

OHSE6001: Occupational Health and Hygiene

Online

Trimester 2 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description	This course introduces students to the field of occupational health and hygiene. Health and safety practitioners and professionals require knowledge of key principles and concepts to address the wide range of hazards and risks of illness and disease at the workplace. Students will consider the relationship between the body and occupational illness and diseases. Topics include, occupational diseases and physical agents, hazardous substances and harm to health and accessing harm from exposure to environmental agents.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Contact Hours	Online Online Activity Online 3 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1
Unit Weighting Workload	10 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 Joanna Bohatko Naismith
E: Joanna.Bohatko-Naismith@newcastle.edu.au
T: (02) 4921 7038
Consultation: Monday - Thursday
E: WHScontact@newcastle.edu.au Please use this email address for any questions relating to the course between 13th May until 3rd June

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

School Office **School of Health Sciences**
Room 302, ICT Building
Callaghan
SchoolHealthSciences@newcastle.edu.au
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SYLLABUS

Course Content The modules to be covered include:

1. Introduction
2. The human body and work
3. Occupational Health and physical agents
4. Occupational Health and hazardous substances
5. Occupational Health and biological agents
6. Occupational Health and psychological hazards
7. Assessing exposure risks in the workplace
8. Controlling environmental hazardous exposures

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

1. Describe the role of occupational health and hygiene at the workplace
2. Discuss the impact of workplace illness and disease on the human body.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of major occupational and disease at the workplace
4. Discuss the harm of hazardous substances and physical agents at work.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of occupational hygiene concepts and principles at the workplace
6. Outline strategies for assessing and controlling physical and environmental hazards

Course Materials **Textbook: This book is also available as an E-book through the UON library.**

Reed, S., Pisaniello, D, Benke, G, Ed. (2019). Principles of Occupational Health and Hygiene: An Introduction. Australia, Allen & Unwin.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week	Starts	Module	Module topic	Assessments / Collaborate dates
1	13 May	1	Introduction	
2	20 May	2	The human body and work	
3	27 May	2	The human body and work	
4	3 June	3	Occupational Health and physical agents	Collaborate Session: Tuesday 4 th June @6pm
5	10 June	3	Occupational Health and physical agents	
6	17 June	4	Occupational Health and hazardous substances	
7	24 June	4	Occupational Health and hazardous substances	Assessment task 1: Part A due: Friday 28 th June @ 11.59pm Sydney time. Collaborate Session 2: Tuesday 25 th June @6pm
8	1 Jul	4	Occupational Health and hazardous substances	
9	8 Jul	5	Occupational Health and biological agents	Assessment task 2 due: 14 th July @ 11.59pm Sydney time.
10	15 Jul	6	Occupational Health and psychological hazards	
11	22 Jul	7	Assessing exposure risks in the workplace	Collaborate Session3: Tuesday 23 July @6pm.
12	29 Jul	8	Controlling environmental hazardous exposures	Assessment task 1: Part B due Wednesday 31 st July @ 11.59pm Sydney time.
In-Class Test				
Available from 8.00am Friday 2 nd August until 8.00pm Saturday 3 rd August				

The census date for Trimester 2 is Friday 7th June 2024. This date is the last day for students to withdraw or drop a course without any financial penalty. Further information on Census dates can be found at the University key dates at the following link: <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/dates>

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 discussion	Part A due: Friday 28 th June @ 11.59pm Sydney time. Part B due: Wednesday 31 st July @ 11.59pm Sydney time.	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
2	Written assignment	Due: 14 th July @ 11.59pm Sydney time.	Individual	45%	2, 3, 4
3	In term test	Available from 8.00am Friday 2 nd August until 8.00pm Saturday 3 rd August	Individual	35%	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.

Reminder

It is a breach of the Academic Integrity Policy to submit work or part thereof previously submitted for academic credit in this or any other course without permission from the course coordinator. This information is located in the policy [glossary](#), the [Academic Integrity Module](#) for more information.

Assessment 1 - Online discussion

Assessment Type

Online Learning Activity

This learning strategy and assessment has been chosen as a means of encouraging thinking, debate, and clarification of issues common to a number of students. The aim of these online discussions is to clarify or expand on course materials and assignment readings. It is expected that each student will conform to the behaviours and attitudes ordinarily required of them from all health professional environments. These include ethical considerations of confidentiality and disclosure, respect of one another's opinions and beliefs, and should include behaviours and attitudes which are neither judgemental nor discriminatory. Any evidence of behaviours and attitudes, which are not in line with these expectations, will be remediated in accordance with the University of Newcastle's policy concerning staff and student conduct.

Description

Students are to contribute to the discussion board at least once to each of the 5 modules. **A maximum of 200-word postings.**

Students should note that discussion contributions need to be timely for each module. Modules will be locked to new postings, one week after the next module has commenced. All discussions however will be available to view for the entire semester.

Part A: At the end of module 4, you are to select 'YOUR BEST POSTING', from Module 2, 3 OR 4. Cut and paste this into a word document including details of the module and the date of the posting and upload this to the CANVAS assessment portal by Friday 28th June @ 11.59pm Sydney time.

Part B: At the end of module 7, you are to select 'YOUR BEST POSTING', From Module 5, 6, or 7, cut and paste this into a word document including details of the module and the date of the posting and upload this to the CANVAS assessment portal by Wednesday 31st July @ 11.59pm Sydney time.

Students will be marked on their 'best posting' from Part A and Part B.

The academic will randomly select one posting from Part A (Module/s 2, 3 or 4) and one posting from Part B (Module/s 5, 6 or 7) and mark the first posting from all students in the selected module. Any student who has not contributed to the module/s selected by the academic will receive zero (0) marks. Marks will be awarded weekly to students who have contributed to each module.

Weighting	20% - Part A 10%, Part B 10%
Due Date	Part A: Module/s 2, 3, & 4 – Friday 28 th June (11.59pm AEDT). Part B: Module/s, 5, 6 & 7 – Wednesday 31 st July (11.59pm AEDT)
Referencing	Vancouver Style
Submission Method	Online via CANVAS
Assessment Criteria	Rubric on CANVAS
Return Method	Returned via gradebook
Feedback Provided	General feedback provided via announcements

Assessment 2 - Written assignment

Assessment Type Written Assignment

Description The aim of this assessment is for students to demonstrate a knowledge of all factors that need to be considered in the prevention of occupational diseases associated with exposure to crystalline silica.
Students are to:

1. Describe the physical and chemical nature of crystalline silica. What are the characteristics of airborne crystalline silica dust that determine if it is harmful to human health? (15 marks)
2. Identify five (5) occupations/activities where exposure to crystalline silica represents a high risk and explain how these workers may be exposed while performing the task (25 marks)
3. What are the major health effects of crystalline silica exposure? Describe the signs and symptoms and the underlying pathological mechanisms. (30 marks)
4. Discuss the intervention strategies that have been used to eliminate or manage the risk to workers of crystalline silica in Australia (10 marks)
5. Presentation/referencing. This includes spelling, grammar, page length and referencing (intext and end reference list). The reference list must include a minimum of 3 peer reviewed journal articles (10 marks)

Referencing Vancouver Style

Weighting 45%

Due Date 14th July @ 11.59pm Sydney time.

Length	6 x A4 pages, 11pt Times New Roman Font, 1.5 spacing, 1.5cm margins top and bottom NOTE: Any work after the maximum page limit will not be included within the allocation of marks
Submission Method	Online via CANVAS
Assessment Criteria	Marking Rubric in CANVAS
Return Method	Returned via CANVAS
Feedback Provided	Individual feedback provided via gradebook

Assessment 3 - In term test

Assessment Type	In Term Online Test This test assesses student knowledge based on the outcomes of this course (Objectives 1,2,3,4,5,6)
Description	Multiple choice, true/ false and short answer questions based on ALL Modules. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The test will be available on CANVAS during the period noted.• Once you begin you will have 1.5 hours to complete the test.• You are not permitted to start and return later.• You must answer each question and you cannot backtrack.
Weighting	35%
Due Date	Available from 8.00am Friday 2 nd August until 8.00pm Saturday 3 rd August
Submission Method	Online Via CANVAS
Return Method	NOT RETURNED
Feedback Provided	NO FEEDBACK PROVIDED

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: students will receive communication via regular postings or announcements on the Canvas site.

EMAIL: Students will receive email communications via their student email account. All enrolled students have an official UON email address generally expressed as firstname.familyname@uon.edu.au. This is the email that the University uses for ALL communications with students, including transmission of important information about exams, policy, course assessment changes etc.

Please ensure you check your UON email regularly as other emails will not be responded to.

CONSULTATIONS: Email the course coordinator to make an appropriate, mutually convenient time for a telephone or zoom meeting during business hours.

ZOOM TUTORIALS: These have been scheduled throughout the semester as per the weekly schedule above.

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. As this is a new course, we look forward to your feedback via the Course Evaluation Survey (CES).

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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