



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Environmental Studies

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
REN	1201	86180	1, 2009	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOSCI
Academic org:	FOS002
Student contribution band:	2
ASCED code:	050999

STAFFING

Examiner: Andrew Le Brocque
Moderator: Joachim Ribbe

RATIONALE

As the effects of population pressure, unsustainable resource use and pollution increasingly influence global social and economic stability and quality of life, an understanding of environmental issues by graduates from all disciplines is essential. This course aims to develop informed and positive attitudes toward environmental issues, an understanding of the causes and symptoms of environmental degradation, and of corrective actions and the policies which support them.

SYNOPSIS

The course provides a general introduction and overview of the emergence of environmental issues at the global scale. An inter-disciplinary approach to the study of the environment is provided at a general level for students across all Faculties. The material is presented in a number of inter-related modules that cover the biophysical environment, politics, economy and society, and human impact on the natural environment. The course focuses on ecological principles for thinking about the environment, the links between society and environmental exploitation and the development of ecologically sustainable development. Consideration is given to population growth, the influence of technology, environmental economics and the role of community value systems. Issues examined from a global perspective include land utilisation, mining and fishing, energy production and use, water pollution, atmospheric pollution, urban systems and waste management. Special attention is given to ways in which environmental problems are dealt with under the ecologically sustainable development framework.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the factors contributing to global and national environmental problems (Assignments 1 & 2; Exam);
2. demonstrate an appreciation of the inter-relationships between ecological, social and economic aspects which make up modern environmental issues (Assignment 2; Exam);

3. demonstrate a thorough understanding of the processes involved in human interactions with the environment (Assignment 2; Exam).

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Introduction and the Biophysical Environment	23.00
2.	Politics, Economics and Society	15.00
3.	Human Impact on the Natural Environment	23.00
4.	Environment and Society	39.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Miller, GT 2007, *Living in the environment*, 15th edn, Thomson Brooks/Cole, Pacific Grove, CA. (ISBN 0495015989)

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Aplin G, Beggs P, Brierley G, Cleugh H, Curson P, Mitchell P, Pitman A & Rich D 1999, *Global environmental crises: An Australian perspective*, 2nd edn, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Elliott, L 1998, *The global politics of the environment*, MacMillan, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme, World Bank & World Resources Institute 2000, *World Resources 2000 - 2001: People and ecosystems: The fraying web of life*, World Resources Institute, Washington, DC.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assignments	30.00
Directed Study	50.00
Examinations	2.00
Private Study	83.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
ASSIGNMENT 1	60.00	15.00	26 Mar 2009
ASSIGNMENT 2	100.00	30.00	05 May 2009
2 HR RESTRICTED EXAMINATION	100.00	55.00	END S1 (see note 1)

NOTES

1. Examination dates will be available during the Semester.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks or a grade of at least C. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of up to 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment will apply for each working day late.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
This is a restricted examination. Candidates are allowed access only to specific materials during a Restricted Examination. The only materials that candidates may use in the restricted examination for this course are: writing materials (non-electronic and free from material which could give the student an unfair advantage in the examination). Students whose first language is not English, may, take an appropriate unmarked nonelectronic translation dictionary (but not technical dictionary) into the examination. Dictionaries with any handwritten notes will not be permitted. Translation dictionaries will be subject to perusal and may be removed from the candidate's possession until appropriate disciplinary action is completed if found to contain material that could give the candidate an unfair advantage.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.

8 University Regulations:

Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 9 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner. In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience.
- 10 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete-Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete-Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).
- 11 A Course Assignment Cover Sheet must be signed by the student and attached to all assignments submitted for assessment. Failure to do so may result in the assignment not being marked.
- 12 Assignments must be word-processed and follow the assignment formatting requirements provided.
- 13 In accordance with Faculty of Sciences and USQ regulations, applications for extensions to assignment due dates must be made in writing to the Examiner before the assignment due date. Applications for extensions must be accompanied by appropriate documentary evidence.