



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: Environment, Society and Sustainability

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
REN	8101	86758	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 the biophysical environment, social and political aspects, and current global issues is essential for future resource managers. This course aims to develop an understanding of the nature of the biophysical environment, the causes and symptoms of environmental degradation, corrective actions and sustainable alternatives.

SYNOPSIS

This course provides a general introduction and overview of the emergence of environmental issues at the global scale and covers such topics as the physical environment, biological diversity, and human impact on the natural environment. Issues examined from a global perspective include food and fibre resources, water resources, energy production and use, mining, fishing and forestry, atmospheric pollution, climate change, urbanisation and waste management. The principles for sustainable development are introduced and possible future management of resources and the environment are discussed.

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 an understanding of the processes involved in human interactions with the environment (Assignment 1, Exam);
4. integrate knowledge of the biophysical and social environment into the examination of historical and current environmental issues (Assignment 2, Exam);

5. critically evaluate, as case studies, current local and global issues in environment and possible solutions (Assignment 2).

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	The Global Crises	15.00
2.	Global Issues in the Environment	40.00
3.	Society & Environment	15.00
4.	Sustaining the Future	30.00

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.

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

Jeffries, MJ 1997, *Biodiversity and Conservation*, Routledge, London.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Directed Study	80.00
Examinations	2.00
Private Study	84.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
ASSIGNMENT 1	60.00	15.00	27 Mar 2009 (see note 1)
ASSIGNMENT 2	60.00	40.00	05 May 2009 (see note 2)
2 HR RESTRICTED EXAMINATION	120.00	45.00	END S1 (see note 3)

NOTES

1. Assignments 1 and 2 must be by electronic submission. Refer to your Introductory Book and course Website for correct labelling of electronic files and electronic submission details. Times and dates refer to Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST).
2. Assignments 1 and 2 must be by electronic submission. Refer to your Introductory Book and course Website for correct labelling of electronic files and electronic submission details. Times and dates refer to Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST).
3. Examination dates will be available during the Semester.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this course. 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 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 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:
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 via the electronic assignment submission environment (EASE) on the course website. 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 Students must use the assignment template (.doc document) provided on the course Website for electronic submission of assignments. The templates include an assignment cover page and marking criteria and must be submitted in a Microsoft Office Word 2003 compatible format.
- 12 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 due date. Applications must be accompanied by appropriate supporting information.