UNSW Course Outline

BEES4517 Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences Honours - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : BEES4517
Year : 2024
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Science
Academic Unit : School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 16

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course is only available to students enrolled in an Honours Program in the School of

Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences (BEES) and enrolment must be approved by the School's Honours Coordinator.

A 16 UoC Research Project in the School of BEES, in which students enrol three times for a total of 48 UoC. The course entails research in a defined disciplinary area (Archaeology & Palaeoenvironments, Biology, Climate Science, Ecology, Environmental Management, Geochemistry, Geology, Human Geography, Marine and Coastal Science or Physical Geography) developed in consultation with an Honours Supervisor.

Course Aims

This course aims to provide essential skills for Honours students including:

- Developing and conducting original research.
- Data interpretation and synthesis.
- Writing and presentation skills.
- Workplace health and safety.
- Ethics for research.
- Professional development to prepare students for careers after graduation.
- Other specialist skills in particular disciplinary fields of the School.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Obtain advanced training and knowledge in one of the School of BEES' majors
CLO2 : Develop cutting-edge practical skills including field, laboratory, data synthesis, modelling, and/or spatial research and apply these skills to a discipline-specific research project
CLO3 : Develop high-level skills in critical thinking, data analysis and interpretation and project management.
CLO4 : Communicate complex research to an appropriate audience in both oral and written forms.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Obtain advanced training and knowledge in one of the School of BEES' majors	• Thesis • Research Proposal
CLO2 : Develop cutting-edge practical skills including field, laboratory, data synthesis, modelling, and/or spatial research and apply these skills to a discipline-specific research project	• Final Seminar • Thesis • Research Proposal
CLO3 : Develop high-level skills in critical thinking, data analysis and interpretation and project management.	• Thesis
CLO4 : Communicate complex research to an appropriate audience in both oral and written forms.	• Final Seminar • Thesis

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Final Seminar Assessment Format: Individual	5%	
Thesis Assessment Format: Individual	82.5%	
Research Proposal Assessment Format: Individual	12.5%	

Assessment Details

Final Seminar

Assessment Overview

This task will occur in your final Term of Honours enrolment.

The final seminar is worth 5% of your overall Honours grade. You will present a 5-minute seminar summarising your project. Exact dates and times for the seminars will be released toward the end of the final term via email. Presentations cannot exceed 5 minutes, slides should be loaded up before the session begins. Feedback will be provided by the Honours coordinator within 10 working days of your presentation.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Develop cutting-edge practical skills including field, laboratory, data synthesis, modelling, and/or spatial research and apply these skills to a discipline-specific research project
- CLO4 : Communicate complex research to an appropriate audience in both oral and written forms.

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.
For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Thesis

Assessment Overview

This task will be due in your final Term of Honours enrolment.

A thesis is written in the format of a scientific paper, and the aim is to create a document that is ready for submission to a journal.

There is an absolute limit of 8,000 words of text (limit excludes tables, figures, references and any appendices, but includes in-text citations [e.g. “(Smith et al. 2019)”]). The Honours Coordinator may grant longer theses under exceptional circumstances (e.g., taxonomic treatments). Examiners (and practicing academic scientists more generally) expect a succinct

document rather than a long discussion and so shorter theses will be welcomed.

Your thesis must be submitted online via Moodle and will be run through Turnitin.

The due date will be announced on Moodle, but this is usually due in week 9 in the last term. General feedback and detailed comments will be provided by your two thesis examiners within 10 working days of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Obtain advanced training and knowledge in one of the School of BEES' majors
- CLO2 : Develop cutting-edge practical skills including field, laboratory, data synthesis, modelling, and/or spatial research and apply these skills to a discipline-specific research project
- CLO3 : Develop high-level skills in critical thinking, data analysis and interpretation and project management.
- CLO4 : Communicate complex research to an appropriate audience in both oral and written forms.

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Research Proposal

Assessment Overview

This task will be due in your first Term of Honours enrolment.

This first major piece of work for the Honours research project is a 4500-word Research Proposal. The proposal must be your own work, but should be developed with feedback from your supervisor. This research proposal should demonstrate that the research question you propose to investigate is well grounded in scientific literature, and that the methods used are feasible and sound. The due date will be announced on Moodle, but it is usually due in week 9 of the first term. General feedback and detailed comments will be provided by your two thesis examiners within 10 working days of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Obtain advanced training and knowledge in one of the School of BEES' majors

- CLO2 : Develop cutting-edge practical skills including field, laboratory, data synthesis, modelling, and/or spatial research and apply these skills to a discipline-specific research project

Generative AI Permission Level

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General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

Professional Skills Week

Week 1 of BEES Honours consists of compulsory five-day activities known as the Honours Professional Skills Week. The activities are held on campus. Confirmed schedules will be emailed to students one week before week 1.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Mariana Maye r Pinto					Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.
Further information about referencing styles can be located at https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage. At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.
Further information about academic integrity, plagiarism and the use of AI in assessments can be located at:

- The Current Students site,
- The ELISE training site, and
- The Use of AI for assessments site.

The Student Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Penalty for Late Submissions

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot

submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Any variations to the above will be explicitly stated in the Course Outline for a given course or assessment task.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Special Consideration

If circumstances prevent you from attending/completing an assessment task, you must officially apply for special consideration, usually within 3 days of the sitting date/due date. You can apply by logging onto myUNSW and following the link in the My Student Profile Tab. Medical documentation or other documentation explaining your absence must be submitted with your application. Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address to be advised of the official outcome and any actions that need to be taken from there. For more information about special consideration, please visit: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

Important note: UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway
- Student Support
- Academic Skills and Support
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety
- Equitable Learning Services
- UNSW IT Service Centre
- Science EDI Student Initiatives, Offerings and Guidelines