity/about for information on how to get assistance. If you cannot log in after ensuring you have entered your username and password correctly, you should contact Student IT Help, Phone: (02) 9850 4357 (in Sydney) or 1 800 063 191 (outside Sydney).

**Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9 am – 10 am</td>
<td>E5A 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 pm – 2 pm</td>
<td>E4B 308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical session</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10 am – 1 pm</td>
<td>E8A 120,160</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Compulsory field trip**  7-9 September 2016

**Full day lab session**  22 Sept 2016 (mid semester break, 9am-4 pm)

**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/)
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://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

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**

- Describe the characteristics and ecological roles of the major biotic groups in freshwater ecosystems.
- Identify common freshwater invertebrate taxa to the family level
- Apply various field methods for sampling freshwater biota
- Identify and address the risks associated with fieldwork in and around water
- Describe the various ecosystem services provided by freshwater ecosystems and their biota
- Identify physical, chemical and biotic factors in rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers that influence the biota and ecosystem functions
- Assess the health of river and stream ecosystems using the AUSRIVAS method, including sampling

**Assessment tasks**

- Mid semester quiz
- Prac Tasks
- Guest lecture participation

**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 outcomes**

- Identify common freshwater invertebrate taxa to the family level
- Apply various field methods for sampling freshwater biota
- Identify and address the risks associated with fieldwork in and around water
- Identify physical, chemical and biotic factors in rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers that influence the biota and ecosystem functions

**Assessment tasks**

- Mid semester quiz
- Scientific Report
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**

- Assess the health of river and stream ecosystems using the AUSRIVAS method, including sampling
- Prepare and edit scientific reports to a professional standard

**Assessment tasks**

- Mid semester quiz
- Report editing & review
- Scientific Report
- Guest lecture participation

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 various field methods for sampling freshwater biota
- Identify and address the risks associated with fieldwork in and around water
- Assess the health of river and stream ecosystems using the AUSRIVAS method, including sampling
- Prepare and edit scientific reports to a professional standard

**Assessment tasks**

- Prac Tasks
- Report editing & review
- Scientific Report
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

- Identify common freshwater invertebrate taxa to the family level
- Identify and address the risks associated with fieldwork in and around water
- Describe the various ecosystem services provided by freshwater ecosystems and their biota
- Identify physical, chemical and biotic factors in rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers that influence the biota and ecosystem functions
- Assess the health of river and stream ecosystems using the AUSRIVAS method, including sampling
- Prepare and edit scientific reports to a professional standard

Assessment tasks

- Mid semester quiz
- Report editing & review
- Scientific Report

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

- Apply various field methods for sampling freshwater biota
- Prepare and edit scientific reports to a professional standard

Assessment tasks

- Mid semester quiz
- Report editing & review
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 outcome**

- Identify and address the risks associated with fieldwork in and around water

**Assessment task**

- Guest lecture participation

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**

- Describe the characteristics and ecological roles of the major biotic groups in freshwater ecosystems.
- Identify and address the risks associated with fieldwork in and around water
- Assess the health of river and stream ecosystems using the AUSRIVAS method, including sampling

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**

- Identify and address the risks associated with fieldwork in and around water
Assessment tasks

- Report editing & review
- Guest lecture participation