

## GEOS4002B: Thesis Creation

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## OVERVIEW

**Course Description** Thesis Creation forms part of the Honours Program in Earth Sciences. This course is part of the multi-sequence research component of Honours which requires the development of original research under the supervision of a member of academic staff from the School of Environmental and Life Sciences. It is a continuation from research undertaken in GEOS4002A with the students completing their final Thesis.

**Academic Progress Requirements** Nil

**Contact Hours** **Callaghan Seminar**  
Face to Face On Campus  
2 hour(s) per term

**Unit Weighting Workload** 30  
Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

**Multi-Term Sequence Advice** This course is part of a multi-term sequence. Both Part A and Part B must be completed to meet the requirements of the sequence. Part A and Part B must be completed in consecutive terms. Students must complete Part A before completing Part B. Students must complete the sequence within a twelve month period. If students complete Part A but are unable to complete Part B within the timeframe, they must re-enrol in Part A. Part A cannot be completed as a standalone course, it will only count towards your program once you have successfully completed Part B.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

**Course Coordinator**     **Callaghan**  
Dr Michael Kinsela  
[Michael.Kinsela@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Michael.Kinsela@newcastle.edu.au)  
(02) 4921 7466  
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  
Science-SELS@newcastle.edu.au  
+61 2 4921 5080  
9am-5pm (Mon-Fri)

# SYLLABUS

**Course Content**

- Structuring a thesis text that clearly communicates the outcomes of the research project.
- Developing logical, coherent arguments and conclusions that are adequately supported by appropriate evidence.
- Appropriate use of writing techniques, drafting, editing, and analytical language to communicate findings to an academic audience.
- Ability to relate specific findings to the overall concerns of disciplinary research.
- Discussion, reflection or review that critiques and/or supports the chosen thesis.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Critically analyse and evaluate published research material.
2. Demonstrate scientific writing skills.
3. Present information in written and verbal formats in a logical and comprehensive manner.
4. Use research skills to undertake higher-level and post-graduate research and writing.
5. Communicate research findings that positions conclusions within the overall field of enquiry.
6. Apply constructive feedback to improve thesis.

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 1 assessment. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Written Research Thesis	See Canvas Schedule	Individual	100%	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 – Written Research Thesis

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Thesis
<b>Purpose</b>	The Honours thesis forms the major component of your Honours study (worth 62.5% of the total mark).
<b>Description</b>	The thesis will be examined by two qualified experts, one external to the Earth Science discipline and one Earth Science academic (or equivalent), who will each give a mark out of 100 which will be scaled to a mark out of 62.5%. The thesis examiners are to be nominated by your supervisor and should be qualified experts in the field your thesis aligns with
<b>Weighting</b>	62.5% of final Honours grade
<b>Due Date</b>	See Canvas Schedule
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online Via Turnitin on Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	See canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - within 4 weeks of thesis submission.
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	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).

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<b>Communication Methods</b>	Communication methods used in this course include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.</li></ul> The Course Coordinator will communicate via Canvas, however students should have regular face to face meetings with their academic supervisor
<b>Course Evaluation</b>	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.
<b>Oral Interviews (Vivas)</b>	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 <a href="#">Oral Examination (viva) Procedure</a> . 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 <a href="#">Student Conduct Rule</a> .
<b>Academic Misconduct</b>	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 <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35</a> .
<b>Adverse Circumstances</b>	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or</li><li>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;</li><li>3. you are requesting a change of placement; or</li><li>4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.</li></ol> Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</a>
<b>Important Policy Information</b>	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 <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures</a> 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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