The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Environmental Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
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<td>REN</td>
<td>1201</td>
<td>10340</td>
<td>1, 2002</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Academic Group: FOSCI
Academic Org: FOS002
HECS Band: 2
ASCED Code: 050999

STAFFING

Examiner: Andrew Le Brocque
Moderator: Charlie Zammit

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 conflict, plus 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 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:

- demonstrate an understanding of the factors contributing to global and national environmental problems;
- demonstrate an appreciation of the inter-relationships between ecological, social and economic aspects which make up modern environmental issues;
- demonstrate a thorough understanding of the processes involved in human interactions with the environment;
- understand how their world view can contribute to environmental problem-solving.

TOPICS

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Introduction and the Biophysical Environment</td>
<td>23.00</td>
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<td>2. Politics, Economics and Society</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<td>3. Human Impact on the Natural Environment</td>
<td>23.00</td>
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<td>4. Environment and Society</td>
<td>39.00</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the 'Book Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au by entering the author or title of the text.


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., 1998 Australians and their Environment: an Introduction to Environmental Studies, Oxford University Press, Melbourne,

Australian Academy of Science 1997 Environmental Science, Australian Academy of Science, Canberra.


World Resources Report 2000-2001 People and ecosystems: the fraying web of life, World Resources Institute, Washington DC.
STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY                        HOURS
Examinations                    3
Lectures                        26
Private Study                   100
Report Writing                  30
Tutorial                        11

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>TUTORIAL ASSIGNMENTS</td>
<td>999.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<td>MAJOR ASSIGNMENT</td>
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<td>3 HR CLOSED EXAMINATION</td>
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<td>45.00</td>
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NOTES:
1. Examiner will advise of details regarding the Tutorial Assignments and their due dates.
2. Examination dates will be available during the Semester. Please refer to the examination timetable when published.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance Requirements It is the students' responsibility to actively participate in all classes scheduled for them, and 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 to Satisfactorily Complete Each Assessment Item To satisfactorily complete each of the assignments students must obtain at least 40 percent of the marks available for each To satisfactorily complete the examination(s) in this course, students must obtain at least half of the marks available for each examination.
3. Minimum Requirements to Pass the Course To be assured of a pass in this course, students must: (a) obtain an overall mark of at least 50%; (b) obtain at least 50% of the marks available in the examination(s); (c) obtain an overall mark of at least 40% in the assignments.
4. Grading Final grades for students will be determined by the addition of the marks obtained in each assessment item, weighted as in the Assessment Details and by considering the students' level of achievement of the objectives of the unit.
5. Supplementary and Deferred Examinations Students who obtain an overall passing mark, but who do not perform satisfactorily in an examination, may, at the discretion of the examiner, be granted a supplementary examination. Students will be granted
a deferred examination only if they perform satisfactorily in all other assessment items. Any supplementary or deferred examinations for this course will normally be held during the examination period at the end of the semester of the next offering of this course.

6 Assignments 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 accordance with University’s Policy on Assignments (Regulation 5.6.1), the Examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. This policy may be found in the USQ Handbook, the Distance Education Study Guide and the Faculty of Sciences’ Orientation Handbook for new on-campus students. All students are advised to study and follow the guidelines associated with this policy. An assignment submitted after the due date without an extension approved by the Examiner, will attract a penalty of up to 20 percent of the assigned mark for each day (or part thereof) that the assignment is late. A Course Assignment Cover Sheet must be signed by the student and attached to all assignments submitted for assessment.

7 Examinations Candidates should be aware that the University has policies and regulations (Regulation 5.6.2.2) about the use of unfair means and electronic devices in an examination and they should refer to them to determine whether or not actions they intend to take are acceptable to the University. Closed Examination: Candidates are allowed to bring only writing and drawing instruments into the closed examination.