

ENVS3001: Integrated Impact Assessment

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description Integrated impact assessment can be broadly defined as the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the effects of development proposals prior to a decision being taken. It is a formal process for guiding human activity towards sustainable development. This decision-making tool is widely used in developed and developing countries. This course explores the practice and theory of impact assessment and public participation using a practice-based approach to learning through workshops, exercises and case studies to develop the skills needed for professional employment. In addition, the critical issues facing practitioners, decision makers and communities in relation to sustainably equitable forms of development and democratic environmental decision-making are addressed through Australian and international perspectives. This capstone course will equip students with skills, techniques and methods of impact assessment and public participation necessary for entry into environmental management professions.

Academic Progress Requirements
Requisites

Nil

This course replaces EMGTT3110. If you have successfully completed EMGT3110 you cannot enrol in this course.

Assumed Knowledge
Contact Hours

ENVS2002 Environmental Legislation and Planning

Field Study

Face to Face On Campus

2 hour(s) per full term commencing Week 2.

2 hour (s) fieldwork on a site on campus (Week 2).

Lecture

Online

2 hour(s) per week for full term commencing - Week 1

Online Activity

Online

2 hour(s) per week(s) for 3-6 weeks (s) - Week 6, 8 & 10

Workshop

Face to Face On Campus

2 hour(s) per week(s) for Week 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 & 12

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

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Callaghan Prof Matthew Hayward Matthew.Hayward@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4921 7472 Consultation: By appointment
Teaching Staff	Associate Professor Andrea Griffin Andrea.griffin@newcastle.edu.au Dr Darren Southwell Darren.southwell@newcastle.edu.au
School Office	School of Environmental and Life Sciences Room C228 Chemistry Building Callaghan CESE-SELS@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4921 5080 9am-5pm (Mon-Fri)

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historical background and contemporary approaches to integrated impact assessment and sustainability;• Environmental and social impact assessment methodologies and practices;• Professional practice, including teamwork, impact assessment report writing and evaluating the quality of impact assessment reports;• Role of public participation; local and Indigenous knowledge systems in integrated impact assessment;• Issues and critiques relating to the theory and practice of impact assessment, environmental impact statements and public participation;• Examples and case studies of impact assessment and public participation in different contexts.
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain the history behind and approaches to integrated impact assessment and sustainability;2. Conduct, plan and review environmental and social impact assessments;3. Work in a group to produce a professional report;4. Identify and analyse the role of public participation and local knowledge in impact assessment;5. Analyse and interpret literature and communicate findings.
Course Materials	<p>Other Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lectures and workshop notes provided on Canvas page.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Lecture	Laboratory/Workshop	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Course introduction and outline	Group creation and discussion about impact assessment (MH)	This material is assessed in Week 3
2	4 Mar	Human impacts, sustainable development goals and the ecosystems approach	Field visit to site of the proposed development at UoN (AG, DS)	This material is assessed in Week 3 and impact assessment report due Week 12
3	11 Mar	Integrated impact assessments	Route selection study – multi-criteria decision analysis (spatial) (DS)	This material is assessed in Week 3 via the online quiz.
4	18 Mar	Methodology for integrated impact assessment	The various forms of impact assessment: Environmental Effects Statements; Review of Environmental Factors; EIS (AG)	Impact assessment report due Week 12
5	25 Mar	Social impact assessment	Social impact assessment (AG)	This material is assessed in the quiz in Week 6.
6	1 Apr	Community participation, local knowledge, and conflict resolution	Industry expert to talk about their career path and conflict resolution – Louisa Rebec (MH)	Online quiz in Week 6, and the take home exam in Week 13.
7	8 Apr	Noise impact assessment	Noise impact assessment – Alex Rees (DS)	This material is assessed in the online quiz in Week 9.
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Mining EIA	Industry expert talk on Mining EIA – Frank Lemkert (MH)	This material is assessed in the online quiz in Week 9.
9	6 May	Biodiversity assessments and species impact statements	Biobanking (DS)	This material is assessed in the online quiz in Week 9.
10	13 May	EIA quality	Industry expert to talk about their career path and assessing EIA quality – Nick Valentine (MH)	This material will be assessed in the take home exam in Week 13.
11	20 May	Climate change	Work on EIA/SIS (MH)	
12	27 May	Intergenerational equity and ethics	Finalise EIA/SIS (MH)	Submit EIA/SIS
13	3 Jun	Take home exam	Work on take home exam	Take home exam due Week 13.
Examination Period				
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	Online Quizzes	By 5pm on the Friday of Weeks 3, 6, and 9	Individual	20%	1, 4
2	Examination: Take Home	Friday 5pm of Week 13.	Individual	30%	1, 4
3	Research Report	Friday 5pm of Week 12	Combination	50%	2, 3, 5

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 - Online Quizzes

Assessment Type Quiz
Purpose The purpose of the online quizzes is to ensure you come to the classes fully prepared and are keeping abreast of the lecture material.
Description Three online quizzes will be run in Weeks 3, 6 and 9.
Weighting 20%
Length 30 min will be available to answer 20 questions
Due Date By 5pm on the Friday of Weeks 3, 6, and 9
Submission Method Online
Assessment Criteria Multiple choice or short answer
Return Method Online
Feedback Provided Online - Immediately after completing the quiz. Multiple choice.
Opportunity to Reattempt Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

Assessment 2 - Examination: Take Home

Assessment Type In Term Test
Purpose To assess your understanding of deeper concepts of impact assessment, and your ability to use the things you've learned to answer more complex questions.
Description Essay style answers of 800 words (plus references)
Weighting 30%
Length Answer 3 questions with 800 words each.
Due Date Friday 5pm of Week 13.
Submission Method Online
Submit via Turnitin
Assessment Criteria Marking rubric provided online
Return Method Not returned
Feedback Provided No feedback
Opportunity to Reattempt Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

Assessment 3 - Research Report

Assessment Type Written Assignment
Purpose Use your knowledge of integrated impact assessment to conduct an environmental impact assessment
Description A group research project involving an impact assessment prepared throughout the semester based on a proposed development on the University campus
Weighting 50%
Length 3000 words
Due Date Friday 5pm of Week 12
Submission Method Online
Submit via Turnitin
Assessment Criteria Rubric available in the Canvas site
Return Method Online
Feedback Provided Online - 2 weeks after submission.
Opportunity to Reattempt Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

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.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

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/respect-at-uni/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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