



Australia's  
Global  
University



# IEST5002

## Tools for Environmental Management

Term Two // 2019

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Paul Twomey	p.twomey@unsw.edu.au	appointments can be made via email		

### School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

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## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

This course provides you with an introduction to the wide range of "tools" used in environmental management and for environmental decision-making. These include: environmental impact assessment, public participation, risk management, environmental management systems, life cycle assessment, GIS, corporate sustainability, sustainability indexes, State of the Environment reporting, auditing, monitoring. Links will be drawn between the "tools" course and material covered in "Frameworks for environmental management" and the "fundamental knowledge" courses. This course will provide you with an introduction to a number of specialist courses that may be taken as electives (in for example environmental impact assessment).

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Outline and critique the range of tools used for environmental decision making
2. Explain how these tools relate to each other and discuss criticisms of the tools in terms of their design and/or their use
3. Provide a detailed analysis relating to at least one of these tools in a professional style
4. Recognise, discuss and critique the drivers and barriers to the use and adoption of these tools for environmental management

### Teaching Strategies

The course utilises lectures to convey basic information and contexts about each tool, followed by a more interactive tutorial style class where there is both further provision of basic information, plus student activities and exercises that develop practical capacities in environmental decision-making. There is also a computer lab (e.g. GIS) and outdoor field tasks (e.g. a land contamination task) which develop understandings of the operation of software programs utilised in environmental planning and assessment activities. Assessment tasks have been designed to assess student critical thinking, and professionally relevant skills and understandings.

# Assessment

## Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Tutorial exercises and distance posts	20%	Please see Moodle site for instructions.	1,2,4
Land contamination assessment	20%	Early in the term. See Moodle site for details.	2,3
Critical presentation	20%	You will present in either Week 7 or Week 10. See Moodle site	1,2,4
Final Essay	40%	Due at the end of term.	1,2,4

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Tutorial exercises and distance posts

**Start date:** Commencing from Week 1

**Details:** 1-2 Small tutorial activities (<500 words) on the tools and their applications. Or weekly distance posts over 10 weeks of approx 500 words. Individual or group feedback provided.

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

### Assessment 2: Land contamination assessment

**Start date:**

**Length:** 1000 words

**Details:** Land contamination assessment and report of 1000 words. Individual feedback provided

**Submission notes:** Submit via Moodle.

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

### Assessment 3: Critical presentation

**Start date:**

**Details:** Group presentations of 15 to 20 minutes critically reviewing a specific report reflecting one of the 'tools'. Group feedback provided. Group peer review allowed

**Additional details:**

Full details available via your Moodle site. Presentation is either in class or on-line.

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

#### **Assessment 4: Final Essay**

**Start date:**

**Length:** two short essays each 1200 words.

**Details:** Two final essays of 1200 words each on the 'tools' covered in the course. Individual feedback provided upon request after semester. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes

**Additional details:**

Guidance will be provided via your Moodle site.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 3 June - 7 June	Seminar	<p>For both Distance and On-campus students, this introductory week will explore the purpose of the whole course, link it with your overall pathway through the Master of Environmental Management, and introduce the first of our three modules for the course – Environmental Impact Assessment. (The other two modules are Environmental Management Systems, and Additional Tools for Environmental Management.) We will establish and discuss what you can expect by way of approaches, activities and assignments within the course. Distance students will communicate via an on-line seminar and will have access to recorded lectures/seminars – this will be continued throughout the course.</p> <p>Further details for this week, and for all weeks will be available through your course Moodle site.</p>
Week 2: 10 June - 14 June	Online Activity	<p><b>NOTE: There is no on-campus class this week.</b></p> <p>This week the focus is on the basics of Environmental Impact Assessment, and you will be expected to independently explore readings, websites, other documents and short exercises available on-line through your Moodle site. You will submit a short blog piece reflecting on what you have discovered.</p>
Week 3: 17 June - 21 June	Group Activity	<p>This week you will undertake a 'mock' study of a contaminated site, linked to one of your assignments. Details are available on your Moodle site. Guest teachers are Daniel Robinson and Nahid Sultana.</p>
Week 4: 24 June - 28 June	Group Activity	<p>For both distance and on-campus students, we will conduct a debate about the viability of current approaches to Environmental Assessment, and the challenges faced by environmental managers. This is the final week for our first module on Environmental Assessment, so we will summarise and discuss our findings.</p>
Week 5: 1 July - 5 July	Seminar	<p>This week we commence the second module for</p>

		<p>the course – Environmental Management Systems. Our guest lecturer is Ian Hunter.</p> <p>Largely our focus is on corporate and government organisations and their approaches to standards, systems, indicators, regulations, reporting and monitoring. We will map out the scope of systems approaches, and draw on our own professional experience and/or interests to prepare critical lines of inquiry we would like to explore across following weeks.</p>
Week 6: 8 July - 12 July	Seminar	<p>Throughout the course you are expected to undertake independent research and reading; including for this module on Environmental Management Systems. You will explore current practices (and 'best practice') used by governments and corporations. You will submit a short blog piece reflecting on what you have discovered. This week you will bring your questions and findings from your on-line study of Environmental Management Systems to the class room (for on- campus students) and an on-line forum (Distance students). The approach will be a combination of short lectures, seminar style, and inter-active discussion of key issues and development of questions for critical evaluation of current practice.</p> <p>Details are available on your Moodle site.</p>
Week 7: 15 July - 19 July	Seminar	<p>This is the first week in which students will present short seminars in class (On-campus students) or post findings and discussion material (Distance students).</p> <p>Approximately half the class will present this week, on a topic related to Environmental Management Systems. The emphasis will be on critical evaluation of current practices.</p> <p>Full details are available on your Moodle site.</p>
Week 8: 22 July - 26 July	Seminar	<p>This week begins the third and final module for the course – on <b>Additional Tools for Environmental Management</b>. This time our focus is on a suite of specific tools, including Geographical Information Systems, Life Cycle Assessment, Risk Assessment, and indicators for urban sustainability.</p> <p>Using seminar style presentations and small group discussion, we will scope these approaches and set critical questions we wish to pursue across the following three weeks.</p>

		<p>You are also expected to do independent research and reading on the selected 'tools' (GIS, LCA, etc). The focus will be on specific case studies. You will submit a short blog piece reflecting on what you have discovered.</p> <p>Full details of readings, websites, documents and other sources will be given via your Moodle site.</p>
Week 9: 29 July - 2 August		<p>This week we will tackle a practical exercise on Geographical Information Systems, with guest presenter Caitlin Buckle.</p> <p>Details are available on your Moodle site.</p>
Week 10: 5 August - 9 August	Seminar	<p>This is the second of two weeks in which students will present short seminars in class (On-campus students) or post findings and discussion material (Distance students).</p> <p>Approximately half the class will present this week, on a topic related to Geographical Information Systems, Life Cycle Assessment, Risk Assessment, Sustainability Indicators and/or other approaches. Again the emphasis will be on critical evaluation of current practices.</p> <p>Full details are available on your Moodle site.</p>
Week 11: 12 August - 16 August	Seminar	<p>Bringing it all together...</p> <p>This week we will develop our overview of the whole course, and use debate and discussion to explore the 'too hard basket' – to critically assess the potential and limitations of environmental management tools, and relate learnings from the course to your own professional development.</p>

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

These will be accessible via your Moodle site and using the LEGANTO system.

### **Recommended Resources**

These will be accessible via your Moodle site and using the LEGANTO system.

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

Student feedback will be via MyExperience. Past feedback has indicated the need for a 'blended' approach that incorporates class room or on-line seminars with independent research, and we have enhanced this approach.

## **Submission of Assessment Tasks**

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### **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.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

## 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/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

**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>

## **Academic Information**

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- 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/>

## **Image Credit**

Environmental assessment, risk management, data collection, cultural context – these and many other aspects are relevant as we apply the various tools for environmental management. Images by Paul Brown

## **CRICOS**

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G