UNSW Course Outline

MSCI0501 The Marine Environment - 2024

Published on the 12 Aug 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : MSCI0501
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 : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course covers aspects of both the physical and biological environments of the sea and their inter-relationships. It depicts marine science as a body of knowledge and a process of continual enquiry and testing of ideas. It considers human impacts on the marine environment and how

the principles and methods of science in general are used to predict and to solve the problems created by human activities.
The course includes discussion of: i) the marine environment, its physical, geological, chemical and biological characteristics, and their interactions; ii) beach safety and marine biodiversity; and iii) the effects of development and climate change on the marine environment and how science can contribute to providing solutions to these problems. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on case studies. The course is delivered in intensive mode over 4 weeks and involves one field excursion (timed to coincide with the low tide), weekly practical classes and tutorials supplemented with online lectures. Field trips will incur no additional/personal costs.

Course Aims

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the main physical processes that influence the marine environment, develop awareness of the contemporary issues that affect our oceans, and provide an understanding and appreciation of the inter-disciplinary complexities surrounding marine and coastal conservation. This course aims to focus particularly on providing non-scientists with foundational knowledge of concepts relating to marine environments and their relationships with human society.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Identify and manage hazards in the marine environment.
CLO2 : Discuss the importance of oceans, and how life in the oceans shape the Earth and our climate.
CLO3 : Describe the challenges facing species living in the sea and the adaptations required to combat them.
CLO4 : Discuss contemporary marine issues, how human activities threaten life in the ocean and how we can play a part in the solution, including the main consequences climate change is having upon our oceans and its marine life.
CLO5 : Explain how marine resources are managed and restored for long-term resource security.
CLO6 : Describe the local Sydney marine environment, how it was formed, and the contemporary and historical threats it faces.
CLO7 : Communicate scientific concepts and issues through the creation of a multimedia group project.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Identify and manage hazards in the marine environment.	• Final Exam
CLO2 : Discuss the importance of oceans, and how life in the oceans shape the Earth and our climate.	• Quizzes • Final Exam
CLO3 : Describe the challenges facing species living in the sea and the adaptations required to combat them.	• Quizzes • Final Exam
CLO4 : Discuss contemporary marine issues, how human activities threaten life in the ocean and how we can play a part in the solution, including the main consequences climate change is having upon our oceans and its marine life.	• Science in Society • Quizzes • Final Exam
CLO5 : Explain how marine resources are managed and restored for long-term resource security.	• Science in Society • Quizzes • Final Exam
CLO6 : Describe the local Sydney marine environment, how it was formed, and the contemporary and historical threats it faces.	• Quizzes • Final Exam
CLO7 : Communicate scientific concepts and issues through the creation of a multimedia group project.	• Science in Society

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Quizzes Assessment Format: Individual	30%	
Final Exam Assessment Format: Individual	40%	
Science in Society Assessment Format: Group	30%	

Assessment Details

Quizzes

Assessment Overview

You will complete two multiple-choice quizzes held in class in Week 1 and Week 2 to assess your understanding of all content from the week's practical classes and online lectures.

Automatic feedback will be provided immediately upon completion of the task on Moodle.

Each quiz is worth 15% of the overall course mark.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Discuss the importance of oceans, and how life in the oceans shape the Earth and our climate.
- CLO3 : Describe the challenges facing species living in the sea and the adaptations required to combat them.
- CLO4 : Discuss contemporary marine issues, how human activities threaten life in the ocean and how we can play a part in the solution, including the main consequences climate change is having upon our oceans and its marine life.
- CLO5 : Explain how marine resources are managed and restored for long-term resource security.
- CLO6 : Describe the local Sydney marine environment, how it was formed, and the contemporary and historical threats it faces.

Generative AI Permission Level

Not Applicable

Generative AI is not considered to be of assistance to you in completing this assessment. If you do use generative AI in completing this assessment, you should attribute its use.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Final Exam

Assessment Overview

You will complete a two-hour multiple-choice exam held in class on the final day of the course to assess your understanding of all content from field excursions, practical classes, and online lectures.
Automatic feedback will be provided immediately upon completion of the task on Moodle.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify and manage hazards in the marine environment.
- CLO2 : Discuss the importance of oceans, and how life in the oceans shape the Earth and our climate.
- CLO3 : Describe the challenges facing species living in the sea and the adaptations required to combat them.
- CLO4 : Discuss contemporary marine issues, how human activities threaten life in the ocean and how we can play a part in the solution, including the main consequences climate change is having upon our oceans and its marine life.
- CLO5 : Explain how marine resources are managed and restored for long-term resource security.
- CLO6 : Describe the local Sydney marine environment, how it was formed, and the contemporary and historical threats it faces.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Generative AI Permission Level

Not Applicable

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Science in Society

Assessment Overview

You will be expected to form a group of approximately four students and together produce a 1000-word report and three-minute video on a controversial marine issue of your choice. You will work on this project across all four weeks of the course, with the report being submitted through the online portal at the end of Week 3 and the video being showcased and assessed during class at the end of Week 4.
All group members will receive the same final assessment mark.

Feedback will be provided as marks and comments in the online gradebook.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO4 : Discuss contemporary marine issues, how human activities threaten life in the ocean and how we can play a part in the solution, including the main consequences climate change is having upon our oceans and its marine life.
- CLO5 : Explain how marine resources are managed and restored for long-term resource security.
- CLO7 : Communicate scientific concepts and issues through the creation of a multimedia group project.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

Not Applicable

Generative AI is not considered to be of assistance to you in completing this assessment. If you do use generative AI in completing this assessment, you should attribute its use.
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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.

Course Resources

Additional Costs

There are no additional costs.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Tracey Rogers					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