



UNSW
SYDNEY
FACULTY OF SCIENCE

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL, EARTH AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

BEES6601

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SYDNEY ENVIRONMENT



SUMMER INTENSIVE TERM, 2020

Overview of Course

Course Description	<p>BEES6601 <i>An Introduction to the Sydney Environment</i> is a 6 unit of credit course.</p> <p>This course provides an introduction to the physical, biological and social environment of Sydney. Topics include the geophysical environment, the Indigenous people of Sydney, the natural and biological hazards of Sydney and the development of Sydney into a global city. The course also consists of a series of workshops, which consider the contemporary environmental issues facing Sydney. A series of optional field visit(s) are designed to introduce the diversity of Sydney's biophysical environment.</p> <p>Note: There is a field tutorial involved in the assessment for BEES6601 and students will incur personal expenses. Details will be provided during the first week of the course.</p>
Course Aims	<p>The objective of <i>An Introduction to the Sydney Environment</i> is for students to reach an understanding of the topics summarised in the UNSW Handbook description. The course will consider the physical, biological and social environment of Sydney and will consider various environmental issues and constraints. It covers material related to Sydney associated with the academic disciplines of geography, earth science, climatology, biology, ecology and environmental science.</p>
Student Learning Outcomes	<p>By the end of this course, you will have an appreciation of the Sydney environment, including the natural geophysical environment and aspects relating to the Indigenous and settler (post-1788) people and history. One of the major themes of the course is how Sydney's physical environment has shaped the people, and how European settlement has changed the landscape. Local environmental issues and environmental constraints will also be considered.</p> <p>The Course Learning Outcomes for BEES6601 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Develop an understanding and appreciation of the biological, social and environmental character of Sydney, and its place in the world.ii) Demonstrate an improved understanding of the complex relationships in natural environments so that they can critically evaluate human impacts and understand the difficulties in solving the global environmental problems we face.iii) Display developed literacy and communication skills using scientifically appropriate norms.

Course Description and Other Information

BEES6601 *An Introduction to the Sydney Environment* is a 6 unit of credit (UOC) upper level course at UNSW. The course is designed to provide an introduction to Sydney, uniting the common disciplines/themes of the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES): this includes traditional disciplines such as biology, earth science and geography. However, the real strength of the School of BEES and the course BEES6601 lies in the provision of cross- and inter-disciplinary environmental science perspectives.

An Introduction to the Sydney Environment will thus consider the physical, biological and social environment of Sydney, and develop students' understanding and appreciation of the relationship between human and physical environments and current environmental constraints and issues.

David Edwards is the Course Convener of BEES6601 and should be the first point of contact for any problems. Please try to use the lecture or workshop times to raise issues: for any other problems please use email (d.edwards@unsw.edu.au with BEES6601 in subject line) or make an appointment (DE's office is Room 401C in E26 which is the front of the Biological Sciences Building). In BEES6601 David will give some of the lectures and present one of the workshops streams. A/Prof Scott Mooney is also involved in the teaching of BEES6601, presenting some of the lectures and some of the workshops. You can check out what A/Prof Mooney does at <http://www.bees.unsw.edu.au/scott-mooney>. Pana Panaretos will also contribute to the workshops, and several guests will present lectures/workshops along the way.

Rationale

BEES6601 is primarily designed for Study Abroad or Exchange students but is equally relevant to students who are new to Sydney, including domestic (but not previously resident) or international students. The course has no assumed knowledge and includes 'reflective' components designed to consider the initial and changed perceptions of Sydney. A field visit is used to further introduce Sydney to the participants.

In 2014 Sydney was voted the most popular city for international university students, outperforming every other city in the world (A.T. Kearney Global Cities Index 2014) and is consistently ranked in the top 10 cities of the world (e.g. #9 in QS Top Universities 10 best places to study abroad in 2018 <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings-articles/qs-best-student-cities/10-best-places-study-abroad-2018>; #9 in <https://www.gooverseas.com/blog/10-most-popular-study-abroad-destinations-in-2019>; Sydney was #4 in <https://www.goabroad.com/articles/study-abroad/best-cities-study-abroad-in-2019>).

Timetable.

BEES6601 has a somewhat complicated timetable (in the [UNSW timetable](#)). This is all summarised in the table on the last page of this document.... but please stay tuned to announcements in class and on Moodle/email in case things change!

The **First Lecture** is Thursday 9th January from 10 am to 12 noon in CLB 6 (CLB is the Central Lecture Block which is mid-campus, near the Subway outlet see [map here](#)). The **First Workshop** is Thursday 9th January from 1 to 3 pm in either Mathews 230 or Mathews 231 (these rooms are in the Mathews Building which is above the [Mathews Pavilions](#)). There is then a lecture (almost) every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning for the next 3 weeks (10 am to 12 noon in CLB 6) and a workshop (almost) every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon 1:00 to 3:00 pm in either Mathews 230 or 231. There are typically no classes on Thursdays or Fridays, and several of the workshops can be completed online/or in your own time and so do not require attendance in class.

In addition to this 'regular' schedule there is one additional meeting and the final exam. The additional meeting is a field visit to La Perouse to discuss the physical environment and to do the Kadoo Cultural Tour (<https://www.kadootours.com.au>) in Kamay Botany Bay National Park (starting) at 10 am or 2pm (to be confirmed) on Thursday 30th January. The last meeting for BEES6601 is the final exam which starts on Friday February 7th starting at 1 pm in CLB 6.

Please note that several exercises in BEES6601 build on activities in previous classes. This means that all (face-to-face) classes are compulsory (and if you fail to attend >80% of them you may be refused final assessment). It should also be emphasized that classes are not repeated, and we make no assurances about the availability nor quality of any lecture recordings!

Just to reiterate this (in simple language):

- you need to attend all classes.
- the first meeting (a lecture) is Thursday 9th January at 10 am in CLB 6;
- we then meet for a lecture (almost) every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning in CLB 6 and then (almost) every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon for a workshop in either Mathews 230 or 231;
- there are several afternoon workshops that can be completed online or in your own time (Wednesday 22nd January, Tuesday 28th January and Wednesday 29th January) and so do not require attendance in class. One of these (Wednesday 22nd January) involves an exercise off campus (at Coogee) and can be done at any time;

- on Thursday 30th January we will meet at La Perouse for another field tutorial and cultural tour (this is likely to have two sessions: one starting at 10 am and another at 2pm);
- there are no classes on Thursdays or Fridays except for the final exam on the afternoon of Friday 7th February!

The best summary of the class timetable is at the end of this document (and in a separate document on Moodle).

Rationale and Strategies Underpinning the Course

The learning and teaching rationale underpinning the course draws on of the following concepts:

Learning is best achieved where students undertake a variety of tasks (reading, writing, discussing) and particularly those that stimulate higher-order thinking such as analysis, synthesis and evaluation. This is achieved through interactive lectures, where questions and critical thinking are encouraged, through discussion in the workshop classes.

The learning experience is also enhanced through the use of activities that are interesting and challenging. Students are more engaged in the learning process when the relevance of the material to professional, disciplinary and/or personal contexts is obvious. A variety of teaching methods and modes of instruction are employed in BEES6601.

In BEES6601 dialogue is encouraged between the students and teachers and among students, through the use of the online learning space Moodle and via discussion and group work. The course aims for an inclusive learning and teaching experience, creating a community of learners.

Workload, Reading and Other Resources

There are 20 scheduled classes in BEES6601 @ 2 hours per class and one field tutorial (of about 4 hours total) giving a total of ~44 hours of formal classes. It would be expected that you should spend at **least** another 56 hours on this course out of class contact hours for class preparation/reading, working on assessment tasks, and other learning activities.

Students should also note that:

- dedicated pages for BEES6601 exist on Moodle and all course hand-outs, lectures, workshop materials and announcements will be managed using this resource;
- this course covers a wide range of material: you will be expected to read key references for each major topic. References will be highlighted at the end of each lecture and are generally available in Moodle;

- Workshops often have a pre-class document that outlines your expected preparation (with key sources available or linked to on Moodle). Discussion in these workshops is enhanced by this preparation to allow for an informed debate.

Health and Safety in BEES6601

There are relatively few WHS issues associated with this course. Nonetheless, students should be aware that the BEES WHS site (<http://www.bees.unsw.edu.au/health-and-safety>) contains important information relating to workplace safety. This information complements that which can be obtained from the UNSW WHS website (<http://www.safety.unsw.edu.au>). Measures to minimise risks associated with field visits will be discussed at the relevant time.

Assessment Tasks and Feedback

The assessment criteria for each of the assignments will be discussed in the workshops preceding that task.

Course Assessment

		%	Due date
1.	Sydney Story I (the 'pitch')	5	before 10 am Tuesday 21 st January
2.	Peer Assessment of Sydney Story	2.5	before 5pm Friday 24 th January
3.	Field Report	10	before 10 am Monday 3 rd February
4.	Sydney Story II (story board)	17.5	before 12 noon Thursday 6 th February
5.	Reflective Exercise	15	before 12 noon Monday 10 th February
6.	Final Examination	50	Friday 7 th February 1 pm start
	Total:	100%	

Important Notes about Assessment in BEES6601

- Your attendance is expected (and will be monitored) in all classes. Final assessment may be refused if you attend less than 80% of classes;
- In this course all assignments must be submitted via Moodle. Instructions will be provided in the workshop classes and in the document describing each assignment;
- Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalised at the rate of 10% per day unless accompanied by a medical certificate;
- All outstanding assignments must be submitted before 5pm on Friday the 14th of February 2020: Work will only be accepted after this date if Special Consideration is granted;
- Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in any form in this course and particular attention is drawn to the information about plagiarism included over;
- Students should note that timing of assessment and feedback in this short-course format of BEES6601 is difficult (whereas at UNSW in normal circumstances assignments are assessed and returned within two weeks of submission with written feedback). If you have concerns about your progress in BEES6601 please discuss this with the course convener;
- Many of the assessment tasks can be completed during the teaching session and can be submitted at any time before the due date.

We will discuss the usual grade distribution at UNSW in one of the workshops: it is possible that standard marking at UNSW differs from your home institution. If your UNSW marks are transferred back to UNSW (rather than a Pass/Fail grade) please give the assessment tasks the attention that they deserve.

UNSW Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

You will be expected –as for all assignments throughout your university career –not to breach the University plagiarism policy as outlined below (also see <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism> for details).

Please read this carefully. UNSW may have different approaches to those that you are used to!

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the presentation of the thoughts or work of another as one's own. Examples include:

- direct duplication of the thoughts or work of another, including by copying material, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document (whether published or unpublished), composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, web site, Internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement;
- paraphrasing another person's work with very minor changes keeping the meaning, form and/or progression of ideas of the original;
- piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole;

- presenting an assessment item as independent work when it has been produced in whole or part in collusion with other people, for example, another student or a tutor; and
- claiming credit for a proportion a work contributed to a group assessment item that is greater than that actually contributed.†

For the purposes of this policy, submitting an assessment item that has already been submitted for academic credit elsewhere may be considered plagiarism.

Knowingly permitting your work to be copied by another student may also be considered to be plagiarism.

Note that an assessment item produced in oral, not written, form, or involving live presentation, may similarly contain plagiarised material.

The inclusion of the thoughts or work of another with attribution appropriate to the academic discipline does *not* amount to plagiarism.

The Learning Centre website is main repository for resources for staff and students on plagiarism and academic honesty. These resources can be located via <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>.

The Learning Centre also provides substantial educational written materials, workshops, and tutorials to aid students, for example, in:

- 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 at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/individual-consultations-academic-support>.

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 the proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

* Based on that proposed to the University of Newcastle by the St James Ethics Centre. Used with kind permission from the University of Newcastle

† Adapted with kind permission from the University of Melbourne.

Additional Notes on Referencing and Plagiarism

Please pay careful attention to plagiarism: do not use online text (even paraphrased) as this will trigger a plagiarism report. Your work should conform to usual standards: all non-original information must be referenced to indicate the source. Note that this also applies to any diagrams/illustrative material used.

Please note that the UNSW plagiarism guidelines include secondary citation as a form of plagiarism. This is where you cite as a reference Bloggs (2005), but you have not read Bloggs, but did notice it as being referred to in Smith (2007). You should always try to locate, and read, the original source: when this is not possible, as a last resort, you should cite “Bloggs (2005) as referred to in Smith (2007)”. To cite information from electronic sources you should include the URL or DOI, and give the date you last viewed the sources. All non-original material should be fully referenced and references must be in Harvard style (see <https://student.unsw.edu.au/harvard-referencing>).

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is an important element of course evaluation at UNSW. BEES6601 has run five times previously (s2 2016, 2017, 2018, summer 2019, T2C 2019) and information about the course has been gathered by various means, including *myExperience*, through discussion on Moodle and in the course review workshop. If you have any constructive criticism with a view to making this course better, please contact the Course Convener.

Improvements to the course resulting from feedback include:

- changes to the structure, weighting and timing of assessment tasks
- changes to the timing and format of the field tutorial
- the inclusion of several on-line workshops.

Equity and Diversity

Those students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their teaching or learning environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the Course Convener or with UNSW Disability Support Services <https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability>. Issues to be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional exam and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.

Special Consideration

Students who believe that their performance during the teaching period may have been affected by illness or other circumstances may apply for Special Consideration. Applications can be made for compulsory class absences (such as lectures, the field visit or workshops), in-session assessments tasks, and final examinations. Students must make a formal application for Special Consideration

for the course/s affected as soon as practicable after the problem occurs and within three working days of the assessment to which it refers.

Students should consult the “Special Consideration” section of the UNSW current students’ website for further information <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>. If you miss the final exam due to a documented mis-adventure, please contact the course convener asap.

Grievance Policy

In all cases you should first try to resolve any issues with the Course Convener (DE). If this is unsatisfactory, you should contact the Director of Teaching in BEES (A/Prof Stephen Bonser s.bonser@unsw.edu.au) or the Head of School, School of BEES (A/Prof Alistair Poore, a.poore@unsw.edu.au). UNSW has formal policies about the resolution of grievances that can be reviewed in MyUNSW A to Z Guide (see <https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints>).

Course Outline: January - February 2020

NOTE: Lectures are from 10 am to 12 noon in CLB6 unless indicated otherwise.

Workshops are from 1.00 to 3.00 pm in either Mathews 230 or 231 unless indicated otherwise.

Day and Date	Lecture (staff initials)	Workshop	Notes
Thursday Jan 9 th	First lecture (L1 SM). Course introduction, aims and logistics. The physical, biological and social environment of Sydney	First workshop (W1). Introduction to Sydney: initial perceptions of Sydney; intro to assignments in BEES6601	First lecture is from 10 am to 12 noon in Central Lecture Block (CLB) 6 (link to map here) First workshop is from 1.00 to 3.00 pm in either Mathews 230 or 231
Monday Jan 13 th	L2 (DE). Introduction to the physical environment of the Sydney Basin: geology, geomorphology and soils	W2. The Sydney Story assignments: a 'how to' guide and discussion about options	
Tuesday Jan 14 th	L3 (DE). The coast, beaches and estuaries of Sydney	W3. Conceptualizing the physical environment of Sydney	W3 is held in a Computer Lab Five on the ground floor of the Biological Sciences Building.
Wednesday Jan 15 th	L4 (SM). The climate and vegetation of the Sydney Basin	W4. The natural environment and National Parks of the Sydney region	
Thursday Jan 16 th & Friday Jan 17 th	No classes		
Monday Jan 20 th	L5 (DE). Sydney Story and peer assessment training	Optional Sydney Story workshop.	Optional workshop for students requiring help with the Sydney Story assignment.
Tuesday Jan 21 st	L6 (KD). The vertebrate zoology of Sydney: what was the fauna of Sydney like and how is it faring?	W5. The natural and biotic hazards of Sydney	The lecture is by Kane Durrant. Sydney Story pitch video assignment (5%) due before 10 am Tues 21st Jan.
Wednesday Jan 22 nd	L7 (PG). The marine biology of Sydney Harbour	W6. Coogee Explorer (self-guided field exercise)	The lecture is presented by A/Prof Paul Gribben. It will be held in BioScience Lab 6 (TBC). The workshop can be done at any time during daylight hours.
Thursday Jan 23 rd & Friday Jan 24 th	No classes		Sydney Story peer assessment of video pitch (2.5%) due before 5pm Friday 24th Jan.

Day and Date	Lecture (staff initials)	Workshop	Notes
Monday Jan 27 th	Australia Day Public Holiday: no classes		
Tuesday Jan 28 th	L8 (SM). The Aboriginal people of the Sydney region	W7. Sydney's early European history (online exercise)	The workshop is online and can be done at any time!
Wednesday Jan 29 th	L9 (PW). The development of Sydney as a global city	W8. Resources for a growing city (online exercise)	The lecture is presented by Dr Peta Wolifson. The workshop is online and can be done at any time!
Thursday Jan 30 th	Field Trip: The physical environment at La Perouse Cultural Discovery Tour at La Perouse		An assignment (due before 10am Monday 3 rd Feb) based on this field trip forms 10% of the assessment in BEES6601
Friday Jan 31 st	No classes		
Monday Feb 3 rd	L10 (DE). Contemporary environmental issues in Sydney	W9. What is the future for Sydney? Rates of population increase.	Field report assignment (10%) due before 10am Monday 3 rd Feb.
Tuesday Feb 4 th	No lecture	W10. Course review. Reflective exercise and changed perceptions	
Wednesday Feb 5 th	No classes		
Thursday Feb 6 th	No classes		Sydney Story written assignment (17.5%) due before noon Thursday 6 th Feb
Friday Feb 7 th	No classes		Final Examination (50%) in CLB 6 starting 1pm
Monday Feb 10 th	No classes		Reflective Exercise assignment (15%) due before noon Monday 10 th Feb