



1. General Course Information

1.1 Course Details

Course Code:	1043SCG
Course Name:	Introduction to Environmental Sustainability
Trimester:	Trimester 3, 2019
Program:	Diploma of Science
	In Person
	Mt Gravatt
Credit Points:	10
Course Coordinator:	Alastair McWhir
Document modified:	September 30, 2019

Course Description

This course introduces students to the concept of environmental sustainability and its uses in solving real world problems. It explores the relationships between the natural, rural, industrial and urban environments and includes the study of the impact humans have upon nature. The course also considers the way environmental sustainability can be used to address environmental, economic and social issues in an integrated way. Assessment includes on-line tests, a written assignment, workshop exercises and an end of semester examination.

Assumed Knowledge

There are no assumed knowledge for this course

1.2 Teaching Team

Your lecturer/tutor can be contacted via the email system on the portal.

Name	Email
Alastair McWhir	alastair.mcwhir@staff.griffithcollege.edu.au

1.3 Staff Consultation

Your lecturer/tutor is available each week for consultation outside of normal class times. Times that your lecturer/tutor will be available for consultation will be given in the first week of lectures. A list of times and rooms will be published on the Griffith College Portal under the "Support and Services/Teacher Consultation Times" link.

1.4 Timetable

Your timetable is available on the Griffith College Portal at Class Timetable in Student and Services.

1.5 Technical Specifications

All students must have access to a computer or suitable mobile device.

2. Aims, Outcomes & Generic Skills

2.1 Course Aims

The aim of this course is to introduce students to environmental sustainability so that they can:

1. Define what is meant by environmental sustainability;
2. Analyse how physical, economic, social and technological factors impact on the environment;
3. Give an explanation of some of the basic scientific aspects of environmental issues;
4. Explain what procedures are required to establish an environmentally sustainable society;
5. Apply the principles of sustainability to real world problems;
6. Undertake higher level courses in sustainability in future;
7. Develop critical thinking abilities; and,
8. Develop study skills to improve academic success.

2.2 Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course you should be able to:

1. Apply the principles and practices of sustainability to managing natural ecosystems
2. Assess the impact of human activities on the environment
3. Analyse environmental issues of current and future significance
4. Contribute to the preparation of environmental impact statements
5. Work successfully with a multidisciplinary team

2.3 Generic skills

For further details on the Generic Skills please refer to the Graduate Generic Skills and Capabilities policy.

Griffith College aims to develop graduates who have an open and critical approach to learning and a capacity for lifelong learning. Through engagement in their studies, students are provided with opportunities to begin the development of these and other generic skills.

Studies in this course will give you opportunities to begin to develop the following skills:

Generic Skills	Taught	Practised	Assessed
Written Communication		Yes	Yes
Oral Communication		Yes	
Information Literacy	Yes	Yes	Yes
Secondary Research	Yes	Yes	Yes
Critical and Innovative Thinking	Yes	Yes	Yes
Academic Integrity	Yes	Yes	Yes
Self Directed Learning	Yes	Yes	Yes
Team Work		Yes	
Cultural Intelligence		Yes	Yes
English Language Proficiency		Yes	Yes

3. Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Prescribed textbook:

Tom Theis and Jonathan Tomkin, Editors, [Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation](#).

The [textbook](#) is available free.

“Sustainability:A Comprehensive Foundation” is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Unported License.

3.2 Recommended Resources

Recommended readings available on Griffith College 1043SCG Portal

3.3 College Support Services and Learning Resources

The College provides many facilities and support services to assist students in their studies. Links to information about College support resources that are available to students are included below for easy reference.

[Digital Library](#) – Databases to which Griffith College students have access to through the Griffith Library Databases.

MyStudy – there is a dedicated website for this course via MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal.

[Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) - this tutorial helps students to understand what academic integrity is and why it matters. You will be able to identify types of breaches of academic integrity, understand what skills you will need in order to maintain academic integrity, and learn about the processes of referencing styles.

Services and Support provides a range of services to support students throughout their studies including personal support such as Counselling; Academic support; and Welfare support.

Jobs and Employment in the [Student Hub](#) can assist students with career direction, resume and interview preparation, job search tips, and more.

[IT Support](#) provides details of accessing support, information on s numbers and internet access and computer lab rules.

3.4 Other Learning Information

Attendance

You are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials and to actively engage in learning during these sessions. You are expected to bring all necessary learning resources to class such as the required textbook and /or Workbook. In addition, you may BYOD (bring your own device) to class such as a laptop or tablet. This is not a requirement as computer lab facilities are available on campus, however, the use of such devices in the classroom is encouraged with appropriate and considerate use principles being a priority.

Preparation and Participation in Class

In order to enhance learning, prepare before lectures and tutorials. Read the relevant section of your text book before a lecture, and for a tutorial read both the textbook and the relevant lecture notes. If you have been given tutorial exercises, make sure you complete them. Active participation in lectures and tutorials will improve your learning. Ask questions when something is unclear or when you want to bring some issue to your lecturer or tutor's attention; respond to questions to test your knowledge and engage in discussion to help yourself and others learn.

Consultation Sessions

Teachers offer extra time each week to assist students outside the classroom. This is known as 'consultation time.' You may seek assistance from your teacher on email or in person according to how the teacher has explained this to the class. Attendance during consultation time is optional but you are encouraged to use this extra help to improve your learning outcomes.

Course Materials

Lecture notes will be made available to you in MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal and you are advised to either print these out and bring them to each class so that extra notes can be added or BYOD (bring your own device) and add extra notes digitally.

Self-Directed Learning

You will be expected to learn independently. This means you must organise and learn the course content even when you are not specifically asked to do so by your lecturer or tutor. This involves revising the weekly course material. It also means you will need to find additional information for some assessment items beyond that given to you in textbooks and lecture notes, and to construct your own response to a question or topic. All of this requires careful planning of your time. Expect to spend, on average, at least 10 hours per week including class time for each of your courses.

Program Progression

You are reminded that satisfactory Program Progression requires that attendance in classes is maintained at equal to or greater than 80%, and that GPA is maintained at equal to or greater than 3.5 [please see Griffith College Policy Library - Program Progression Policy - for more information].

Teacher and course Evaluation

Your feedback is respected and valued by your lecturers and tutors. You are encouraged to provide your thoughts on the course and teaching, both positive and critical, directly to your lecturer and tutor or by completing course and lecturer evaluations via Griffith College's evaluation tool whenever these are available.

4. Learning and Teaching Activities

4.1 Weekly Learning Activities

Week	Topic	Activity	Readings	Learning Outcomes
1	Introduction to the course	Lectorial	Text Ch 1: Introduction to Sustainability: Humanity and the Environment	1,2,3,4,5
	Introduction to Sustainability exercise	Workshop		
2	Understanding the Problem	Lectorial	Text Ch 10: Sustainability: Ethics, Culture, and History	1,2,3,4,5
	Ecological Footprint Exercise	Workshop		
3	Sustainability as a Solution	Lectorial	Text Ch 9: Problem-Solving, Metrics, and Tools for Sustainability	1,2,3,4,5
	Sustainability Exercise	Workshop		
4	Climate Change & Sustainable Energy	Lectorial	Text Ch 3: Climate and Global Change. Text Ch 8: Sustainable Energy Systems.	1,2,3,4,5
	Climate Change Exercise	Workshop		
5	Biodiversity Loss & Sustainable Food	Lectorial	Text Ch 4: Biosphere	1,2,3,4,5
	Your Career & E-portfolio Exercise	Workshop		
6	Air Pollution & Sustainable Transport	Lectorial	Text Ch 11: Sustainable Infrastructure	1,2,3,4,5
	Planning Your Assignment Exercise	Workshop		
7	Water Pollution & Sustainable Manufacturing	Lectorial	Text Ch 5: Physical Resources: Water, Pollution, and Minerals	1,2,3,4,5
	On-line Study Smart Tutorial (Interactive Exercises)	Workshop		
8	Resource Depletion and Sustainable Materials	Lectorial	Text Ch 6: Environmental and Resource Economics	1,2,3,4,5
	On-line Academic Integrity Tutorial (Interactive Exercises)	Workshop		
9	Waste & Sustainable Settlements	Lectorial	Text Ch 11: Sustainable Infrastructure	1,2,3,4,5

	On-line Draft Assignment Checking (Assessment)	Workshop		
10	Sustainable Economy and Government	Lectorial	Text Ch 7: Modern Environmental Management	1,2,3,4,5
	Urban Metabolism Exercise	Workshop		
11	Sustainable Society	Lectorial	Text Ch 2: The Evolution of Environmental Policy	1,2,3,4,5
	Future Options Exercise			
12	Conclusions	Lectorial		

5. Assessment Plan

5.1 Assessment Summary

Item	Assessment Task	Weighting	Learning Outcomes	Due Date
1	<i>Test or quiz</i> On-line tests	20%	1,2,3,4,5	Wk 2 – Wk 11
2	<i>Assignment - Written</i> Assignment Essay	35%	1,2,3,4	Wk 11
3	<i>Exam – Essay and selected response</i> End of trimester exam	45%	1,2,3,4	Final Exam Period

5.2 Assessment Detail

Title: On-line tests

Type: Test or quiz

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Due Date:

Week 2 – Week 11

Weight: 20%

Marked out of: 20

Task Description:

Weekly on-line tests cover the Lectures, Tutorials and workshops. A full set of instructions is available on the course website and will be discussed in the workshops.

Criteria & Marking:

A full set of marking criteria is available on the course website and will be discussed in the workshops.

Submission: The exercises will be completed and submitted on-line via the course website.

This assessment item:

- is a school based activity
- is an individual activity
- does not include a self-assessment activity
- does not have a resubmission provision

Title: Essay

Type: Assignment - Written Assignment

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3, 4

Due Date:

Week 11

Weight: 35%

Marked out of: 100

Task Description:

Detailed instructions are on the course website.

Criteria & Marking:

A full set of marking criteria is available on the course website.

Submission: TurnItIn on-line submission link

This assessment item:

- is a school based activity
- is an individual activity
- does not include a self-assessment activity
- does not have a resubmission provision

Title: End of trimester exam

Type: Exam

Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3, 4

Due Date:

Examination Period

Weight: 45%

Marked out of: 100

Duration: 150 minutes

Format: Closed Book

Task Description:

Multiple choice and short answer closed book exam covering all lecture content for weeks 1-12.

Criteria & Marking:

Details will be given in the lecture of week 12 and on the course website.

This assessment item:

- is a centrally organised activity
- is an individual activity
- does not include a self-assessment activity
- does not have a resubmission provision

5.3 Late Submission

An assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension from the Course Coordinator, will be penalised. The standard penalty is the reduction of the mark allocated to the assessment item by 5% of the maximum mark applicable for the assessment item, for each working day or part working day that the item is late. Assessment items submitted more than five working days after the due date are awarded zero marks.

Please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library > Assessment Policy for guidelines and penalties for late submission.

5.4 Other Assessment Information

Retention of Originals

You must be able to produce a copy of all work submitted if so requested. Copies should be retained until after the release of final results for the course.

Requests for extension

To apply for an extension of time for an assignment, you must submit an [Application for Extension of Assignment](#) form to your teacher at least 24 hours before the date the assignment is due. Grounds for extensions are usually: serious illness, accident, disability, bereavement or other compassionate circumstances and must be able to be substantiated with relevant documentation [e.g. [Griffith College Student Medical Certificate](#)]. Please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library - for guidelines regarding extensions and deferred assessment.

Return of Assessment Items

1. Marks awarded for in-trimester assessment items, except those being moderated externally with Griffith University, will be available on the Student Portal within fourteen [14] days of the due date. This does not apply to the final assessment item in this course (marks for this item will be provided with the final course result).
2. Students will be advised of their final grade through the Student Portal. Students can review their exam papers after student grades have been published (see relevant Griffith College Fact Sheet for allocated times at Support> Factsheets). Review of exam papers will not be permitted after the final date to enrol.
3. Marks for **all** assessment items including the final exam (if applicable) will be recorded in the Moodle Course Site and made available to students through the Moodle Course Site.

The sum of your marks overall assessment items in this course does not necessarily imply your final grade for the course. Standard grade cut off scores can be varied for particular courses, so you need to wait for the official release of grades to be sure of your grade for this course.

6. Policies & Guidelines

Griffith College assessment-related policies can be found in the [Griffith College Policy Library](#) which include the following policies:

Assessment Policy, Special Consideration, Deferred Assessment, Alternate Exam Sitting, Medical Certificates, Academic Integrity, Finalisation of Results, Review of Marks, Moderation of Assessment, Turn-it-in Software Use. These policies can be accessed using the 'Document Search' feature within the [Policy Library](#)

Academic Integrity Griffith College is committed to maintaining high academic standards to protect the value of its qualifications. Academic integrity means acting with the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility in learning, teaching and research. It is important for students, teachers, researchers and all staff to act in an honest way, be responsible for their actions, and show fairness in every part of their work. Academic integrity is important for an individual's and the College's reputation.

All staff and students of the College are responsible for academic integrity. As a student, you are expected to conduct your studies honestly, ethically and in accordance with accepted standards of academic conduct. Any form of academic conduct that is contrary to these standards is considered a breach of academic integrity and is unacceptable.

Some students deliberately breach academic integrity standards with intent to deceive. This conscious, pre-meditated form of cheating is considered to be one of the most serious forms of fraudulent academic behaviour, for which the College has zero tolerance and for which penalties, including exclusion from the College, will be applied.

However, Griffith College also recognises many students breach academic integrity standards without intent to deceive. In these cases, students may be required to undertake additional educational activities to remediate their behaviour and may also be provided appropriate advice by academic staff.

As you undertake your studies at Griffith College, your lecturers, tutors and academic advisors will provide you with guidance to understand and maintain academic integrity; however, it is also your responsibility to seek out guidance if and when you are unsure about appropriate academic conduct.

In the case of an allegation of a breach of academic integrity being made against a student he or she may request the guidance and support of a Griffith College Student Learning Advisor or Student Counsellor.

Please ensure that you are familiar with the Griffith College Academic Integrity Policy; this policy provides an overview of some of the behaviours that are considered breaches of academic integrity, as well as the penalties and processes involved when a breach is identified.

For further information please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library > Academic Integrity Policy

Reasonable Adjustments for Assessment – The Disability Services policy

The Disability Services policy (accessed using the Document Search' feature with the [Policy Library](#)) outlines the principles and processes that guide the College in making reasonable adjustments to assessment for students with disabilities while maintaining academic robustness of its programs.

Risk Assessment Statement

There are no out of the ordinary risks associated with this course.

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