

MARI1000: Our Oceans

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



OVERVIEW

Course Description Australia's marine environment is globally significant, containing some of the world's most diverse ecosystems and species, many of which are unique to Australia. The economic value of Australia's marine environment exceeds A\$30 billion annually and its social value (for sport, recreation, relaxation) is immense in Australia's culture. Addressing future challenges for our oceans needs a sound understanding of its living and non-living features, including how we both benefit from, and impact upon, these valuable marine ecosystems. This course provides students with an introduction to the marine environment, to some of the most important marine ecosystems (coral reefs, beaches, rocky reefs), and current conservation and management issues (inc. climate change, land-based pollution, fishing and aquaculture, shoreline changes, marine protected areas) and their solutions. The course will be taught through on-line delivery of learning materials.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Contact Hours

Online Self-Directed Learning *

Online
120 hour(s) per term
Hours per week will vary depending on whether the course is run in semester 1 or 2 or as a compressed summer term. The total number of hours per term remains the same.

* This contact type has a compulsory requirement.

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	Online Dr Margaret Platell Margaret.Platell@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4349 4809 Consultation: Email is the best way to get in touch with me.
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	<p>Module 1: Introduction to the Marine Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental, economic & social benefits of our ocean resources• Climate, oceanography and currents• Structure of the seafloor• Australia's marine biodiversity & ecosystems, and challenges for living organisms <p>Module 2: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coral reefs• Beaches• Estuaries, including seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh• Rocky reefs, both intertidal and subtidal <p>Module 3: Issues, Challenges, Responses (may include)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate change• Land-based discharge, including plastic pollution/stormwater• Sustainable fishing and aquaculture• Shoreline changes• Marine protected areas
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe the physical marine environment, including the seafloor, oceanography and climate;2. Describe key Australian marine ecosystems and species and their significance;3. Recognise the social, economic and environmental benefits from sustainable use of Australia's marine environment;4. Recognise the current issues for the Australian marine environment and their social, economic and environmental costs;5. Integrate personal perspectives and evidence-based arguments for analysing contemporary issues in the marine environment;6. Organise and communicate key concepts, using written and visual means.

Course Materials

Required Reading:

- All course materials, including explicit direction, mini-lectures, links to external videos and articles, as well as extension sources for certain topics, are provided on the Course Canvas Site. These materials can be accessed using a range of devices, with computers (and keyboards) and the use of Google Chrome/Safari recommended.

COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

Compulsory Placement and WHS Requirements:

- Induction Self-Directed Learning WHS Induction Requirement - Students must complete a compulsory WHS induction, consisting of resources, a short quiz and submitted paperwork, all of which are fully online, before accessing further course materials.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Module 1.1: Goods & Services	Familiarisation with Canvas course site Access information for WHS & Module 1.1 WHS Online Quiz and Paperwork Module 1.1 Online Quiz	
2	4 Mar	Module 1.2: Oceanography & Climate	Access information for WHS & Module 1.2 WHS Online Quiz & Paperwork Online Quiz	WHS Quiz & Paperwork due by 11:59 pm on Friday (8th March)
3	11 Mar	Module 1.3: The Seafloor	Access information for Module 1.3 Online Quiz	
4	18 Mar	Module 1.4: Living in the Marine Environment	Access information for Module 1.4 Online Quiz	The four (4) Module 1 Quizzes (20%, 5% each) to be taken before 11:59 pm on Friday (22nd March)
5	25 Mar	Module 2.1: Coral Reefs	Access information for Module 2.1 Online Quiz Factsheet preparation	
6	1 Apr	Module 2.2: Beaches	Access information for Module 2.2 Online Quiz Factsheet preparation (cont.)	
7	8 Apr	Module 2.3: Estuaries	Access information for Module 2.3 Online Quiz Factsheet finalisation and submission	Factsheet (30%) to be submitted to the marking portal by 11:59 pm on Friday (12th April)
Mid-Semester Recess				

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Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Module 2.4: Intertidal Rocky Shores		The four (4) Module 2 Quizzes (20%, 5% each) to be taken before 11:59 pm on Friday (3rd May)
9	6 May	Module 3.1: Climate Change	Access information for Module 3.1	
10	13 May	Module 3.2: Sustainable Seafood	Access information for Module 3.2	
11	20 May	Module 3.3: Plastic Pollution	Access information for Module 3.3	
12	27 May	Module 3.4: Marine Protected Areas	Access information for Module 3.4	
13	3 Jun	Module 3: Assessed Online Discussion		Online Discussion for Module 3 (30%) opens 9 am on Monday (3rd June) and is to be completed before 11:59 pm on Thursday (6th June)
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	Quizzes	Quiz and Paperwork for WHS due by 11:59 pm on 8th March (Friday, Week 2) Quizzes for Module 1 (four (4), 5% each) due by 11:59 pm on 22nd March (Friday, Week 4) Quizzes for Module 2 (four (4), 5% each) due by 11:59 pm on 3rd May (Friday, Week 8)	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3
2	Factsheet development	Factsheet is due by 11:59 pm on 12 th April (Friday, Week 7)	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
3	Analysis of contemporary issue	Discussion will run between 9 am on 3rd June to 11:59 pm on 6th June (Monday to Thursday, Week 13)	Individual	30%	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 - Quizzes

Assessment Type

Quiz

Purpose

Online Quizzes are designed to measure your comprehension, knowledge, and recall of the topics covered.

Description

Quiz and Paperwork for Workplace Health & Safety (WHS) (0% required to continue)
Quizzes for Module 1: Introduction to the Marine Environment (20%)
Quizzes for Module 2: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (20%)

Weighting

40%

Length

Eight (8) quizzes x 15 questions each

Due Date

Quiz and Paperwork for WHS due by 11:59 pm on 8th March (Friday, Week 2)
Quizzes for Module 1 (four (4), 5% each) due by 11:59 pm on 22nd March (Friday, Week 4)

Submission Method	Quizzes for Module 2 (four (4), 5% each) due by 11:59 pm on 3rd May (Friday, Week 8) Online
Assessment Criteria	Online Quizzes are designed to measure your comprehension, knowledge, and recall of the topics covered in Modules 1 & 2; each quiz consists of 15 multiple choice questions based on the course material.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - Upon completion of each quiz. Students will be provided with their total mark (out of 15) for each quiz.

Assessment 2 - Factsheet development

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Purpose	Will assess your capacity to source, assimilate and present your knowledge of the chosen topic - in which you select one (1) recreational activity carried out in the marine environment, from a choice of four (4) such activities.
Description	The factsheet activity is designed to extend your acquisition of knowledge, leading to an understanding of impacts that people in the community may have on marine environments through selected recreational activities. The production of the factsheet will also ask you to set this understanding into the benefits that are provided by the recreational activity in our marine environment and various approaches to management. Although the listed readings for this assessment provide you with some basic information, you will need to do more reading and research to successfully produce the factsheet. This research is supported by a library module within the course. Further details are provided on the Course Canvas site.
Weighting	30%
Length	Double-sided A4 page, references included
Due Date	Factsheet is due by 11:59 pm on 12 th April (Friday, Week 7)
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	The fact sheet will assess your capacity to assimilate and present your knowledge of the chosen topic; the fact sheet should include each of the following: a title banner, an appropriate photo (captioned correctly), a table summarising key information, a data plot summarising key information, descriptive text and a bibliography that identifies the sources of information and all fits within a double-sided A4 page. You will be assessed on your ability to synthesise and present the information and knowledge effectively and efficiently so that the reader can quickly acquire the material. Marking rubric is provided on the Course Canvas site.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - Three weeks following the submission date. Students will be provided with the total mark, a marked rubric and written feedback for their submission.

Assessment 3 - Analysis of contemporary issue

Assessment Type	Online Learning Activity
Purpose	Will enable peer-to-peer learning; develop communication skills; develop understanding of different viewpoints, all focussed on an issue of concern for the marine environment and conducted in an online environment.
Description	In the last week of the course, you will be participating in an assessed discussion with your peers on one (or more) of the topics covered in Module 3: Issues, Challenges and Responses. The class will be split into groups of approx. six to seven students; each group will have its own Discussion area on the Course Canvas site. Further details provided on the Course Canvas site.
Weighting	30%
Length	3-4 posts of approximately 200 words each
Due Date	Discussion will run between 9 am on 3rd June to 11:59 pm on 6th June (Monday to Thursday, Week 13)
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Group discussion and contribution will enable peer-to-peer learning; develop communication skills; you will be assessed on your ability to synthesise an opinion based on knowledge and convey this clearly in a well presented and articulate manner. Marking rubric is provided on the Course Canvas site.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - By the fully graded date. Students will be provided with marks and a marked rubric for their discussion posts.

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.

Students must log in regularly to the Canvas course site and to regularly check their email. Other communication methods include discussion forums.

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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