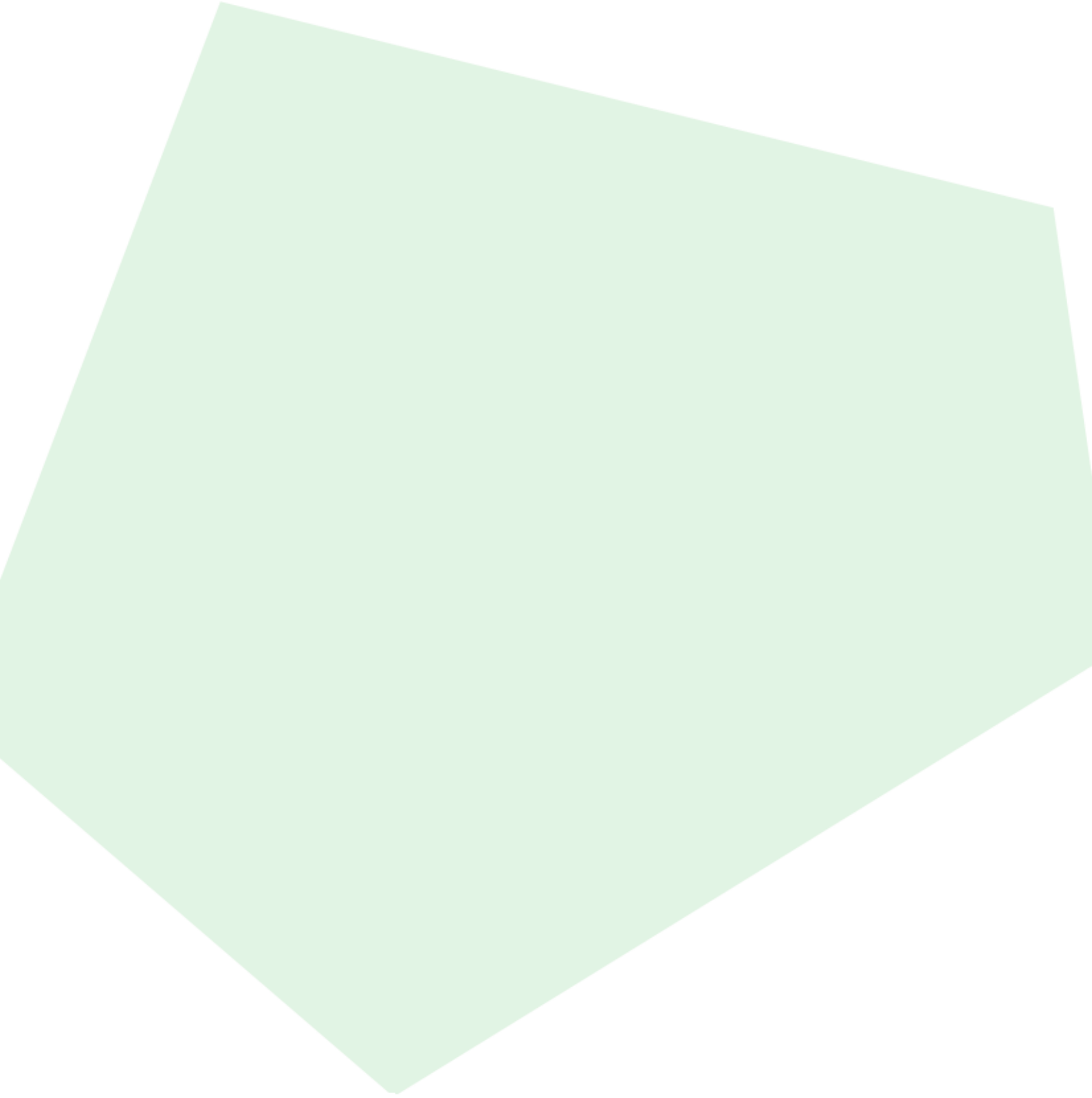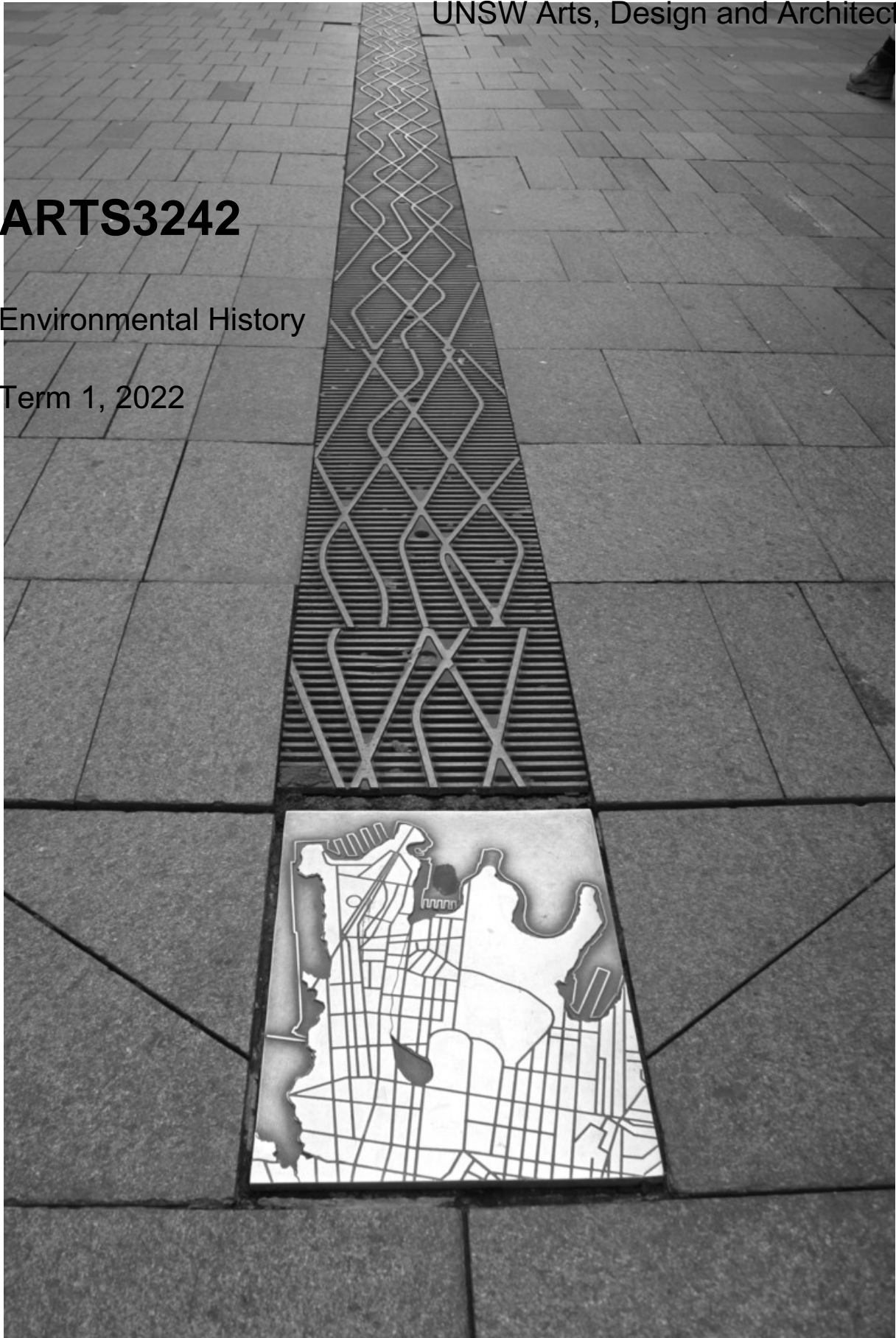# ARTS3242

Environmental History

Term 1, 2022

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Paul Munro	paul.munro@unsw.edu.au	Posted on Moodle	Morven Brown 366	

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

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

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

Environmental history is an emerging field of study that reorients historical narratives around the progression of human-nature interactions. It offers distinctive ways of looking at the past to provide a context for understanding environmental change. In this course, you will be introduced to topics and debates within environmental history, engaging with key concepts, themes, and methods. You will develop a critical understanding of how environmental history developed as a sub-field, and how it has been subsequently shaped by different disciplines and approaches. Drawing on global and local examples, you will develop a deep appreciation of how the environmental and social are historically entangled. You will cultivate an appreciation of how environmental history offers a different lens through which to understand the past, providing new perspectives for engaging in historical and contemporary debates.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse a range of specific examples of past environmental change in relation to human society, useful for comparison to today's environmental challenges.
2. Identify key examples of scholarship and core concepts in the field of environmental history, and relate these examples and concepts to those of other disciplines and areas of history.
3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of key environmental history examples and core concepts, their implications and their suitable applications in understanding environmental challenges today
4. Employ core concepts of environmental history in independently constructing own evidence-based reconstructions and explanations of past human-environment interactions and their consequences

Teaching Strategies

Lecture topics in this course are organised both chronologically and thematically. Each week features a key moment in historical human-environment interactions together with key concepts and scholarship interpreting it. The tutorial discussion that week deals with the key concept(s) and occurs in small groups assigned questions requiring application and critique of the concept(s). Marking the oral responses of the groups P/F helps motivate discussion. This is a collaborative assessment ensuring that all students can at least identify the core concept(s) of the week and what it is supposed to do. If a buzz group applies the week's core learning to their question and offers a coherent answer, individual students in the group may not share the P mark if they are observed not to participate at all in their discussion.

Together these discussion questions all relate to a weekly concise essay question and help students prepare to write it up. Each student must write two such concise essays in the course of the term and have the option of a third (the best two counting). The concise essays require students to explain, apply, and critique the core concept(s) featured that week.

There is also a research essay requiring students to engage in an extended exploration of some moment in the history of human-environment interactions and employing concepts and examples acquired in the course to interpreting it. The topic is chosen from a menu or, with approval and constructive assistance

at the planning stage, designed by the student.

Finally there is an in class test covering the range of concepts and periods discussed in the course, with questions requiring comparison across weekly themes. This is to ensure that students cannot achieve a high mark without learning the contents of more than just two weeks content.

Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Critical review	25%	07/03/2022 04:00 PM	2, 3
2. Essay	40%	04/04/2022 04:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4
3. Take-home test	35%	29/04/2022 04:00 PM	1, 2, 4

Assessment 1: Critical review

Assessment length: 5 minutes
Due date: 07/03/2022 04:00 PM

A critical reading review, conducted as an audio recording (5 minutes).

Written feedback.

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Essay

Assessment length: 2000
Due date: 04/04/2022 04:00 PM

Written assessment based on assigned tasks relating to course themes. Length: ca. 2,000 words.

Written feedback.

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

Assessment 3: Take-home test

Assessment length: 1500
Due date: 29/04/2022 04:00 PM

Students will be presented with questions relating to course content that they will need to address. Length: 1,500 words.

Written feedback.

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

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 14 February - 18 February	Lecture	Topic: Introduction - What is Environmental History?
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Lecture	Environmental History and Water
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Fieldwork	Field Trip 1 - specific information will be posted on Moodle
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Fieldwork	Field Trip 2 - specific information will be posted on Moodle
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Fieldwork	Field Trip 3 - specific information will be posted on Moodle
Week 6: 21 March - 25 March	-- Select --	Mid Term Break
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Lecture	The Columbian Exchange
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Tutorial	Settler Colonialism and Pacific Rim
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Lecture	Topic: Penitent Butchers: hunting, animals and the imposition of African Wilderness
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Lecture	Conclusions

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Reading resources will be availble through Moodle

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

Image Credit

Image taken by Paul Munro

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