



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



# ARTS2243

## Waste and Society

Semester One // 2018

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

| Name                  | Email  | Availability | Location              | Phone                 |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Professor Judy Motion | <a href="mailto:j.motion@unsw.edu.au">j.motion@unsw.edu.au</a> | Friday 3.00  | Morven Brown room 352 | Please email queries. |

### School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 4:45pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: [hal@unsw.edu.au](mailto:hal@unsw.edu.au)

### Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

### Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; examination procedures; special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure; student equity and disability; and other essential academic information, see <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Environmental Humanities*

This course introduces you to the historical, social and cultural implications of the wastes generated by human society. Dimensions and topics you study include: life cycles of materials, how we make knowledge about waste, the social implications of waste management technologies, 'legacy' issues and the 'colonisation of the future' by wastes. Our waste stream examples include plastics, water and sewage, nuclear materials, industrial sea dumping, trade in toxic wastes, domestic landfill, wastes from construction, mining, agriculture and the military, and the creation of 'wastelands' and contaminated sites. You explore solutions to the generation of wastes by studying the precautionary principle, environmental justice, international waste conventions and treaties, and regulatory and community responses to waste. Creative 'visioning exercises' assist you to explore alternative futures for waste and society.

### At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. Explain the historical, social and cultural contexts for the production of wastes.
2. Analyse the relationship between technology and society that allows waste streams to be generated.
3. Apply selected disciplinary approaches to the understanding of waste and society; and make a trans-disciplinary synthesis; 'a way of looking' at wastes.
4. Apply skills of critical analysis, problem solving and interpretation, inflected through imaginative, creative and visioning approaches.
5. Conduct independent research, individually and in groups, with demonstrated ability to assemble, synthesize and communicate findings and interpretations

### Teaching Strategies

Each week in the two- hour lectures, you learn about the discursive, material and political dimensions of our relationship with waste. In the one- hour weekly tutorials, you will draw upon the course readings and

methodologies  
of 'future  
studies' to  
engage with  
and attempt to  
solve waste-  
related  
dilemmas.

## Assessment

### Assessment Tasks

| Assessment task                         | Weight | Due Date            | Student Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|---|--------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Major Essay - Ways of Looking at Waste  | 35%    | 29/03/2018 04:00 PM | 1,2,3,5                            |
| Waste Futures - Group Presentation      | 20%    | 18/05/2018 11:00 AM | 1,3,4                              |
| Waste Futures - Individual Final Report | 45%    | 31/05/2018 04:00 PM | 1,2,3,4,5                          |

### Assessment Details

#### Assessment 1: Major Essay - Ways of Looking at Waste

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 2000 words

**Details:** 2000 words Essay topics will be designed to allow you to apply the readings to contemporary issues of waste. Individual feedback will be provided by the lecturer/tutor.

**Additional details:**

Please refer to Moodle for essay topic details.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

#### Assessment 2: Waste Futures - Group Presentation

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:** This assessment requires you to report back on your group research project on a particular waste stream and its possible futures. This assessment item is closely connected to the Final Report, where you submit an individual piece of assessment that builds on this group research. The lecturer/tutor will provide oral feedback in class as well as prompt and detailed written feedback. You will also provide peer feedback on another group's presentation. All of this feedback will have the additional function of helping you to improve your Final Reports.

**Additional details:**

Presentations will take place in Weeks 11 and 12. Assessment details will be posted on Moodle.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

#### Assessment 3: Waste Futures - Individual Final Report

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 1500 words

**Details:** 1500 words This assessment item requires you to provide an individual research report that builds on your group research and group presentations. The lecturer/tutor will provide written feedback on this final report. This is the final assignment for attendance purposes.

**Additional details:**

Please refer to Moodle for assignment details.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

## Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au). Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

## Late Assessment Penalties

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted fourteen (14) days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component, a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted twenty-one (21) days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

## Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- \* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- \* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- \* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

\* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration website:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

**Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

**Inappropriate paraphrasing:** changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.

**Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

**Inappropriate citation:** Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

**Duplication ("self-plagiarism"):** submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose

- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

(<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>)

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

| Date                          | Type     | Content  |
|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| Week 1: 26 February - 4 March |          | <b>No lectures or tutorials in week one</b>  |
| Week 2: 5 March - 11 March    | Lecture  | What is waste? Course overview   |
|                               | Tutorial | Introduction to waste. Assignments overview. Readings discussion.<br><br><b>Reading:</b> Hatmaker, S. (2014). On Mattering: A Coal Ash Flood and the Limits of Environmental Knowledge. <i>Environmental Humanities</i> , 4(1), 19-39.   |
| Week 3: 12 March - 18 March   | Lecture  | Issues of consumption, identity and theories of practice.  |
|                               | Tutorial | Culture versus practice:<br><br><b>Readings:</b> Scott, D. N., Haw, J. & Lee, R. (2017) 'Wannabe Toxic-Free?' From precautionary consumption to corporeal citizenship, <i>Environmental Politics</i> , 26:2, 322-342, DOI: 10.1080/09644016.2016.1232523<br><br>Evans, D. (2011). Review Essay: Waste Matters. <i>Sociology</i> , 45(4), 707-712.<br><br>Warde, A. (2014). After taste: Culture, consumption and theories of practice. <i>Journal of Consumer Culture</i> , 14(3), 279-303 |
| Week 4: 19 March - 25 March   | Lecture  | The politics of food waste and everyday practices.   |
|                               | Tutorial | Food waste practices<br><br><b>Readings:</b> Evans, D., Campbell, H., & Murcott, A.(2012). 'A brief pre-history of foodwaste and the social sciences', <i>The Sociological Review</i> , 60 (S2), 5-26.<br><br>Evans, D. (2011). Beyond the throwaway society: ordinary domestic practice and a sociological  |

|                             |          |   |
|-----------------------------|----------|---|
|                             |          | approach to household food waste. <i>Sociology</i> , 46 (1), 41-56.   |
| Week 5: 26 March - 1 April  | Lecture  | Urban water - public and private waste. Engagement and justice issues.  |
|                             | Tutorial | Public and private waste. Recycled water.<br><br>Readings: Hawkins, G. (2004). Shit in public. <i>Australian Humanities Review</i> , 31-32. Retrieved 17 February 2016 from <a href="http://australianhumanitiesreview.org/2004/04/01/shit-in-public/">http://australianhumanitiesreview.org/2004/04/01/shit-in-public/</a><br><br>Kearnes. M. Motion, J. and Beckett, J. (2014). <i>Australian Water Futures: Rethinking community engagement</i> . Report of the National Demonstration, Education and Engagement Program. University of New South Wales.   |
| Break: 2 April - 8 April    |          |   |
| Week 6: 9 April - 15 April  | Lecture  | Fasion waste  |
|                             | Tutorial | Susrtainability - slow and fast fashion<br><br><b>Readings:</b> Joy, A., Sherry, J. F., Venkatesh, A., Wang, J., & Chan, R. (2012). Fast fashion, sustainability, and the ethical appeal of luxury brands. <i>Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body &amp; Culture</i> , 16(3), 273-296.<br><br>Caniato, F., Caridi, M., Crippa, L., & Moretto, A. (2012). Environmental sustainability in fashion supply chains: An exploratory case based research. <i>International Journal of Production Economics</i> , 135(2), 659 -670.<br><br>Recommended reading:<br><a href="http://www.globalfashionagenda.com/pulse/">http://www.globalfashionagenda.com/pulse/</a> |
| Week 7: 16 April - 22 April | Lecture  | Nuclear waste   |
|                             | Tutorial | <b>Nuclear debates</b><br><br><b>Readings:</b> Shannon Cram; Wild and Scenic Wasteland: Conservation Politics in the Nuclear Wilderness. <i>Environmental Humanities</i> 1 May 2016; 7 (1): 89–105. doi: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1215/22011919-3616344">https://doi.org/10.1215/22011919-3616344</a>  |

|                             |           |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
|                             |           | <p>Gregson, N. (2012). Projected futures: the political matter of UK higher activity radioactive waste. <i>Environment and planning A.</i>, 44(8), 2006-2022.</p> <p>Sovacool, B. K., &amp; Ramana, M. V. (2015). Back to the Future Small Modular Reactors, Nuclear Fantasies, and Symbolic Convergence. <i>Science, Technology &amp; Human Values</i>, 40(1), 96 – 125.</p>  |
| Week 8: 23 April - 29 April | Lecture   | Oceans, marine debris and plastic  |
|                             | Tutorial  | <p>See: <a href="http://www.midwayfilm.com">http://www.midwayfilm.com</a></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Gabrys, J. (2013). Plastics and the work of the biodegradable. In J. Gabrys, G. Hawkins, M. Michael (Eds), <i>Accumulation: the material politics of plastic</i>, pp. 208-227. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.</p> <p>Derraik, J.G.B. (2002), 'The Pollution of the Marine Environment by Plastic Debris: a Review', <i>Marine Pollution Bulletin</i> 44: 842-852.</p>  |
| Week 9: 30 April - 6 May    | Lecture   | E-waste: The lifespans of circulating toxics   |
|                             | Tutorial  | <p>E-waste and justice</p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Iles, A. "Mapping Environmental Justice in Technology Flows: Computer Waste Impacts in Asia." <i>Global Environmental Politics</i>, vol. 4:4, 2004</p> <p>Zhang, K., Schnoor, J. L., &amp; Zeng, E. Y. (2012). E-waste recycling: where does it go from here? <i>Environmental science &amp; technology</i>, 46 (20), 10861-10867.</p> <p>Gabrys, J. "Media in The Dump" in <i>Digital Rubbish: A Natural History of Electronics</i>, University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 2011, pages 128-147.</p> <p>Available online at:<br/><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.9380304.0001.001">http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.9380304.0001.001</a></p> |
| Week 10: 7 May - 13 May     | Fieldwork |  |
|                             | Reading   | <p>UNSW sustainability report: <a href="http://sustainabilityreport.unsw.edu.au/environment/waste">http://sustainabilityreport.unsw.edu.au/environment/waste</a></p> <p>Zhang, N., Williams, I.D., Kemp, S., Smith, N.F. (2011). Greening academia: developing sustainable wastemanagement at Higher Education Institutions. <i>Waste Management</i>, 3(1), 1606-1616.</p>   |

|                          |          |  |
|--------------------------|----------|--|
|                          |          | Smyth, D. P., Fredeen, A. L., & Booth, A. L. (2010). Reducing solid waste in higher education: The first step towards 'greening' a university campus. <i>Resources, Conservation and Recycling</i> , 54 (11), 1007 -1016.  |
| Week 11: 14 May - 20 May | Seminar  | Cities, landfills  |
|                          | Tutorial | <p><b>Group presentations</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <p>Gregson, N., Crang, M., Botticello, J., Calestani, M., &amp; Krzywoszynska, A. (2014). Doing the 'dirty work' of the green economy: Resource recovery and migrant labour in the EU. <i>European and urban regional studies</i>, 24(3), pp. 541-555.</p> <p>Chris M. Messer, Thomas E. Shriver &amp; Alison E. Adams (2017) The legacy of lead pollution: (dis)trust in science and the debate over Superfund, <i>Environmental Politics</i>, 26:6, 1132-1151, DOI:10.1080/09644016.2017.1304812</p> <p>Fujita, K., &amp; Hill, R. C. (2007). The zero waste city: Tokyo's quest for a sustainable environment. <i>Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis</i>, 9 (4), 405 - 425.</p> |
| Week 12: 21 May - 27 May | Seminar  | Waste alternatives   |
|                          | Tutorial | <p><b>Group presentations</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Reno, J. (2011). Managing the Experience of Evidence: England's Experimental Waste Technologies and their Immodest Witnesses. <i>Science, Technology &amp; Human Values</i>, 36 (6), 842-863.</p> <p>Hird, M.J. (2013), "Waste, Landfills, and an Environmental Ethic of Vulnerability," <i>Ethics &amp; the Environment</i>, 18(1): 105-124.</p>  |
| Week 13: 28 May - 3 June | Seminar  | Waste futures  |
|                          | Tutorial | Report writing workshop  |

## Resources

### Prescribed Resources

Please refer to recommended list of readings below.

### Recommended Resources

*Public Understanding of Science; Science, Technology and Human Values; Environment and Planning A: Waste Management; Sociology; The Sociological Review*

### Additional Readings:

Douglas, M. (1966). Purity and Danger. London: Routledge.

Hawkins, G. (2006). The ethics of waste: How we relate to rubbish.

Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

### Websites:

The United Nations Environment Program sites on three conventions relevant to wastes: the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention;  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy/publications/national-°-waste-report.html>

<http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/hazardous-waste/conventions>

## Course Evaluation and Development

Formal student evaluations will be conducted via myExperience. You are also welcome to informally offer feedback on what is working well and what would enhance your learning at any stage of the course through an open Moodle forum for discussion, suggestions and comments.

### Image Credit

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## CRICOS

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