UNSW Course Outline

BEES6601 An Introduction to the Sydney Environment - 2024

Published on the 08 Aug 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : BEES6601
Year : 2024
Term : Term 2
Teaching Period : T2C
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 : Postgraduate, Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course introduces the physical, biological and environmental issues of Sydney. Topics include the geophysical environment, the natural and biological hazards of Sydney, the Indigenous people of Sydney and contemporary environmental issues associated with the

development of Sydney into a global city. The course consists of a series of lectures and workshops (some of which are online) and field class(es) (during which participants will incur personal expenses). The course is designed for newly arrived international students (e.g., Study Abroad, Exchange) as an over-arching theme is developed to compare Sydney to 'home' and how perceptions of Sydney change through time. Domestic students cannot enrol in the course without permission and the course is not available to students who are taking Majors in the School of BEES.

Course Aims

The aim of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the physical and biological environment of the Sydney region and then to consider Indigenous issues and post-contact environmental impacts. The course has a particular emphasis on the unique and diverse nature of the Sydney environment and how this has shaped the development of Sydney as a large, global city. The course also has several secondary aims: workshops are discussion-based and aim to develop your understanding of the course content and to promote the development of a community within the UNSW international student body.

Relationship to Other Courses

Exclusion Course(s)

BEES1041 Exploring the Natural World

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Describe the physical and biological character of Sydney.
CLO2 : Explain how the biophysical environment of Sydney has contributed to natural and biotic hazards.
CLO3 : Critically evaluate how the biophysical environment of Sydney has influenced the human use and history of the region.
CLO4 : Integrate your understanding of the biophysical environment and human history of Sydney to consider human impacts in the landscape.
CLO5 : Reflect on environmental-human issues for other locations and at different spatial scales (local, regional, global).

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Describe the physical and biological character of Sydney.	• Field Trip Quiz • Field class quiz • Final Examination • Reflective Assessment
CLO2 : Explain how the biophysical environment of Sydney has contributed to natural and biotic hazards.	• Final Examination • Reflective Assessment
CLO3 : Critically evaluate how the biophysical environment of Sydney has influenced the human use and history of the region.	• Field Trip Quiz • Field class quiz • Final Examination • Reflective Assessment
CLO4 : Integrate your understanding of the biophysical environment and human history of Sydney to consider human impacts in the landscape.	• Field Trip Quiz • Field class quiz • Final Examination • Reflective Assessment
CLO5 : Reflect on environmental-human issues for other locations and at different spatial scales (local, regional, global).	• Final Examination • Reflective Assessment

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Field Trip Quiz Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Due Date: 21/08/2024 05:00 PM
Field class quiz Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Due Date: 23/08/2024 05:00 PM
Final Examination Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Due Date: 30/08/2024 02:00 PM
Reflective Assessment Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Due Date: 06/09/2024 05:00 PM

Assessment Details

Field Trip Quiz

Assessment Overview

This is an online quiz that is completed soon after the first field class, which focuses on the physical environment and history of the La Perouse area. The quiz consists of a series of multi-choice questions and covers material from lectures, workshops as demonstrated in the field class.

Marks and feedback will be provided to you immediately upon submission of your responses. Students can seek more information directly from the Course Convenor.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Describe the physical and biological character of Sydney.
- CLO3 : Critically evaluate how the biophysical environment of Sydney has influenced the human use and history of the region.
- CLO4 : Integrate your understanding of the biophysical environment and human history of Sydney to consider human impacts in the landscape.

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.

Field class quiz

Assessment Overview

This is an online quiz that is completed soon after the second field class, and focuses on the Indigenous use of resources in Sydney, and the physical landscape and history of the Sydney Harbour area. The quiz consists of a series of multi-choice questions and covers material from lectures, workshops as demonstrated in the field class.
Marks and feedback will be provided to you immediately upon submission of your responses. Students can seek more information directly from the Course Convenor.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Describe the physical and biological character of Sydney.
- CLO3 : Critically evaluate how the biophysical environment of Sydney has influenced the human use and history of the region.
- CLO4 : Integrate your understanding of the biophysical environment and human history of Sydney to consider human impacts in the landscape.

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Final Examination

Assessment Overview

Your final examination in BEES6601 is held in person in the last week of the teaching session, but consists of an online exam typically with multi-choice questions. The examination is scheduled for 2 hours but most students complete the task within 1 hour. The examination covers all aspects of the course, including lectures, workshop discussions and the field excursion. Feedback is available at the completion of the course through direct consultation with the Course Convenor.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Describe the physical and biological character of Sydney.
- CLO2 : Explain how the biophysical environment of Sydney has contributed to natural and biotic hazards.
- CLO3 : Critically evaluate how the biophysical environment of Sydney has influenced the

human use and history of the region.
- CLO4 : Integrate your understanding of the biophysical environment and human history of Sydney to consider human impacts in the landscape.
- CLO5 : Reflect on environmental-human issues for other locations and at different spatial scales (local, regional, global).

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Reflective Assessment

Assessment Overview

This assignment allows you to reflect on the material covered in BEES6601. It is specifically designed to consider 'what have I learnt (that is new)?' and 'how does this compare to what I previously thought?'. The assignment is a series of short written tasks typically consisting of a learning diary, some reflection on discussions in workshops (e.g., initial perceptions of Sydney and how they changed) and a ranked list of what you learnt in BEES6601. The assignment is typically completed in 5 pages (plus an appendix consisting of your learning diary). It is due after the final exam in BEES6601 and represents the last task of the course .
Feedback is available at the completion of the course through direct consultation with the Course Convenor.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Describe the physical and biological character of Sydney.
- CLO2 : Explain how the biophysical environment of Sydney has contributed to natural and biotic hazards.
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General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

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

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Mike Letnic					No	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