



UNSW
A U S T R A L I A
FACULTY OF SCIENCE

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL, EARTH AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

BEES6601
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SYDNEY ENVIRONMENT



WINTER INTENSIVE TERM (T2C), 2022

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 BEES and BEES6601 lies in the cross- and inter-disciplinary environmental sciences.

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.

A/Prof Scott Mooney 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 (s.mooney@unsw.edu.au with BEES6601 in subject line) or make an appointment (SM's office is Room 401B in E26 which is the front of the Biological Sciences Building). You can check out what A/Prof Mooney does at <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/scott-mooney>: in BEES6601 he will give some of the lectures and will be present in many of the other classes. **David Edwards** is also involved in the teaching of BEES6601, presenting some of the lectures and some of the workshops and 'in lab' classes. David can be contacted via email on d.edwards@unsw.edu.au. **Dr Heather Haines** will teach in the lab and workshops. 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 TopUniversities 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>).

Course Description	<p>BEES6601 An Introduction to the Sydney Environment is a 6 unit of credit course.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Note: There is a field visit involved in the assessment for BEES6601 and students will incur personal expenses. Details will be provided during the first week of the course.</i></p>
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Course Aims	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.
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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an understanding and appreciation of the biological, social and environmental character of Sydney, and its place in the world. 2. 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. 3. Display developed literacy and communication skills using scientifically appropriate norms.

Timetable...

BEES6601 has a somewhat complicated timetable and the UNSW timetable is incomplete (sorry).

The **First Lecture** is Monday 15 August from 10 am to 11 am in CLB 6 (CLB is the Central Lecture Block which is mid-campus, near the Subway outlet see [map here](#)). The **First Workshop** is also on that day Monday 15 August from 11.30 am to 1 pm in (one of) Quadrangle 1045, 1046 or 1047 (these rooms are in the Quadrangle Building which is on the above map surrounded by the Quadrangle Lawn). There is then a **lecture (almost) every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning** for the next 3 weeks (10 am to 11 am in CLB 6) and a **workshop (almost) every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** from 11:30 to 1:00 pm in your assigned tut room (Quad 1045, 1046 or 1047). For some of the workshops we will meet in Lab 6 which is on the ground floor of the Biological Sciences (E26) Building ([map here](#)).

In addition to this 'regular' schedule there is one additional meeting and the final exam. The additional meeting is on Thursday 25th August and will run from 10 am to (approximately) 5pm. This includes a field visit to discuss the physical environment and to consider Indigenous issues associated (details will be provided in the first week). The last meeting for BEES6601 is the **final exam** which starts on **Friday September 2nd starting at 2 pm**. (The location of this exam will be confirmed closer to the date.)

There are some days when lectures or workshops are online (and can be done in your own time and so do not require attendance in class).

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!

Attendance

BEES6601 consists of 10 lectures and 10 workshops spread over three weeks. Most lectures are of about 1 hour duration (but in some cases might go for a little longer). Most of the face-to-face workshops are designed to be completed in the class, between 11.30 am and 1pm.

Please note that several exercises in BEES6601 build on activities in previous classes and all assessment tasks are described, discussed and workshopped in classes. **This means that all (face-to-face) classes are compulsory.** 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 the timetable (in simple language).

- the first meeting (a lecture) is Monday 15th August at 10 am in CLB 6;
- this lecture stream then continues (almost) every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 10 am in CLB 6;
- we also meet (almost) every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for a workshop at 11.30 am in one of Quad 1045, 1046 or 1047. In some cases (W2 and W4), these workshops are held in a large lab setting (lab 6, ground floor in the BioScience building);
- there are several classes that can be completed online or in your own time:
 - the Thursday 18th Aug lecture (L4) is pre-recorded;
 - the Monday 22nd Aug workshop W5 is online and a non-compulsory workshop is available if you are having trouble with the Sydney Story assessment tasks;
 - the Monday 29th August workshop (W8) is online.
- on Thursday 25th we will meet in lab 6 (ground floor BioScience Building) at 10 am: we will do a lecture, workshop and pre-field arrangements in the lab, and then travel to a site for a field visit. You should not plan anything apart from BEES6601 on that day.
- **the best summary of this is at the end of this document (and in a separate document on Moodle);**
- **you need to attend all classes. The location and details of the next class are always described at the end of a class.**

We have purposefully designed BEES6601 so that there are no classes on Fridays (except for the final exam on Friday 2nd September!). We also acknowledge that the course is *intense* and have given you breaks to complete the assessment tasks. It is however easy to fall behind and you should pay attention to the important notes under the Course Assessment. The location and details of the next class is always mentioned in the previous class:

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

As a guide, the UNSW Academic Board suggests that normal workload expectations are approximately 25 hours for each UOC (including class contact hours, other learning activities, time spent on assessable tasks and preparation/reading). There are 20 'normal' classes (including the exam) in BEES6601 and one field visit (of about 3 hours) giving a total of ~83 hours of classes... this suggests that you should spend another ~66 hours on this course out of class.

Students should note that:

- Students should note that all course hand-outs, lectures, workshop materials, announcements and assignment submission/assessment will be managed using BEES6601 Moodle;
- 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.

WHS in BEES6601

There are relatively few WHS issues associated with this course. Information regarding WHS for the Field classes will be discussed in the classes prior to the meetings and in the field.

Course Assessment

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

	%	Due date
1. Field Quiz	10	before 10 am Monday 29 th August
2. Sydney Story		
2.1 (the 'pitch' + storyboard)	17.5	before 10 am Monday 29 th August
2.2 (peer assessment)	2.5	before 5 pm Thursday 1 st September
3. Reflective Exercise	20	before 5pm Friday 9 th September
4. Final Examination	50	Friday 2 nd September 2 pm start location TBC
Total:	100%	

Important Notes about Assessment in BEES6601 (and at UNSW)

- Your attendance is expected in all classes;
- In this course all assignments must be submitted electronically 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 you have been granted Special Consideration;
- All outstanding assignments must be submitted before 5pm on Friday the 9th of September 2022: 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 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 (A/Prof Scott Mooney);
- 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 early workshops: it is possible that standard marking at UNSW differs from your home institution. Unlike some institutions UNSW does not offer assignments for 'extra credit' or any way to 'make up marks' other than the assessment tasks listed above.

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.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is an important element of course evaluation at UNSW. BEES6601 has run 6 times previously (s2 2016, 2017, 2018, summer 2019, T2C 2019, summer 2020) 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.

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.

Grievance Policy

In all cases you should first try to resolve any issues with the Course Convener (A/Prof Scott Mooney). If this is unsatisfactory, you should contact the Director of Teaching in BEES (Prof Stephen Bonser s.bonser@unsw.edu.au) or the Head of School, School of BEES (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>).

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 class absences (such as lectures, the field visit or workshops), assessments tasks and the final examination. 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 misadventure please contact the Course Convener asap.

UNSW Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

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.

Course Outline – August-September (T2C) 2022

Week 1

Date	Lecture CLB 6 10 am start	Workshop 11.30 am start Quad 1045, 1046 or 1047	Notes
Monday 15 th August	First lecture (L1 SM). Course introduction, aims and logistics The physical, biological and social environment of Sydney	First workshop (W1). Introduction to Sydney: a) initial perceptions of Sydney; b) intro to assignments in BEES6601	This first lecture is 10 to ~11 am in Central Lecture Block (CLB) 6 map here ; This first workshop is 11.30 to 1.00 pm in Quad 1045 1046 or 1047 map here
Tuesday 16 th August	L2 (DE). The physical environment: the geology, geomorphology and soils of the Sydney Basin	W2. Conceptualizing the physical environment of Sydney (meet in Lab 6, ground floor Biological Science Building)	This workshop is in Lab 6, ground floor BioSciences map here
Wednesday 17 th August	L3 (SM). The climate and vegetation of the Sydney Basin	W3. The National Parks of the Sydney region	W3 is held in Quad room 1045, 1046 or 1047.
Thursday 18 th August	L4 (guest: Prof Rob Brander). The coast and beaches of Sydney (online)	W4. The Sydney Story assignments: a 'how to' guide and discussion	W4: meet in Lab 6, ground floor Biological Science Building at 10 am
Friday 19 th August	No classes...		

Week 2

Date	Lecture CLB 6 10 am start	Workshop 11.30 am start Quad 1045, 1046 or 1047	Notes
Monday 22 nd August	L5 (guest: Dr Jodi Rowley). Frogs of the Sydney Region: diversity and conservation	W5. Marine animals of Sydney (online). Optional workshop (in Lab 6 BioScience building). Sydney story emergency workshop Sydney Story	This optional workshop is for people who are still unsure about the Sydney Story assignment.
Tuesday 23 rd August	L6 (guest: Prof Mike Letnic). The vertebrate zoology of Sydney	W6. The natural and biotic hazards of Sydney	W6 is held in Quad room 1045, 1046 or 1047.
Wednesday 24 th August	No classes...		
Thursday 25 th August	L7 (SM). Aboriginal Sydney W7 (Dr Shane Ingre). Aboriginal Sydney (travel to field location) 2-5pm Field Visit		meet at 10 am in Lab 6 BioScience building).
Friday 26 th August	No classes...		Assessment 1: complete Field Quiz (10%) before 5 pm Friday 26 th

Week 3

Date	Lecture CLB 6 10 am start	Workshop 11.30 am start Quad 1045, 1046 or 1047	Notes
Monday 29 th August	L8 (guest Taylor Coyne). The development of Sydney as a global city	W7. Sydney's early European history (online exercises)	Assessment 2.1. Sydney Story (17.5%) due before 10 am Monday 29 th
Tuesday 30 th August	L9 (guest Prof Adriana Verges) Underwater Sydney and the Great Southern Reef	W9. What is the future for Sydney? Rates of population increase	W9 is held in Quad room 1045, 1046 or 1047.
Wednesday 31 st August	L10 (DE). Contemporary environmental issues in Sydney	W10. Changed perspectives, course review and reflective exercise	W10 is held in Quad room 1045, 1046 or 1047.
Thursday 1 st September	No classes		Assessment 2.2: Sydney Story Peer Assessment (2.5%) due before 5 pm Thurs 1 st Sept
Friday 2 nd September	No classes		Assessment 4: Final Exam (50%) 2pm start location TBC

Week 4

Monday 5 th to Friday 9 th September	No classes		Assessment 3: Reflective Exercise assignment (20%) due before 5pm Friday 9 th September
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