Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
A/Prof Paul Brown	paul.brown@unsw.edu.au	appointment via email preferred	via Humanities and Languages office	0414385570

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

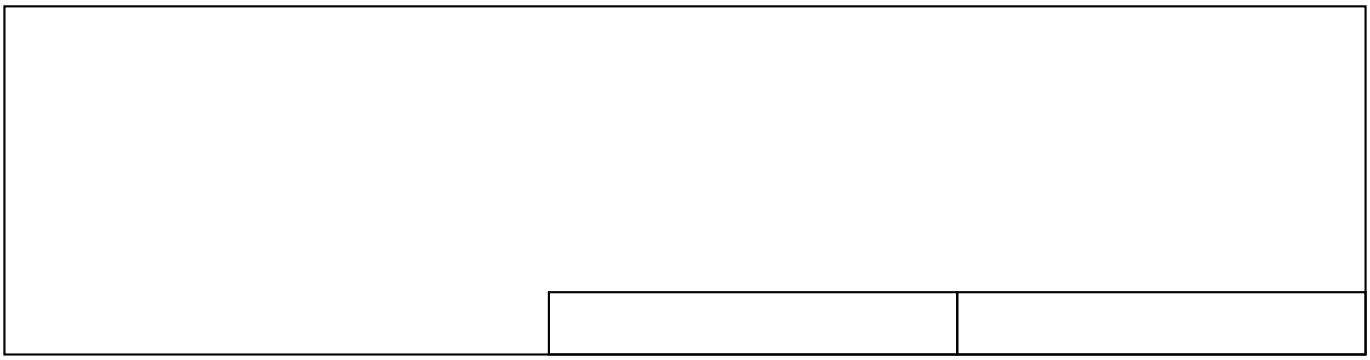
The course is a scientific introduction to the physical environment we live in, how ecosystems work, ways they can be measured and modelled, and how to interpret environmental data and statistics to assist in environmental decision making and leadership. It is for students who have NOT studied physical sciences previously at the tertiary level. The subject introduces a number of core scientific disciplines, including physics, chemistry, mathematics & statistics, geology and physical geography.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Give a basic explanation of the principal physical and chemical processes, including energy production and conversion in an industrial society
2. Outline the key issues in managing energy, water resources, chemicals and the coastal zone
3. Define environmental parameters, their related properties, their units, dimensions and techniques of measurement
4. Describe the essential elements of scientific methods, experimental design, statistical analysis and uncertainties, and appreciate their importance in environmental management
5. Communicate effectively with environmental scientists and modellers
6. Recognise sound scientific practice and make good management decisions about the environment

Teaching Strategies

The subject introduces, through seminars and lectures aimed at an upper introductory level, a number of core physical scientific disciplines and allows students via their assignments to explore the relevance of these disciplines to environment and society leadership. Moderated on-line tuition and on-line resource packages support student learning and independent investigation.



similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Assignment 3

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Physical Environment Report. Max 1500 words.Written Feedback Provided

Additional details:

Full details of this assignment will be available via your Moodle site.

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

Assessment 4: Assignment 4

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1300 words

Details: Final essay/report on environmental change. Max 1300 wordsWritten feedback provided

Additional details:

Full details of this assignment will be available via your Moodle site.

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

Resources

Prescribed Resources

You will be assigned particular readings for each week's topics. On-line activities will support the course, including a module on techniques of data analysis. Details will be in your Moodle site.

Recommended Resources

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

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
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