



UNSW
SYDNEY

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IEST5005

Environmental Communication

Term Three // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Tema Milstein	tema.milstein@unsw.edu.au	During consultation hours (Wednesdays, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.) by appointment	Morven Brown 364	

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course explores communicative ways humans produce and transform environmental knowledges and relations. You will focus on global manifestations and reverberations of ecocultural discourses and examine these at international, national, regional, local, and individual scales. The course situates human positionality and action with/in “the environment” both as actively socially constructed and as deeply materially experienced. The course will lead to a deeper understanding of the roles of discourse and culture in shaping contemporary environmental orientations and will focus on restorative ways forward.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the challenges of defining and communicating complex environmental problems to a wide audience.
2. Critically reflect on communication and cultural processes and contexts that construct, reproduce, and transform environmental perceptions and actions.
3. Explain ecocultural theories of communication.
4. Use communication and ecocultural research to deconstruct, critically investigate, and reenvision environmental relations.

Teaching Strategies

Learning in this course emphasises instructor-facilitated and student-driven critical and creative exploration, as well as out-of-classroom experiences. As learners, through readings, seminar discussion, examples, activities, field study, and analysis, you will expand our repertoire to understand ways communication as a social force not only reflects but also helps re/produce and transform environmental perceptions, relations, and practices. The course aims to support you in communication and ecocultural processes and contexts to construct, reproduce, and transform environmental perceptions and practices; and in communication and ecocultural research that can be used to deconstruct, critically investigate, and re-envision environmental relations.

Assessment

A correctly used scholarly referencing system is compulsory (APA referencing system is preferred). If you are unfamiliar with academic convention with citations, ensure you consult UNSW guidelines: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-do-i-cite-electronic-sources>

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Weekly Reading Assessment	40%	Not Applicable	1,2,3
Field studies and field study reflection paper	60%	Not Applicable	1,2,3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Weekly Reading Assessment

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Nine weekly reading reflections (approximately 3,000 words in total) to evaluate and support understanding of weekly reading material. Individual marking to reflect comprehension level.

Additional details:

Instructions on Moodle site and some specifics given in class.

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

Assessment 2: Field studies and field study reflection paper

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Complete the class field study options. Turned-in material is in two parts. Part 1 (approximately 1,000 words): Field study notes, responses to field question guides, and salient reading passages. Part 2 (approximately 2,000 words): Research-informed reflection paper that puts field observations into conversation and creatively and analytically reflects on course themes and concepts as they relate to the field research. In-class discussion and rubric-based written feedback.

Additional details:

See class Moodle for instructions and expectations.

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: 16 September - 20 September	Seminar	Introduction to Course, Key Concepts, and Each Other
	Online Activity	Throughout the term, students will engage in online reflection activities.
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Seminar	Environmental Knowledges/Ecoculture and Discourse
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October	Seminar	Theories and Frameworks of Environmental/Ecocultural Communication
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Seminar	Popculture and "the Environment"
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Seminar	Field Study: Indigenous and Scientific Environmental Communication - Date/time to be determined and announced at start of course. This will be a full-day field trip and will either be on a Friday or Saturday. Students will be responsible for their own transportation.
Week 6: 21 October - 25 October	Seminar	Communicating Environmental Justice
Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Seminar	Flipping Environmental Relations: Sensing, and Being Made Sensible by, "Nature"
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Seminar	Ecoculture Jamming
Week 9: 11 November - 15 November	Seminar	Ecoculture Jamming continued
Week 10: 18 November - 22 November	Seminar	Ecocultural Transformation

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All course readings and additional resources will be freely accessible via class Moodle site.

Recommended Resources

N/A

Course Evaluation and Development

MyExperience will be used for evaluation at the end of the course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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 . 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

Tasmania track. Photo by Course Convenor.

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