Newcastle Business School

IREL2003: The International Politics of Climate Change and the Future World

Newcastle City Precinct

Semester 1 - 2025

Our mission is to develop future business leaders who will create economic prosperity, social impact and raise awareness of sustainability issues in the communities that we serve. To achieve our mission, we will provide innovative and inclusive business education, develop entrepreneurial, technologically adept and data conscious graduates and will cultivate and grow a vibrant environment that fosters excellence, sustainability and social justice.

COURSE OUTLINE

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Environmental challenges are a critical global issue, as the international community's response now will profoundly impact future generations. Amongst these challenges, climate change sits at the centre, due to its far-reaching effects on ecosystems, Country, the atmosphere, and peoples. Cooperative strategies and solutions are needed to future proof and protect our natural and built environments. This course explores contemporary challenges in climate politics and policy and pursues questions of how interactions with our natural surroundings as kin and Country and ecology may be sustainably organised, implemented and justified. Students will be exposed to the business, economy, governance, civil society, climate change nexus, which is critical for understanding and evaluating the issues at stake for ensuring global, ecological futures.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Sustainable Development Goals



Contact Hours

Newcastle City Precinct
Integrated Learning Session
Face to Face On Campus
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 13 week(s) starting Week 1

Students are expected to complete 4 hours of guided learning via online preparation, lectures, interactive workshops, tutorials, discussion groups or self-directed learning and an additional 6 hours of independent study per week.

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.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator

The primary contact for courses is the Course Coordinator, whose details are listed on the course CANVAS site.

Student Consultation

A minimum of one (1) hour consultation per week. Please see course CANVAS site for details of time and location.

Teaching Staff

Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of teaching staff for ALL course offerings.

School Office

Newcastle Business School – Callaghan, Newcastle City & Online
NU Space
409 Hunter Street
Newcastle
nbs.enquiries@newcastle.edu.au
+61 2 4921 5511

Newcastle Business School - Ourimbah
BO1.13, Business Offices
Ourimbah
cccbusiness-school@newcastle.edu.au
+61 2 4349 4453

Newcastle Business School - Sydney
55 Elizabeth Street
Sydney
nbs-sydney@newcastle.edu.au
+61 2 82626432

PSB Academy Enquiries
Log your question or request to the PSB Program Executives at the following website:
http://www.psb-academy.edu.sg/enq
+65 6390 9000

Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education Pte Ltd
100 Victoria Street #13-01/02
National Library Building
Singapore
Singapore-StudentCentral@newcastle.edu.au
+65 6221 3306

SYLLABUS

Course Content

Topics include:

- Contemporary ecological questions, debates and challenges
- Understanding political ecology, resource management and plural economies
- Introducing climate change (the politics, the science and its real-world implications)
- Political agents and climate policy and politics
- Cooperation and contestations for ecologically sustainable futures
- Financing climate mitigation (public and private resourcing) and reparations
- Indigenous climate action
- Alternative ecological futures
- Ecofeminism
- Business and economic actors' contributions to climate issues and their contested role in positive change and corporate sustainability

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe and reflect on the role of key actors in the production, governance and development of solutions to climate change and climate justice.
2. Evaluate the challenges and opportunities climate change presents to the realisation of

ecologically sustainable futures.
3. Analyse innovative strategies employed by different actors to respond to, mitigate and prevent climate change and its effects.
4. Explain and apply diverse political frameworks of analysis to evaluate strategies to address contemporary environmental issues.
5. Utilise effective written and oral communication of key concepts, frameworks and ideas in the international politics of climate change.

Course Materials Required Readings and Texts embedded weekly on the course CANVAS site.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	24 Feb	Setting the scene: (Y)our agency in climate politics	Refer to course CANVAS site	
2	3 Mar	Beyond individualist/individualising framings: Feminist and indigenous perspectives		
3	10 Mar	Corporations, political myths and climate change politics		
4	17 Mar	Governance: The right of Mother Earth and an intimate politics of climate change		
5	24 Mar	Building an Indigenist/Decolonising response to climate justice		**Assessment 1 due:** Friday of Week 5 by 11:59 pm
6	31 Mar	Climate racism and rethinking climate action		
7	7 Apr	Pause, recuperate, take stock: Rest as resistance		
Recess				**Assessment 2 due:** Monday of the mid-semester break by 11:59 pm
Recess				
8	28 Apr	Climate futurities: Degrowth and beyond	Refer to course CANVAS site	
9	5 May	Climate litigations and ecocentrism		
10	12 May	Reparations and healing		
11	19 May	The conflicting worlds of climate change 1: Dakota Pipe Line		
12	26 May	The conflicting worlds of climate change 2: The Namada dam		
13	2 Jun	Re-turn: (Y)our agency in climate justice		**Assessment 3 due:** Sunday of Week 13 by 11:59 pm
Exams				
Exams				
If a lecture/class is scheduled on a public holiday, a make-up lecture may be announced by the course coordinator on the course CANVAS site.				

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	Reflective Assignment: Comparative Critical Reflection	Friday of Week 5 by 11:59 pm	Individual	25%	1, 2, 3, 5
2	Case Study Presentation	Monday of the mid-semester break by 11:59 pm	Individual	35%	1, 2, 5
3	Briefing Report	Sunday of Week 13 by 11:59 pm	Group	40%	2, 4, 5

Please note: students are advised that all assessments must be submitted in English. Assessment items not submitted in English will receive a mark of zero.

Results of individual assessment items and final results, including those provided via the Learning Management System (LMS) are 'unofficial results' until they are confirmed as finalised by the School Assessment Body and the Head of School or delegate. Finalised results are released directly to students on the Fully Graded Date of the relevant Semester/Trimester.

Time referenced is time in Newcastle, NSW

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 - Reflective Assignment: Comparative Critical Reflection

Assessment Type Written Assignment
Description You will be given four questions of which you must choose one to answer in order to develop a critical reflection of 1500 words considering at least two perspectives studied from week 1-4 in relation to the international politics of climate change.
Weighting 25%
Due Date Friday of Week 5 by 11:59pm
Submission Method Canvas
Assessment Criteria A rubric is available on canvas with more detailed instructions on how to complete this assignment
Return Method Written feedback on Canvas
Feedback Provided Canvas
Opportunity to Reattempt Students will not be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

Assessment 2 - Case Study Presentation

Assessment Type Case Study / Problem Based Learning
Description You will be asked to make an audio presentation in the format of a podcast (between 11-13 minutes) in which you explore a case study in relation to week 5-8 and the politics of climate justice.
Weighting 35%
Due Date Monday of the mid-semester break by 11:59 pm
Submission Method Canvas
Assessment Criteria A rubric is available on canvas with more detailed instructions on how to complete this assignment
Return Method Canvas
Feedback Provided Written feedback on canvas
Opportunity to Reattempt Students will not be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

Assessment 3 - Briefing Report

Assessment Type Case Study / Problem Based Learning
Description You are asked to develop a report (2500 words) for an (inter)national organisation of your

	choice for example governmental, third sector, social movement, alternative economy organisation, Indigenous resistance movement and more in which you develop a political strategy for addressing a key issue of your choice in the (inter)national politics of climate change and climate justice.
Weighting	40%
Due Date	Sunday of Week 13 by 11:59 pm
Submission Method	Canvas
Assessment Criteria	A rubric is available on canvas with more detailed instructions on how to complete this assignment
Return Method	Canvas
Feedback Provided	Written feedback on canvas
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.

Learning Analytics

The University uses an evidence-based approach to enhancing student learning and delivering support. Our careful analysis of data through learning analytics informs decision making processes related to student learning, academic outcomes, and support services. Learning analytics may be used to identify targeted individual opportunities for additional support services or interventions.

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 Integrity and Ethical Academic Conduct Policy	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. Please refer to the Academic Integrity and Ethical Academic Conduct Policy
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.
Use of generative artificial intelligence in course assessments	It is critical that any work submitted for assessment is your own original work. Before using generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Perplexity, Microsoft Copilot, etc) in any assessable work you must ensure that such use is in line with the requirements for the course and expectations of your Course Coordinator Misuse of AI tools may be considered a breach of the University's Student Conduct Rule and could result in disciplinary action. Artificial Intelligence detection software may be used to review any work you submit. If you have used AI in any way other than has been expressly permitted by your course coordinator, you may be engaging in academic misconduct and be subject to penalties. For information, refer to: • Generative AI Tools • Academic Integrity
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.
© 2025 The University of Newcastle, Australia