

## MARI1000: Our Oceans

Online

Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## OVERVIEW

### Course Description

Australia's marine environment is globally significant, containing some of the world's most diverse ecosystems and species, many of which are unique to Australia. The economic value of Australia's marine environment exceeds A\$30 billion annually and its social value (for sport, recreation, relaxation) is immense in Australia's culture. Addressing future challenges for our oceans needs a sound understanding of its living and non-living features, including how we both benefit from, and impact upon, these valuable marine ecosystems. This course provides students with an introduction to the marine environment, to some of the most important marine ecosystems (coral reefs, beaches, rocky reefs), and current conservation and management issues (inc. climate change, land-based pollution, fishing and aquaculture, shoreline changes, marine protected areas) and their solutions. The course will be taught through on-line delivery of learning materials.

### Contact Hours

Online

#### Self-Directed Learning \*

Online

120 hour(s) per Term Full Term

Hours per week will vary depending on whether the course is run in semester 1 or 2 or as a compressed summer term. The total number of hours per term remains the same.

\* This contact type has a compulsory requirement.

### Unit Weighting

10

### Workload

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

[www.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.newcastle.edu.au)

CRICOS Provider 00109J

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Online</b> Dr Margaret Platell <a href="mailto:Margaret.Platell@newcastle.edu.au">Margaret.Platell@newcastle.edu.au</a> (02) 4349 4809 Consultation: Email is the best way to arrange any consultation.
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Environmental and Life Sciences</b> Room C228 Chemistry Building Callaghan <a href="mailto:Science-SELS@newcastle.edu.au">Science-SELS@newcastle.edu.au</a> +61 2 4921 5080 9am-5pm (Mon-Fri)

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	<p>Module 1: Introduction to the Marine Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental, economic &amp; social benefits of our ocean resources</li><li>• Climate, oceanography and currents</li><li>• Structure of the seafloor</li><li>• Australia's marine biodiversity &amp; ecosystems, and challenges for living organisms</li></ul> <p>Module 2: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coral reefs</li><li>• Beaches</li><li>• Estuaries, including seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh</li><li>• Rocky reefs, both intertidal and subtidal</li></ul> <p>Module 3: Issues, Challenges, Responses (may include)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate change</li><li>• Land-based discharge, including plastic pollution/stormwater</li><li>• Sustainable fishing and aquaculture</li><li>• Shoreline changes</li><li>• Marine protected areas</li></ul>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<p><b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe the physical marine environment, including the seafloor, oceanography and climate.</li><li>2. Describe key Australian marine ecosystems and species and their significance.</li><li>3. Recognise the social, economic and environmental benefits from sustainable use of Australia's marine environment.</li><li>4. Recognise the current issues for the Australian marine environment and their social, economic and environmental costs.</li><li>5. Integrate personal perspectives and evidence-based arguments for analysing contemporary issues in the marine environment.</li><li>6. Organise and communicate key concepts, using written and visual means.</li></ol>

# COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

## Contact Hour Requirements:

- Self-Directed Learning Induction Requirement - Students must attend and pass the induction requirements before attending these sessions. In order to participate in this course students must complete a compulsory safety induction (fully online)

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	17 Jul	Module 1.1: Goods & Services	Familiarisation with Canvas course site Access information for WHS & Module 1.1 WHS Online Quiz and Paperwork Module 1.1 Online Quiz	
2	24 Jul	Module 1.2: Oceanography & Climate	Access information for WHS & Module 1.2 WHS Online Quiz & Paperwork Online Quiz	WHS Quiz & Paperwork due by 11:59 pm on Friday (28th July)
3	31 Jul	Module 1.3: The Seafloor	Access information for Module 1.3 Online Quiz	
4	7 Aug	Module 1.4: Living in the Marine Environment	Access information for Module 1.4 Online Quiz	The four (4) Module 1 Quizzes (20%, 5% each) to be taken before 11:59 pm on Friday (11th August)
5	14 Aug	Module 2.1: Coral Reefs	Access information for Module 2.1 Online Quiz Factsheet preparation	
6	21 Aug	Module 2.2: Beaches	Access information for Module 2.2 Online Quiz Factsheet preparation (cont.)	
7	28 Aug	Module 2.3: Estuaries	Access information for Module 2.3 Online Quiz Factsheet finalisation	Factsheet (30%) to be submitted to the marking portal by 11:59 pm on Friday (1st September)
8	4 Sep	Module 2.4: Intertidal Rocky Shores	Access information for Module 2.4 Online Quiz	The four (4) Module 2 Quizzes (20%, 5% each) to be taken before 11:59 pm on Friday (8th September)
9	11 Sep	Module 3.1: Climate Change	Access information for Module 3.1	
10	18 Sep	Module 3.2: Sustainable Seafood	Access information for Module 3.2	
Mid Term Break				
Mid Term Break				
11	9 Oct	Module 3.3: Marine Debris	Access information for Module 3.3	
12	16 Oct	Module 3.4: Marine Protected Areas	Access information for Module 3.4	

13	23 Oct	Module 3: Assessed Online Discussion	Participation in Group Discussion	Online Discussion for Module 3 (30%) opens 9 am on Monday (23rd October) and is to be completed before 11:59 pm on Thursday (26th October)
<b>Examination Period</b>				THERE IS NO FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THIS COURSE
<b>Examination Period</b>				

## ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Quizzes	Quiz and Paperwork for WHS due by 11:59 pm on 28th July (Friday, Week 2) Quizzes for Module 1 (four (4), 5% each) due by 11:59 pm on 11th August (Friday, Week 4) Quizzes for Module 2 (four (4), 5% each) due by 11:59 pm on 8th September (Friday, Week 8)	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3
2	Factsheet development	Factsheet is due by 11:59 pm on 1st September (Friday, Week 7)	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
3	Analysis of contemporary issue	Discussion will run between 9 am on 23rd October to 11:59 pm on 26th October (Monday to Thursday, Week 13)	Individual	30%	2, 3, 4, 5, 6

### Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

## Assessment 1 - Quizzes

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Purpose</b>	Online Quizzes are designed to measure your comprehension, knowledge, and recall of the topics covered.
<b>Description</b>	Quiz and Paperwork for Workplace Health & Safety (WHS) (0% required to continue) Quizzes for Module 1: Introduction to the Marine Environment (20%) Quizzes for Module 2: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (20%)
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	Eight (8) quizzes x 15 questions each
<b>Due Date</b>	Quiz and Paperwork for WHS due by 11:59 pm on 28th July (Friday, Week 2) Quizzes for Module 1 (four (4), 5% each) due by 11:59 pm on 11th August (Friday, Week 4) Quizzes for Module 2 (four (4), 5% each) due by 11:59 pm on 8th September (Friday, Week 8)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Online Quizzes are designed to measure your comprehension, knowledge, and recall of the topics covered in Modules 1 & 2; each quiz consists of 15 multiple choice questions based on the course material.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - Immediately. Students will be provided with their total mark (out of 15) upon completing each quiz.

## Assessment 2 - Factsheet development

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Professional Task
<b>Purpose</b>	Will assess your capacity to source, assimilate and present your knowledge of the chosen topic - in which you select one (1) recreational activity carried out in the marine environment, from a choice of four (4) such activities.
<b>Description</b>	The factsheet activity is designed to extend your acquisition of knowledge, leading to an understanding of impacts that people in the community may have on marine environments through selected recreational activities. The production of the factsheet will also ask you to set this understanding into the benefits that are provided by the recreational activity in our marine environment and various approaches to management. Although the listed readings for this assessment provide you with some basic information, you will need to do more reading and research to successfully produce the factsheet. Further details are provided on the Course Canvas site.
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	Double-sided A4 page, references included
<b>Due Date</b>	Factsheet is due by 11:59 pm on 1st September (Friday, Week 7)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	The fact sheet will assess your capacity to assimilate and present your knowledge of the chosen topic; the fact sheet should include each of the following: a title banner, an appropriate photo (captioned correctly), a table summarising key information, a data plot summarising key information, descriptive text and a bibliography that identifies the sources of information and all fits within a double-sided A4 page. You will be assessed on your ability to synthesise and present the information and knowledge effectively and efficiently so that the reader can quickly acquire the material. Marking rubric is provided on the Course Canvas site.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - Three weeks following the submission date. Students will be provided with the total mark, a marked rubric and written feedback for their submission.

## Assessment 3 - Analysis of contemporary issue

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Online Learning Activity
<b>Purpose</b>	Will enable peer-to-peer learning; develop communication skills; develop understanding of different viewpoints, all focussed on an issue of concern for the marine environment and conducted in an online environment.
<b>Description</b>	In the last week of the course, you will be participating in an assessed discussion with your peers on one (or more) of the topics covered in Module 3: Issues, Challenges and Responses. The class will be split into groups of approx. six to seven students; each group will have its own Discussion area on the Course Canvas site. Further details provided on the Course Canvas site.
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	3-4 posts of approximately 200 words each
<b>Due Date</b>	Discussion will run between 9 am on 23rd October to 11:59 pm on 26th October (Monday to Thursday, Week 13)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Group discussion and contribution will enable peer-to-peer learning; develop communication skills; you will be assessed on your ability to synthesise an opinion based on knowledge and convey this clearly in a well presented and articulate manner. Marking rubric is provided on the Course Canvas site.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - By the fully-graded date. Students will be provided with marks and a marked rubric for their discussion posts.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

## Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.

## Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

## Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

## Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

## Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or

2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

### Important Policy Information

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures>

that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

### Other Information

#### ***Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items***

*Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations* items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy specified in clause 15.2 of the Course Management and Assessment Procedure Manual found at the link below: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/Resources/Policy%20Library/000996-Edition2-2014-Course-Management-and-Assessment-Procedure-Manual.pdf>

Requests for Extension of Time must be lodged no later than the due date of the assessment item. This applies to students:

1. Applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment ; or
2. Whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment.

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documents, as outlined in the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure found at: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/000940.html>

*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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