



UNSW
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ARTS2243

Waste and Society

Term Three // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Professor Judy Motion	j.motion@unsw.edu.au	Thursday 2.00	Morven Brown room 352	Please email queries.

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Environmental Humanities*

This course introduces you to the historical, social and cultural implications of the wastes generated by human society. Dimensions and topics you study include: life cycles of materials, how we make knowledge about waste, the social implications of waste management technologies, 'legacy' issues and the 'colonisation of the future' by wastes. Our waste stream examples include plastics, water and sewage, nuclear materials, industrial sea dumping, trade in toxic wastes, domestic landfill, wastes from construction, mining, agriculture and the military, and the creation of 'wastelands' and contaminated sites. You explore solutions to the generation of wastes by studying the precautionary principle, environmental justice, international waste conventions and treaties, and regulatory and community responses to waste. Creative 'visioning exercises' assist you to explore alternative futures for waste and society.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the historical, social and cultural contexts for the production of wastes.
2. Analyse the relationship between technology and society that allows waste streams to be generated.
3. Apply selected disciplinary approaches to the understanding of waste and society; and make a trans-disciplinary synthesis; 'a way of looking' at wastes.
4. Apply skills of critical analysis, problem solving and interpretation, inflected through imaginative, creative and visioning approaches.
5. Conduct independent research, individually and in groups, with demonstrated ability to assemble, synthesize and communicate findings and interpretations

Teaching Strategies

The teaching format of the course includes lectures and tutorials. Each week in the lectures, you learn about the discursive, material and political dimensions of our relationship with waste. In the weekly tutorials, you will draw upon the course readings and methodologies of 'future studies' to engage with and attempt to solve waste-related dilemmas through a range of individual and group-based activities. You will also be required to undertake independent research.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Essay	35%	14/10/2019 04:00 PM	1,2,3,5
Waste Futures - Group Presentation	20%	21/11/2019 10:00 AM	1,3,4
Waste Futures - Final Report	45%	29/11/2019 04:00 PM	1,2,3,4,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1500 words

Details: Design your essay topic to allow you to apply the readings to contemporary issues of waste. Individual feedback will be provided by the lecturer/tutor.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Waste Futures - Group Presentation

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 15 minutes

Details: This group assessment requires you to report back on your group research project on a particular waste stream and its possible futures. The lecturer/tutor will provide oral feedback in class as well as prompt and detailed written feedback. You will also provide peer feedback on another group's presentation. All of this feedback will have the additional function of helping you to improve your Final Reports.

Assessment 3: Waste Futures - Final Report

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2000 words

Details: This assessment requires you to prepare a written report on your group research project on a particular waste stream and its possible futures. The lecturer/tutor will provide written feedback on this final report.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 16 September - 20 September	Seminar	<p>What is waste?</p> <p>Course overview: Introduction to waste. Mattering.</p> <p>Assignments overview</p> <p>Readings discussion</p>
	Online Activity	Case study one: War on waste
	Reading	<p>Evans, D. (2011). Review Essay: Waste Matters. <i>Sociology</i>, 45(4), 707-712. doi: https://journals-sagepub-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/doi/pdf/10.1177/0038038511406588</p> <p>* Susie Hatmaker; On Mattering: A Coal Ash Flood and the Limits of Environmental Knowledge. <i>Environmental Humanities</i> 1 May 2014; 4 (1): 19–39. doi: https://doi.org/10.1215/22011919-3614917</p>
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Seminar	The politics of food waste and everyday practices.
	Online Activity	Case study one: War on waste
	Reading	<p>Evans, D. (2011). Beyond the throwaway society: ordinary domestic practice and a sociological approach to household food waste. <i>Sociology</i>, 46 (1), 41-56. doi: https://journals-sagepub-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/doi/pdf/10.1177/0038038511416150</p> <p>Warde, A. (2014). After taste: Culture, consumption and theories of practice. <i>Journal of Consumer Culture</i>, 14(3), 279-303. doi: https://journals-sagepub-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/doi/pdf/10.1177/1469540514547828https://journals-sagepub-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/doi/pdf/10.1177/1469540514547828</p>

		7/1469540514547828
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October	Seminar	Urban water - public and private waste. Engagement and justice issues. Public and private waste. Recycled water.
	Online Activity	Case study one: War on waste
	Reading	<p>Readings: Hawkins, G. (2004). Shit in public. Australian Humanities Review, 31-32. Retrieved 17 February 2016 from http://australianhumanitiesreview.org/2004/04/01/shit-in-public/</p> <p>Kearnes, M. Motion, J. and Beckett, J. (2014). Australian Water Futures: Rethinking community engagement. Report of the National Demonstration, Education and Engagement Program. University of New South Wales. http://vuir.vu.edu.au/32222/1/Australian%2BWater%2BFutures%2B-%2BRethinking%2BCommunity%2BEngagement%2B100815.pdf</p> <p>* Andersen, A. O. (2018). Purification: Engineering Water and Producing Politics. Science, Technology, & Human Values, 43(3), 379–400. https://doi-org.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/10.1177/0162243917723079</p>
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Seminar	<p>Fashion - sustainability.</p> <p>Slow and fast fashion</p>
	Online Activity	Case study two: Sustainability
	Reading	<p>Joy, A., Sherry, J. F., Venkatesh, A., Wang, J., & Chan, R. (2012). Fast fashion, sustainability, and the ethical appeal of luxury brands. Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body & Culture, 16(3), 273-296. https://www-tandfonline-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/toc/rfft20/16/3?nav=tocList</p> <p>* Miriam Tola; The Archive and the Lake: Labor, Toxicity, and the Making of Cosmopolitical Commons in Rome, Italy. Environmental Humanities 1 May 2019; 11 (1): 194–215. doi: https://doi.org/10.1215/22011919-7349499</p>
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Seminar	Oceans

	Online Activity	Case study two: Sustainability
	Reading	<p>Gabrys, J. (2013). Plastics and the work of the biodegradable. In J. Gabrys, G. Hawkins, M. Michael (Eds), Accumulation: The material politics of plastic, pp. 208-227. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.</p> <p>https://research.gold.ac.uk/6175/1/Gabrys_Accumulation_Ch12.pdf</p> <p>* Liboiron, M. (2016). Redefining pollution and action: The matter of plastics. Journal of Material Culture, 21(1), 87–110.</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.1177/1359183515622966</p> <p>See: http://www.midwayfilm.com</p>
Week 6: 21 October - 25 October		Mid-term break
Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Seminar	E-waste and orbital debris (space junk) - a justice perspective
	Online Activity	Case study two: Sustainability
	Reading	<p>Iles, A. "Mapping Environmental Justice in Technology Flows: Computer Waste Impacts in Asia." Global Environmental Politics, vol. 4:4, 2004.</p> <p>https://doi-org.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/10.1162/glep.2004.4.4.76</p> <p>Zhang, K., Schnoor, J. L., & Zeng, E. Y. (2012). E-waste recycling: where does it go from here? Environmental Science & Technology, 46(20), 10861-10867. https://pubs-acscs-org.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/doi/10.1021/es303166s</p> <p>*Damjanov, K. (2017). Of Defunct Satellites and Other Space Debris: Media Waste in the Orbital Commons. Science, Technology, & Human Values, 42(1), 166–185.</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.1177/0162243916671005</p>
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Lecture	<p>Nuclear waste</p> <p>Key debates</p>
	Online Activity	Case study three: Waste Futures
	Reading	<p>Gregson, N. (2012). Projected futures: the political matter of UK higher activity radioactive waste. Environment and Planning A., 44(8), 2006-2022. DOI: 10.1068/a44600 https://journals-sagepub-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/doi/pdf/10.1068/a44600</p>

		<p>Sovacool, B. K., & Ramana, M. V. (2015). Back to the Future Small Modular Reactors, Nuclear Fantasies, and Symbolic Convergence. <i>Science, Technology & Human Values</i>, 40(1), 96 – 125. https://journals-sagepub-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/doi/pdf/10.1177/0162243914542350</p> <p>* Shannon Cram; Wild and Scenic Wasteland: Conservation Politics in the Nuclear Wilderness. <i>Environmental Humanities</i> 1 May 2016; 7 (1): 89–105. doi: https://doi.org/10.1215/22011919-3616344</p>
Week 9: 11 November - 15 November	Presentation	Presntations /Field trip
	Online Activity	Case study three: Waste futures
Week 10: 18 November - 22 November	Presentation	Group presentations
	Online Activity	Case study three: Waste futures

Resources

Prescribed Resources

N/A

Recommended Resources

Douglas, M. (1966). Purity and Danger. London: Routledge.

Hawkins, G. (2006). The ethics of waste: How we relate to rubbish. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Websites:

The United Nations Environment Program sites on three conventions relevant to wastes:

the Basel Convention,

the Stockholm Convention and

the Rotterdam Convention;

<http://www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy/publications/national-waste-report.html>

<http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/hazardous-waste/conventions>

Course Evaluation and Development

Formal student evaluations will be conducted via myExperience. You are also welcome to informally offer feedback on what is working well and what would enhance your learning at any stage of the course through an open Moodle forum for discussion, suggestions and comments.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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