School of Environmental and Life Sciences

ENVS6530: Environmental Management
Online
Trimester 3 - 2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

COURSE OUTLINE

OVERVIEW

Course Description   This course will give you environmental management skills that are not yet common practice in industry, but should be. The course focuses on the theory and practice of environmental management using complexity theory as a framework. You will investigate the current limitations in environmental management and you will be exposed to best practice approaches. Practical application of knowledge will occur with the use of case studies of your choosing, so that the course is relevant to your particular interests, be they professional or personal. On passing this course, you will have a framework that you can use to be able to audit existing environmental management plans and recommend improvements.

Academic Progress Requirements   Nil

Contact Hours   **Online**
Self-Directed Learning
Online
10 hour(s) per week(s) for Full Term

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.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator **Online**
Dr James Garnham
James.Garnham@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation: By appointment.

Teaching Staff Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office **School of Environmental and Life Sciences**
Room C228 Chemistry Building
Callaghan
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+61 2 4921 5080
9am-5pm (Mon-Fri)

SYLLABUS

Course Content The following topics are covered:
- Introduction to management and problem solving.
- Environmental management theory and frameworks.
- Planning concepts and policy frameworks.
- Values, ethics, responsibilities, and professional practice.
- Differing perspectives on environmental management.
- Tools for environmental management.
- Issues and case studies in environmental management.
- Community involvement.

Course Learning Outcomes **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Articulate the key theoretical elements contributing to the complexity of many environmental issues.

2. Identify the contributors to the complexity of a real environmental issue.

3. Identify appropriate environmental management methods to address complexity.

4. Identify methods appropriate for addressing complexity in a real environmental issue.

5. Argue and justify the use of methods that engage with, rather than ignoring, complexity.

6. Audit an environmental management plan to determine its strengths and its weaknesses as well as producing recommendations for its improvement.

Course Learning Outcomes **Recommended Reading**

- Provided online via Canvas

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	21 Aug	Setting in	See online course materials	
2	28 Aug	Environmental complexity	See online course materials	
3	4 Sep	Environmental values	See online course materials	
4	11 Sep	Management paradigms	See online course materials	
5	18 Sep	Uncertainty and risk	See online course materials	Essay due 11:59 pm Sunday 24 September for those that present their tutorial after week 5
6	25 Sep	Rights, ethics and justice	See online course materials	Essay due 11:59 pm Sunday 1 October for those that present their tutorial before or during week 5
7	2 Oct	Indigenous approaches to environmental management	See online course materials	Plan for Major Report due 11:59 pm Sunday 8 October
8	9 Oct	Final major project planning	See online course materials	Peer review feedback for two (2) peers due 11:59 pm Sunday 15 October
9	16 Oct	Disciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches	See online course materials	
10	23 Oct	The role of the environmental manager	See online course materials	
11	30 Oct	Governance and institutions	See online course materials	
12	6 Nov	Drafting final major project	See online course materials	Final Major Report due 11:59 pm Sunday 12 November
Examination 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	Audio/visual tutorial presentation and facilitation of discussion board	Tutorial presentation: various dates across Weeks 1-7, 9-11, 2 discussion board posts per week.	Individual	30%	2, 3, 4, 5
2	Essay	11:59 pm Sunday 24 September (for those that present their tutorial after week 5) 11:59 pm Sunday 1 October (for those that present their tutorial before or during week 5)	Individual	30%	1, 2
3	Applied major report	Plan due 11:59 pm Sunday 8 October Final Major Report due 11:59 pm Sunday 12 November	Individual	40%	1, 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 - Audio/visual tutorial presentation and facilitation of discussion board

Assessment Type Description	Online Learning Activity
	The tutorial presentation and facilitated discussions provide an opportunity for you – with support from the Online Tutor – to explore key concepts covered in the curriculum for a particular week in the course. You will prepare an oral presentation for one week of the course. You are required to generate discussion questions to shape tutorial discussion over the course of the week. You will facilitate discussion using these self-generated tutorial questions.
	Tutorial presentation questions will be allocated early in the course across Weeks 3-7 and 9-11. You will refer to the set readings for the ENVS6530 as well as additional relevant readings if required for a case study. You are given the opportunity to submit a draft of your presentation transcript and discussion questions to the Online Tutor in advance, and discuss plans for presentation and discussion facilitation with the tutor.
	You are also expected to make at least two postings to tutorial discussion per week to raise questions, respond to questions and share ideas and observations. A first posting is due in the first part of each week, i.e. Monday through Wednesday. Second and subsequent postings are welcome anytime across the week.
	The weekly posting requirement supports deepening of the learning in the course through participation in online discussion across the Trimester. This gives you the opportunity to engage with course material together with their peers as discussions evolve across each week.
	Full instructions for how to undertake these tasks will be posted in the Assessment section in Canvas.
Weighting	30%
Due Date	Tutorial presentation: various dates across Weeks 1-7, 9-11, 2 discussion board posts per week.
Submission Method	Online
	Discussion boards and Turnitin
Assessment Criteria	Elocution (speech), core message, organisation of content, graphic content, diction, questions designed, tutorial facilitation, subject knowledge, resource compliance, on time.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online. Email feedback on draft, rubric feedback, written feedback.

Assessment 2 - Essay

Assessment Type Description	Essay
	The essay question is: What contributes to environmental complexity? Use a case study to justify your responses.
	The essay is set and due early in the course to encourage you to begin writing early and enable you to receive, and make use of, feedback in later written work.
	The 1000-word essay is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your understanding of environmental complexity. Additionally, it is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your research and essay writing skills.
	Full instructions on how to undertake this task will be posted in the Assessment section in Canvas.
Weighting	30%
Length	1000 words
Due Date	11:59 pm Sunday 24 September (for those that present their tutorial after week 5)
	11:59 pm Sunday 1 October (for those that present their tutorial before or during week 5)

Submission Method	Online Turnitin.
Assessment Criteria	Based on essay structure, content, argument, expression, referencing, resources, world limit and being on time.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - Editorial feedback, verbal feedback, rubric feedback, examples.

Assessment 3 - Applied major report

Assessment Type	Report
Description	This assignment provides you with the opportunity to produce a critical analysis of an existing Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in a community or workplace. You will critique the chosen Plan against best practice studied in this course (so that it addresses complexity). The aim of the project to demonstrate your understanding from the course content in a real world context i.e. applying new understanding. In short, this assessment provides you the opportunity to demonstrate a synthesis of your learning in ENVS6530. The Report is set late in the course. Report production is staged to support success with a challenging task. The major report proposal provides an opportunity to begin work on the major assessment task early, to receive feedback on the chosen research area, and an opportunity to ensure the suitability of the proposed project. You will produce and share a 1000-word proposal for the major report in Week 8 to receive feedback from peers and the Online Tutor. You will be allocated to review two fellow student's proposals by the Online Tutor and will be expected to provide around 250 words of feedback to each student in Week 8. The opportunity to give feedback to peers supports students to engage thoughtfully with other students' critical analyses. Participation in this exercise is crucial towards ensuring all students receive useful feedback in support of their major projects. Critiquing others' work is also an opportunity to improve critical thinking skills. By critiquing others' work, you can expect that the quality of your own work will also improve. In Week 12 you will have the opportunity to clarify any remaining questions about the final major projects with the tutor via online tutorials. Full instructions for how to undertake this task will be posted in the Assessment section in Canvas.
Weighting	40%
Due Date	Plan due 11:59 pm Sunday 8 October. Feedback due 11:59 pm Sunday 15 October. Final Major Report due 11:59 pm Sunday 12 November.,
Submission Method	Online Turnitin
Assessment Criteria	Based on report structure, content, argument, expression, referencing, resources, world limit and being on time.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online. Editorial feedback, verbal feedback, rubric feedback, examples.

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).

Attendance

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:
- Self-directed Learning (Method of recording).

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.

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.