UNSW Course Outline

BEES0006 Special Program in Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : BEES0006
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 : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

In this course, students will conduct a short research project supervised by a member of

academic staff. The research project may encompass laboratory experiments, field studies, theoretical studies, or data syntheses. The project will include all aspects of research, including project planning, data collection, statistical analyses, and oral and written reporting. Projects may also involve 'placements' outside UNSW. In these cases, students will require an academic member of staff to supervise the research project.

Students in this course will acquire and build essential skills such as a critical assessment of the literature, managing a research project, data collection and interpretation, and scientific communication.

The range of research projects that can be conducted in this course means the assessment structure detailed here is more flexible than in more traditional courses. The academic supervisor will clarify details of the assessments at the beginning of the course. Students are not expected to fund their own research.

Note: This course is restricted to students undertaking a Major in the School of BEES. Enrolment in this course is by invitation and subject to availability of places: interested students should contact a suitable supervisor and the Director of Teaching

Course Aims

The aim of this course is to give students experience conducting their own research project. The research conducted will be aligned with the research in one of the research groups within the school of BEES and will be new research testing current hypotheses at the often at cutting edge of the field. The course is intended to give students an opportunity to explore their aptitude for a career in research.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Critically review scientific literature and prepare a research proposal on a given topic.
CLO2 : Collect, analyse, and interpret data for the independent research project.
CLO3 : Communicate scientific research to a broad audience in the form of an oral presentation.
CLO4 : Prepare a scientific research paper or report summarising your independent project.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Critically review scientific literature and prepare a research proposal on a given topic.	• Final report • Research proposal
CLO2 : Collect, analyse, and interpret data for the independent research project.	• Research seminar • Final report
CLO3 : Communicate scientific research to a broad audience in the form of an oral presentation.	• Research seminar
CLO4 : Prepare a scientific research paper or report summarising your independent project.	• Final report

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Please refer to supervisor

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Research seminar Assessment Format: Individual	15%	
Final report Assessment Format: Individual	50%	
Research proposal Assessment Format: Individual	35%	

Assessment Details

Research seminar

Assessment Overview

You will deliver a 5-10 minute oral presentation at the end of the term (during the exam period) to an audience including other students and academic supervisors. You will be evaluated on the quality of your research and presentation skills. Feedback will be given by the academics present and the course convenor.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Collect, analyse, and interpret data for the independent research project.
- CLO3 : Communicate scientific research to a broad audience in the form of an oral presentation.

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.

Final report

Assessment Overview

You will prepare a report in the form of a scientific paper or report (or component of these) on your research project (~3000 words). The structure of the paper will be discussed and finalised in consultation with your academic supervisor. The paper will be approximately 10 /pages in length and is due in Week 10. Feedback will be given by the academic supervisor within 10 working days of submission and a summative mark will be provided by the course coordinator.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Critically review scientific literature and prepare a research proposal on a given topic.
- CLO2 : Collect, analyse, and interpret data for the independent research project.
- CLO4 : Prepare a scientific research paper or report summarising your independent project.

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

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not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.
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Research proposal

Assessment Overview

You will prepare a short proposal following the guidelines provided (1500-2000 words). The proposal will include a short background on the topic, highlight the significance of the research, and outline the proposed methodology. The length of the proposal and submission date will be negotiated in consultation with your academic supervisor. Your academic supervisor will also provide written feedback on the final submission within 10 working days of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Critically review scientific literature and prepare a research proposal on a given topic.

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

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General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

Not Applicable - as no class attendance is required

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Stephen Bonser					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