

Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Health and Life Sciences
Course Title:	ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Course ID:	ENVGC1711
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	Nil
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED:	050999

Description of the Course :

This unit introduces students to the global environment and its basic natural systems. The fundamental structure and functioning of the natural systems is explored, emphasising the processes of living systems and their relationships with physical processes, including those associated with geology and climate. Major themes include the diversity and interrelationships of the biotic and abiotic components of the environment, the nature of environmental change, and human impacts on both biotic and abiotic components of natural systems. The level of study will range from local issues to regional and global impacts. The unit is taught by internal lectures, tutorials and fieldwork, and also by distance education.

Grade Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

Supplementary Assessment: Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the course but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above and submitted all major assessment tasks..

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this unit students will be able to:

1. Describe the Earth's basic natural systems;
2. Discuss the structure and functions of ecosystems, with particular emphasis on Australian systems;
3. Discuss the diversity of plants and animals, and their relationships with their habitats;
4. Discuss the processes of change of habitats, ecosystems and the global environment;
5. Explain the evolution of Australian ecosystems;
6. Discuss the impact of human activity on natural systems;
7. Discuss the origins and impacts of a selection of current environmental problems, including local and global issues.

Course Content:

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Values and Graduate Attributes:

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
Three assignments	Three assignments	Three assignments	45%
Examination (2 hours)	Examination (2 hours)	Examination (2 hours)	55%

Adopted Reference Style: