UNSW SYDNEY | Australia's Global University

IEST5002

Tools for Environmental Management

Semester One // 2018

School of Humanities and Languages // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Paul Brown	paul.brown@unsw.edu.au	by appointment	Humanities and Languages Office	0414385570

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 4:45pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; 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/

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course provides you with an introduction to the wide range of "tools" used in environmental management and for environmental decision-making. These include: environmental impact assessment, public participation, risk management, environmental management systems, life cycle assessment, GIS, corporate sustainability, sustainability indexes, State of the Environment reporting, auditing, monitoring. Links will be drawn between the "tools" course and material covered in "Frameworks for environmental management" and the "fundamental knowledge" courses. This course will provide you with an introduction to a number of specialist courses that may be taken as electives (in for example environmental impact assessment).

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. Outline and critique the range of tools used for environmental decision making
2. Explain how these tools relate to each other and discuss criticisms of the tools in terms of their design and/or their use
3. Provide a detailed analysis relating to at least one of these tools in a professional style
4. Recognise, discuss and critique the drivers and barriers to the use and adoption of these tools for environmental management

Teaching Strategies

The course utilises lectures to convey basic information and contexts about each tool, followed by a more interactive tutorial style class where there is both further provision of basic information, plus student activities and exercises that develop practical capacities in environmental decision-making. There is also a computer lab (e.g. GIS) and outdoor field tasks (e.g. a land contamination task) which develop understandings of the operation of software programs utilised in environmental planning and assessment activities. Assessment tasks have been designed to assess student critical thinking, and professionally relevant skills and understandings.

Assessment

Your Moodle site contains further information and guidance about your assessment tasks.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Tutorial exercises and distance posts	10%	Please see your Moodle site for instructions.	1,2,4
Land contamination assessment	30%	See Moodle site	2,3
Critical presentation	20%	See Moodle site	1,2,4
Final Essay	40%	08/06/2018 04:00 PM	1,2,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Tutorial exercises and distance posts

Start date: Commencing Week 1

Length: Maximum 500 words. See further instructions in Moodle.

Details: 1-2 Small tutorial activities (<500 words) on the tools and their applications. Or weekly distance posts over 10 weeks of approx 500 words. Individual or group feedback provided.

Additional details:

The purpose and requirements are detailed on your Moodle site.

Submission notes: Submit via Moodle

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Land contamination assessment

Start date: See Moodle site

Length: 1600 words

Details: Land contamination assessment and report of 1600 words. Individual feedback provided

Additional details:

Full details of this assignment are available in your Moodle site.

Submission notes: Submit via Moodle

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Critical presentation

Start date: See Moodle site

Length: Short report. See details in Moodle

Details: Group presentations of 15 to 20 minutes critically reviewing a specific report reflecting one of the 'tools'. Group feedback provided. Group peer review allowed

Additional details:

Full details of this assignment are on your Moodle site.

Submission notes: Presentation in class or via Moodle for distance students

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 4: Final Essay

Start date: To be advised

Length: 1200 words for each essay

Details: Two final essays of 1200 words each on the 'tools' covered in the course. Individual feedback provided upon request after semester.This is the final assessment for attendance purposes

Additional details:

Full details of this assignment are on your Moodle site

Submission notes: Submit via Moodle

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

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

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.

Late Assessment Penalties

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted fourteen (14) days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component, a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted twenty-one (21) days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,

* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,

* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration webstie:
https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

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 information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.

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)

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 26 February - 4 March	Group Activity	For both Distance and On-campus students, this introductory week will explore the purpose of the whole course, link it with your overall pathway through the Master of Environmental Management, and introduce the first of our three modules for the course – Environmental Impact Assessment. (The other two modules are Environmental Management Systems, and Additional Tools for Environmental Management.) We will establish and discuss what you can expect by way of approaches, activities and assignments within the course. Further details for this week, and for all weeks will be available through your course Moodle site.
Week 2: 5 March - 11 March	Online Activity	This week the focus is on the basics of Environmental Impact Assessment, and you will be expected to independently explore readings, websites, other documents and short exercises available on-line through your Moodle site. You will submit a short blog piece reflecting on what you have discovered.
Week 3: 12 March - 18 March	Group Activity	This week you will bring your questions and findings from your on-line study of Environmental Assessment approaches to the class room (for on-campus students) and to an on-line forum (Distance students). The approach will be small group discussion of key issues. You will also undertake a 'mock' study of a contaminated site, linked to one of your assignments. Details are available on your Moodle site.
Week 4: 19 March - 25 March	Group Activity	For both distance and on-campus students, we will conduct a debate about the viability of current approaches to Environmental Assessment, and the challenges faced by environmental managers. This is the final week for our first module on Environmental Assessment, so we will summarise and discuss our findings.
Week 5: 26 March - 1 April	Group Activity	This week we commence the second module for the course – Environmental Management Systems.

		Largely our focus is on corporate and government organisations and their approaches to standards, systems, indicators, regulations, reporting and monitoring. We will map out the scope of systems approaches, and draw on our own professional experience and/or interests to prepare critical lines of inquiry we would like to explore across following weeks.
Break: 2 April - 8 April	Online Activity	This week is the official mid-session break. See below for activities for Week 6. In effect you have two weeks in which you will undertake independent on-line exploration of approaches to corporate and government environmental management systems.
Week 6: 9 April - 15 April	Online Activity	We will use Week 6 for your independent research and reading on Environmental Management Systems. You will explore current practices (and 'best practice') used by governments and corporations. You will submit a short blog piece reflecting on what you have discovered. Full details of readings, websites, documents and other sources will be given via your Moodle site.
Week 7: 16 April - 22 April	Group Activity	This week you will bring your questions and findings from your on-line study of Environmental Management Systems to the class room (for on-campus students) and an on-line forum (Distance students). The approach will be inter-active discussion of key issues and development of questions for critical evaluation of current practice. Details are available on your Moodle site.
Week 8: 23 April - 29 April	Seminar	This is the first of two weeks in which students will present short seminars in class (On-campus students) or post findings and discussion material (Distance students). Approximately half the class will present this week, on a topic related to Environmental Management Systems. The emphasis will be on critical evaluation of current practices. Full details are available on your Moodle site.
Week 9: 30 April - 6 May	Group Activity	This week begins the third and final module for the course – on Additional Tools for Environmental Management. This time our focus is on a suite of specific tools, including Geographical Information Systems, Life Cycle Assessment, Risk Assessment, and indicators for urban sustainability.

		Using small group discussion, we will scope these approaches and set critical questions we wish to pursue across the following three weeks.
Week 10: 7 May - 13 May	Online Activity	We will use Week 10 for your independent research and reading on the selected 'tools' (GIS, LCA, etc). The focus will be on specific case studies. You will submit a short blog piece reflecting on what you have discovered. Full details of readings, websites, documents and other sources will be given via your Moodle site.
Week 11: 14 May - 20 May	Group Activity	This week you will bring your questions and findings from your on-line study of selected approaches and examples to the class room (for on-campus students) or to an on-line forum (Distance students). The approach will be interactive discussion of key issues. We will also tackle a practical exercise on Geographical Information Systems. Details are available on your Moodle site.
Week 12: 21 May - 27 May	Seminar	This is the second of two weeks in which students will present short seminars in class (On-campus students) or post findings and discussion material (Distance students). Approximately half the class will present this week, on a topic related to Geographical Information Systems, Life Cycle Assessment, Risk Assessment, Sustainability Indicators and/or other approaches. Again the emphasis will be on critical evaluation of current practices. Full details are available on your Moodle site.
Week 13: 28 May - 3 June	Group Activity	Bringing it all together... This week we will develop our overview of the whole course, and use debate and discussion to explore the 'too hard basket' – to critically assess the potential and limitations of environmental management tools, and relate learnings from the course to your own professional development.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Insert text book names

Further guidance is available via your Moodle site.

Recommended Resources

Recommended readings are on your Moodle site.

Course Evaluation and Development

Formal feedback from students will be collected via myExperience, and will be used to improve furtehr iterations of the course.

Informal feedback will be gathered via two short questionnaires during the course.

Image Credit

Vembanad Lake Kerala. Fisheries and water management. Photograph by Paul Brown

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