ARTS2240

Environment, Sustainability and Development

Term 1, 2022

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Taylor Coyne	taylor.coyne@unsw.edu.au			

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Tel: 02 9348 0406

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Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.

Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous UNSW's Indigenous strategy

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

Human society has experienced remarkable change as technological innovation, economic growth and population have produced rapidly changing social and environmental landscapes over the past current centuries. Such development is often seen a synonym of progress; however, over the past few decades it has been increasingly recognised that such rapid change has produced an uneven social geography – marginalising significant populations – while also intensively degrading and polluting different environments. We will discuss how the idea of sustainable development has emerged as a response to this conundrum – an effort to redirect economic growth to produced more socially just and environmentally benign outcomes. The path to a sustainable future, however, is not straightforward, as environmental, social and economic issues are ultimately situated in contested political realms. In this course, you will study how human-environment interconnections, across different scales and in different contexts, come together to demonstrate how environmental issues are situated in, and shaped by political and economic contexts. This will include engaging with a number of key sustainability debates as well as the in-depth study of different examples from around the world.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain how environmental issues are shaped both materially and discursively
2. Identify the range of environmental challenges facing developing countries
3. Apply conceptual and analytical knowledge of environmental issues and development to case studies
4. Evaluate different perspectives on environment and development

Teaching Strategies

This course will use a blended learning approach, with instruction occurring in the classroom (lecture and tutorials), aided with online engagement through assignments, discussions and activities. The online environment (through Moodle) is a natural extension of traditional classroom learning. The tutorials will have a strong focus on group activities, providing an interactive environment for students to discuss ideas and issues with their peers.

Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Writing Advocacy Piece	30%	06/03/2022 04:00 PM	1, 4
2. Literature Review	30%	04/04/2022 04:00 PM	2, 4
3. Final Essay*	40%	28/04/2022 04:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Writing Advocacy Piece

Assessment length: 1,500 words
Due date: 06/03/2022 04:00 PM

- 1,500 words written paper
- individual feedback given to students

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

See Moodle for detailed information.

Assessment 2: Literature Review

Assessment length: 1,500 words
Due date: 04/04/2022 04:00 PM

- 1,500 words literature review paper on tutorial readings
- individual feedback given to students

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

See Moodle site for more information

Assessment 3: Final Essay*

Assessment length: 2,000 words
Due date: 28/04/2022 04:00 PM

- 2,000 words literature review paper on tutorial readings
- individual feedback given to students
- This is the final assessment for attendance purposes

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

See Moodle for more information

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of Lectures and Tutorials is mandatory in this course, as interactions in class are critical for realising all of the course's learning outcomes. Unexcused absence from more than 20% of lectures and tutorials will result in the award of a fail grade. Attendance will be taken during Lectures and Tutorials.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 14 February - 18 February	Lecture	*Note: additional information, including each weeks' readings, can be found on the course's Moodle website.* **Introduction** This Lecture we will go through the course's objectives, along with some of the key concepts that we will encounter through the semester. It also includes an online component that students need to complete.
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Lecture	**The Population Debate** This Lecture explores the dimensions of the, sometimes acrimonious, population debate. It will engage with questions such: Are there too many people living on Earth? What is the evidence? Is overpopulation environmentally destructive phenomenon? The purpose of the lecture being not to provide students with a normative position in regards to the debate, but rather the analytical skills, and some empirical evidence, to help them to form their own critical opinion.
	Lecture	**Political Ecology** This Lecture will explore the basic premises and history of the political ecology framework, and how it will help us to interrogate and understand environmental dilemmas in a way that challenges simplistic (and problematic) assumptions. It includes an online component that students need to complete.
Week 3: 28 February -	Lecture	**The Population Debate**

4 March		This Lecture explores the dimensions of the, sometimes acrimonious, population debate. It will engage with questions such: Are there too many people living on Earth? What is the evidence? Is overpopulation environmentally destructive phenomenon? The purpose of the lecture being not to provide students with a normative position in regards to the debate, but rather the analytical skills, and some empirical evidence, to help them to form their own critical opinion.
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Lecture	**Armed Conflict and the Environment** This Lecture explores how the physical environment is entangled with conflicts in many parts of the developing world. It will critically examine different theses, ranging from the environmental deterministic approaches to political economy frameworks.
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Lecture	**International Trade and the Environment:** This Lecture explores the dynamics of world trade and globalisation and how it has uneven impacts around the world.
Week 6: 21 March - 25 March	Reading	Reading week - no lectures or tutorials
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Lecture	**Political Ecologies of Energy** Using a case study approach, this Lecture examines different energy and development issues around the world: how the production, transportation and use of energy are linked to a range of different environmental and social injustices. This will include working through online activities.
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Lecture	**Political Ecologies of Water** Using a case study approach, this Lecture examines different water dilemmas around the world: how the use, exploitation, commodification and social construction of water is threaded through a range of different environment and development issues. This will include working through online activities.
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Lecture	**Political Ecologies of Extraction** Using a case study approach, this Lecture critically examines how the use and imagination

		of different 'undergrounds' shape societal action. It looks at how the emergence of capitalisation and industrialisation – two major driving forces of epochal change – were both predicated on new technologies that redefined the underground as an epistemological space for economic, social, and political calculation and extraction.
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Lecture	**Beyond Sustainable Development**

Resources

Prescribed Resources

There is no textbook for this subject. Course readings are accessible via Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Recommended Journals

Annual Review of Environment and Resources
Antipode
Ambio
Area
Capitalism, Nature, Socialism
Conservation Biology
Cultural Anthropology
Ecology and Society
Economic Geography
Energy Policy
Energy for Sustainable Development
Energy Research and Social Science
Environmental Conservation
Environment, Developmentand Sustainability
Environment and History
Environment and Planning D: Society and Space
Environmental History
Environmental Humanities
Environmental Policy and Governance
Environmental Values
Extractive Industries and Society
Geoforum
Geographical Research
Global Environmental Change
Global Environmental Politics
Journal of Development Studies
Journal of Political Ecology
Land Degradation and Development
Land Use Policy
Population Space and Place
Progress in Development Studies
Progress in Human Geography
Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography
Society and Natural Resources
Sustainability Science
Third World Quarterly
Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers
World Development
Water Alternatives

Websites

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – www.unep.org
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – www.undp.org
International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) – www.ictsd.org
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) – www.fao.org
World Trade Organization (WTO) – www.wto.int
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – www.iucn.org
Third World Network (TWN) - http://www.twnside.org.sg/
Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) – www.grain.org

Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. It is encouraged that students complete their surveys by accessing the personalised web link via the Moodle course site.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study. Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

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