

ENVS6500: Business and the Natural Environment

Online

Trimester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description	This course aims to provide students with a broad understanding of current environmental issues as they relate to managerial decisions in all aspects of organisational activities. The focus is on the impact of businesses on the natural environment and how this impact can be minimised. A better understanding of the business-environment interface will enable more effective corporate environmental practice and decision-making.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Assumed Knowledge	Nil. The course is designed such that students do not need any specialised knowledge in either environmental issues or principles of business.
Contact Hours	Online Online Activity Self-Directed 10 hour(s) per week(s) for 13 week(s) starting Week 1 Five hours per week engaging with online material and five hours per week on self directed learning
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

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Online Dr James Garnham James.Garnham@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: on request: please email
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 Science-SELS@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4921 5080 9am-5pm (Mon-Fri)

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linking Business and the Environment• Fundamentals of Environmental Management• Managing the Environment• 'Greening' Business Operations
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain key concepts to assess the effectiveness of corporate sustainability;2. Explain how global and national environmental issues can and are being integrated into broader corporate strategy;3. Critically evaluate the extent to which global and national environmental issues impact on corporate sustainability;4. Analyse the key external and internal factors driving corporate sustainability;5. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of corporate environmental strategy and environmental management systems in creating more sustainable business practices;6. Demonstrate a range of skills in research that help inform the development and implementation of environmental management systems, policies and procedures;7. Demonstrate a range of skills in communication that are relevant to environmental management and transferable to other subject and employment areas.
Course Materials	<p>Other Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Additional References As per ENVS6500 Course Reserves (see Course Material on Canvas) <p>Required Text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prescribed Text Benn, S., Edwards, M. & Williams T. 2018. <i>Organizational Change for Corporate Sustainability</i> (4 ed.). Routledge, Oxon.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	29 Jan	Introduction, the role of the organisation in environmental improvement	Course discussion board	
2	5 Feb	Natural Capitalism and Corporate Sustainability	Course discussion board	
3	12 Feb	Drivers of organisational change for Corporate Sustainability	Course discussion board	
4	19 Feb	Corporate Sustainability Part 1: Determinant factors	Course discussion board	
5	26 Feb	Corporate Sustainability Part 2: The role of managers and organisational culture	Course discussion board	
6	4 Mar	Corporate Environmental Strategy	Course discussion board	Online Discussion Part A
7	11 Mar	Organisational change for Corporate Sustainability	Course discussion board Group work Peer teaching	Essay 1 Group Facilitation for allocated group
8	18 Mar	Eco-efficiency and the 'Win-Win' Paradigm	Course discussion board Group work Peer teaching	Group Facilitation for allocated group
9	25 Mar	Beyond Compliance: Environmental Management Systems (Public Holiday Friday 29 March 2024)	Course discussion board Group work Peer teaching	Group Facilitation for allocated group
10	1 Apr	Life Cycle Analysis and New Product Development (Public Holiday Monday 1 April 2024)	Course discussion board Group work Peer teaching	Group Facilitation for allocated group
11	8 Apr	Measuring environmental performance	Course discussion board Group work Peer teaching	Group Facilitation for allocated group
12	15 Apr	Corporate Sustainability Reporting and 'sustainability in action	Course discussion board Group work Peer teaching	Essay 2 Online Discussion Part B
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Essay 1	Sunday 10 March 2024 (4:59 pm AEST)	Individual	25%	1, 2, 3, 4, 6
2	Essay 2	Sunday 14 April 2024 (4:59 pm AEST)	Individual	25%	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
3	Online Blackboard Discussion	Throughout the trimester	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
4	Group Facilitation: Issues paper and online discussion	Issues paper due by 9.00 am (AEST) of the allocated week.	Group	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 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 - Essay 1

Assessment Type	Essay
Description	At the halfway of the course, students submit Essay 1 with a maximum length of 2500 words. A choice of topics/questions will be provided for students. These questions will be made available on Canvas early in the trimester. Students will also be provided with Essay Guidelines, which will outline the expected approach for assignment completion. The purpose of the essay is to develop and/or refine student ability for critical thinking. Students are encouraged to adopt a particular position, forward opinions (with justification), and be creative. Essays should begin with a proposition around which students develop an argument(s). The essay provides students with an opportunity to contribute to contemporary debate regarding interactions between business and the natural environment. Students should use journal articles, books, and sources in addition to the course materials.
Weighting	25%
Due Date	Sunday 10 March 2024 (4:59 pm AEST)
Submission Method	Online via Turnitin
Assessment Criteria	See marking guide in Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 2 - Essay 2

Assessment Type	Essay
Description	At the end point of the course, students submit an Essay 2 (with a maximum length of 2500 words). A choice of topics/questions will be provided for students. These questions will be made available on Canvas early in the trimester. Students will also be provided with Essay Guidelines, which will outline the expected approach for assignment completion. The purpose of the essay is to develop and/or refine student ability for critical thinking. Students are encouraged to adopt a particular position, forward opinions (with justification), and be creative. Essays should begin with a proposition around which students develop an argument(s). The essay provides students with an opportunity to contribute to contemporary debate regarding interactions between business and the natural environment. Students should use journal articles, books, and sources in addition to the course materials.
Weighting	25%
Due Date	Sunday 14 April 2024 (4:59 pm AEST)
Submission Method	Online via Turnitin
Assessment Criteria	See Marking Guide on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 3 - Online Blackboard Discussion

Assessment Type	Online Learning Activity
Description	An online tutorial discussion will be available on Canvas during weeks 1-12 of the course. A list of questions relating to each week will be posted to Canvas at the start of each week. Students are expected to complete the prescribed readings and address the questions for each week. It is also expected that students will go further than simply answering the questions for each week. You should be active in the discussion forums, responding to student questions, raising important issues and asking questions of the class. Students are expected to submit at least two posts each week to pass this component of the course. Halfway through the Trimester, and at the conclusion of the course the Course Coordinator will allocate a mark reflecting the quality of your participation in the online tutorial discussion. Weighting: Part A: Weeks 1 - 6 (15%) Part B: Weeks 7 - 12 (15%)

Weighting	30%
Due Date	Throughout the trimester
Submission Method	Online via Canvas
Assessment Criteria	See Marking Guide on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	

Assessment 4 - Group Facilitation: Issues paper and online discussion

Assessment Type	Online Learning Activity
Description	The assessment requires a group of students to lead and facilitate the tutorial discussion on Canvas for that week. This will involve the student or group of students providing an issues paper (max. 1000 words) describing the key points raised by tutorial readings for that week and their relevance to the tutorial questions.

The students facilitating and leading the tutorial for a particular week will post their tutorial issues paper for peer discussion and Course Instructor review by 9:00 AM Monday of their allocated week. The tutorial questions act as an “opener” for discussion and the group of students with the role of tutorial facilitator/leader ready to direct the discussion.

You will need to liaise with other members of the group to organise the tutorial facilitation. The way that you organise your group is entirely up to you, however you should ensure there is no duplication of material presented by group members (i.e., the group's activity in facilitating the tutorial discussion should be well coordinated). This assessment item will generally result in a group mark. However, in circumstances where individual students make an inadequate contribution to the task an individual mark will be given to this student.

Weighting	Weighting: Issues Paper - 10% Online Discussion - 10% 20%
Due Date	Issues paper due by 9.00 am (AEST) of the allocated week.
Submission Method	Online via Canvas
Assessment Criteria	See Marking Guide on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

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:

- Online Activity (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/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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