

ENVS3610: Environmental Impact Assessment

Singapore PSB

Trimester 3 - 2023 (Singapore)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description	This course is designed to introduce students to environmental impact assessment and to provide theoretical and practical education in this field. The focus is on the rationale and methodology of integrated environmental impact assessment (EIA), including consideration of the relevant bio-physical, social, cultural, economic and human health aspects of development proposals, programs and policies. Included are aspects of tendering for and budgeting of, EIA projects. Workshops and case studies will illustrate aspects of EIA in practice.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Requisites	This course is only available to students enrolled in the Bachelor of Environmental & Occupational Health & Safety program.
Contact Hours	Singapore PSB Integrated Learning Session Face to Face On Campus 40 hour(s) per term Contact hours are not regular or on a weekly basis, since delivery will take place on some week-ends and evenings, i.e., there will be some intensive block teaching. Total face to face contact will be 40 hours.
Unit Weighting Workload	10 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

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education Dr Charles Lee Charles.Cc.Lee@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: Mon and Wed: 3-5pm
Teaching Staff	Dr Charles Lee Charles.Cc.Lee@newcastle.edu.au
School Office	School of Environmental and Life Sciences Room C228 Chemistry Building Callaghan Science-SELS@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4921 5080 PSB Student Services Centre Questions/requests can be logged through: http://psb-academy.force.com/case/CM_LogCaseForm

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<p>This course will enable students to develop their knowledge and skills in impact assessment, so that they understand the procedures that must be completed in the integrated environmental assessment process. Students will be encouraged to develop their own perspective on impact assessment and to be able to relate it to other courses and to their wider understanding. Topics will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Critical examination of the assumptions in impact assessment;2. Historical evolution of impact assessment in selected parts of the world, with particular emphasis on Singapore;3. Practical exercises to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to enable them to undertake environmental impact assessment;4. A range of examples of environmental impact assessments, so that students can explore a range of approaches;5. Skills in critical thinking, using various forms of oral and written presentation, and individual and group work.
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To critically examine assumptions inherent in impact assessment.2. To develop skills in identifying and solving problems.3. To provide students with an understanding of the historical evolution of impact assessment in selected parts of the world.4. To provide students with the knowledge and professional skills necessary to enable them to undertake environmental impact assessment.5. To examine a range of environmental impact assessments.6. To identify and explore impact assessment fields and approaches.7. To familiarise students with a variety of professional tools used in predicting environmental impacts.8. To enable students to develop skills in critical thinking and professional procedures through various forms of oral and written presentation and individual and group work.

9. To encourage students to develop their own perspectives on impact assessment and to be able to relate this to other subject areas and to their wider understanding.

Course Materials

Recommended Text: ME*: Mandy Elliott. Environmental Impact Assessment in Australia. Theory and Practice. 6th Edition. Federation Press. 2014. ISBN. 9781862879453.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	5 Sep	Course Introduction. Intro to environmental issues. Actions and responses from the government, business, UNEP, NGOs, public.	ME*: Chap 1 & 2	
2	12 Sep	Environmental Management Systems. ISO 14001 and elements of EMS.	Asian Development Bank (ADB) EIA Guidelines	
2	16 Sep	Field Trip URA	Singapore Land Use Master Plan	Compulsory
3	19 Sep	Purposes of EIA: Global & Southeast Asia. Legislation vs voluntary. Other EIA faces: HIA, SIA, SEA	ME: Chap 5, ADB EIA Guideline	
4	26 Sep	Workshop : Integrating EMS and EIA		Compulsory
4	28 Sep	EIA philosophy and Process (Screening, Scoping, Impact Prediction, Mitigation and Control)	ME: Chap 4 & 7	
5	3 Oct	Methods and techniques for identifying environmental impacts. Impact Prediction & Assessment.	USEPA EIA guidelines, ADB EIA guidelines.	
6	10 Oct	Mandai EIA. Main Chapters, Biodiversity, EMMP.	Reference materials	
6	13 Oct	LTA Cross-island line. Vols 1, II, III. EMMP.	Reference materials	
Mid Term Break				
9	31 Oct	Mid-Semester Test		Mid-Semester Test
10	7 Nov	Social & Economic Impact Assessment / Case studies. Public Participation.	Reference materials	
11	14 Nov	Cumulative Impact & Strategic EIA. Challenges, limitations and future of EIA	ME: Section 3.6 & 3.10; Chap 10.	
12	28 Nov	Group Presentations - Compulsory for ALL group members		Group Assignment Due 25 November 2023
13	1 Dec	Course Review		
Exam Period				

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	Mid-Term Test	31 st October 2023	Individual	25%	1 - 6
2	Group Assignment	25 th November 2023	Group	35%	6, 7, 8
3	Final Examination	During exam period (11 th December to 21 st December)	Individual	40%	1 - 7

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 - Mid-Term Test

Assessment Type	In Term Test
Description	Mid-Semester Test
Weighting	25%
Due Date	31 st October 2023
Submission Method	Face-face physical test on campus
Assessment Criteria	According to the marking scheme
Return Method	Online Turnitin
Feedback Provided	Online Turnitin and face-to-face class

Assessment 2 - Group Assignment

Assessment Type	Report
Description	A group assignment will be conducted in groups of 4 students. The assignment is based on the group's selection of a significant development project using knowledge gained from the best elements adopted from an EIA or EMS system.
Weighting	35%
Due Date	25 th November 2023
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	According to the marking scheme
Return Method	Online Turnitin
Feedback Provided	Online Turnitin and face-to-face class

Assessment 3 - Final Examination

Assessment Type	Formal Examination
Description	Final examination on all topics covered in-class
Weighting	40%
Due Date	During exam period (11 th December to 21 st December)
Submission Method	Face-face physical test on campus
Assessment Criteria	According to the marking scheme
Return Method	None
Feedback Provided	No feedback

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:

- Face-face in class
- Canvas platform to distribute course content, outline, and reading materials
- Email

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.

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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