Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Health and Life Sciences
Course Title:	GEOPHYSICAL SYSTEMS AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Course ID:	ENVGC1722
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	Nil
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED:	050999

Description of the Course :

This unit emphasises the basic physical and chemical processes involved in creating and shaping the physical environment. Relevant human impacts and management issues are discussed. Topics covered include environmental ethics; the structure of the Earth; plate tectonics; minerals, rocks and weathering; earthquakes, volcanoes and glaciation; streams and flooding; mass movement; coastal zones; energy resources; waste management; sustainable development. There is no prerequisite for this subject.

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 physical processes involved in creating and shaping the physical environment - those changes in the environment over which humans have no control, and those which we are able to control and manage;
2. Discuss some of the ethical and economic factors that influence our approach to resource management;
3. Describe the basic geological processes and structures occurring within the environmental systems of the Earth;
4. Use basic terminology to describe geological and hydrological systems;
5. Discuss the various resources used by plants and animals (including humans) for their existence, and ways in which these can be adequately managed and maintained;
6. Identify a range of representative rocks and minerals;
7. Discuss the role that humans can take in managing the physical environment;
8. Assess the human impacts on selected environmental resources, critically comment on the existing management of those resources and propose an effective resource management plan.

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Course Content:

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
Two assignments	Two assignments	Two assignments	40%
Examination (2.5 hours)	Examination (2.5 hours)	Examination (2.5 hours)	60%

Adopted Reference Style: