



# ARTS2249

## Environmental Philosophy

Term One // 2021

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Simon Lumsden	s.lumsden@unsw.edu.au	TBA see Moodle page	MB335	02 93852369

### 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

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: [hal@unsw.edu.au](mailto:hal@unsw.edu.au)

## Course Details

**Credit Points 6**

### Summary of the Course

This course examines influential theories of nature and the environment in philosophy and a range of interdisciplinary writings, from Aristotle to the present. The course explores the following questions: Is there a connection between how nature has been conceived in philosophy and science and the current environmental crisis? Is the notion of nature still a meaningful term in the Anthropocene? What is the difference between 'nature' and 'culture'? How should humans understand their relationship to 'nature'?

These questions will be addressed from a range of perspectives, such as: Phenomenology, Critical Theory, German Romanticism, environmental ethics, Ecofeminism, contemporary thought and non-Western approaches. Drawing on these diverse traditions, the course examines possible alternatives for understanding the human-nature divide.

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Evaluate the merits and limitations of key approaches to Environmental Philosophy
2. Critically appraise the relevance of historical and contemporary approaches to nature and the environment to the contemporary context
3. Assess different key approaches to nature and the environment in philosophy and contemporary environmental thought
4. Showcase key theoretical inquiry skills of the humanities through critical analysis, textual interpretation, argument, and written expression

### Teaching Strategies

The course will normally be taught with 9 x three-hour weekly lectures, and a one-hour discussion-based tutorial. Lectures will be interactive, and student participation is encouraged. Lectures will cover key themes and specific texts in environmental thought as well as background historical issues. Through a selection of readings, exercises, and small group discussions, the course will develop students' ability to read, analyse, criticise, discuss, and interpret theoretical texts. The research portfolio, which is designed to encourage students to engage thoroughly with the prescribed weekly readings *before* class and to prepare questions for the tutorial, is a core element of the teaching strategy of the course. We expect students to participate in this course by attending lectures, engaging with others in tutorials and online discussions (where applicable) and to complete the required reading in preparation for tutorials and lectures. Tutorials will also discuss research skills and writing skills.

## Assessment

See course Moodle page for details

### Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Short essay	25%	19/03/2021 11:00 PM	1, 4
Research portfolio	25%	23/04/2021 11:00 PM	1, 3, 4
Essay	50%	30/04/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4

### Assessment Details

#### Assessment 1: Short essay

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 1200 words

**Details:**

This is a short essay, completed within the first five weeks of the course that is primarily a close reading exercise of an important work in environmental thought.

Feedback is written and/or marking sheet or rubric.

Length 1200 words

**Additional details:**

Detailed instructions will be available on Moodle

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

#### Assessment 2: Research portfolio

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 2000 words Minimum

**Details:**

A research portfolio where students address issues and questions from their weekly readings for the course. The portfolio is a record of students' preparation for class each week.

Students will write as a minimum 6 x 300-word reading summaries and textual analysis as well as a

200-word reflection on the research portfolio itself.

The written form of the portfolio is less formal than an essay and may be a mix of prose and bullet points.

This portfolio requires students to reflect on their own learning in the course and how assessment tasks, including the research portfolio itself, may contribute to this.

Feedback is written and/or oral.

Length is approx. 2000 words

**Additional details:**

Detailed instructions will be available on Moodle

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

**Assessment 3: Essay**

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 2200 words

**Details:**

This is the final assessment task for attendance purposes. Feedback is written comments and or a marking sheet

Major essay on a key figure or theme in the course.

2200 words

**Additional details:**

Detailed instructions will be available on Moodle

## 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: 15 February - 19 February	Lecture	<b>The Disenchantment of Nature</b>  for readings and further information see moodle lecture outline and reading list
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Lecture	<b>Deep Ecology and Ecocentrism</b>  for readings and further information see course outline
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Lecture	<b>Alienation from Nature</b>  for readings and further information see moodle lecture outline and reading list
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Lecture	<b>Anthropocentrism and what it is to be human in the Anthropocene</b>  for readings and further information see moodle lecture outline and reading list
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Lecture	<b>Sexual Politics and the Environment</b>  For readings and further information see moodle lecture outline and reading list
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March		<b>No Class — Flex week</b>
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Lecture	<b>Modernity, Technology and the Philosophy of the Locale</b>  for readings and further information see moodle lecture outline and reading list
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Screening	<b>Film Screening of Warner Herzog's <i>Grizzly Man</i></b>  Further information see moodle lecture outline and reading list
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Lecture	<b>After the End of Nature</b>  for readings and further information see moodle lecture outline and reading list

Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Lecture	<b>Nature and Responsibility</b> for readings and further information see moodle lecture outline and reading list
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## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

See Moodle page for details

### **Recommended Resources**

See Moodle page for details

## **Course Evaluation and Development**

Feedback for this course will be gathered informally throughout its duration, and formally at the end via myExperience. I am always keen to hear from you what works and what does not, especially as this is a new course. Do not hesitate to contact me with any comments or queries.



## **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](mailto: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/>

## Image Credit

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## CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.