School of Earth and Environmental Sciences

EESC950: Advanced Topic A

Subject Outline
Autumn, 2016
On-Campus
Wollongong

Subject Information
Credit Points: 12
Pre-requisite(s): Nil
Co-requisite(s): Nil
Restrictions: Must have Subject Coordinator & Head of School approval to enrol
Contact Hours: Designated consultation, tutorial and laboratory times will be arranged as required by your academic supervisor

Subject Contacts
Subject Coordinator/Lecturer
Name: A/Prof Brian Jones
Location: Building 41, Room 158A
Telephone: 61 2 4221 3803
Email: brian_jones@uow.edu.au
Consultation mode and times: Email for appointment

Project Supervisor
It is the responsibility of the student to identify a suitable research supervisor and project to be undertaken as the core component of this subject. Students should contact the subject coordinator in the first instance for advice, and then consult various potential supervisors for an outline of projects that are on offer. Prospective students are encouraged to discuss possible projects with a range of potential supervisors before deciding on a project. A useful starting point is the school website which outlines the research interests of all members of academic staff. A project and supervisor must be agreed with the subject coordinator no later than the first week of the session in which the project is to be undertaken. Supervision of a project will depend in part on the availability of resources.

Student Support and Advice
For general enquiries please contact StudentHub 41:
Location: 41.138B
Telephone: 61 2 4221 3492
Email: smah-students@uow.edu.au
Student Consultation and Communication
University staff receive many emails each day. In order to enable them to respond to your emails appropriately and in a timely fashion, students are asked to observe basic requirements of professional communication:

Please ensure that you include your full name and student number and identify your practical class or tutorial group in your email so that staff know who they are communicating with and can follow-up personally where appropriate.

Consider what the communication is about
- Is your question addressed elsewhere (e.g. in the subject outline or, on the eLearning site)?
- Is it something that is better discussed in person or by telephone? This may be the case if your query requires a lengthy response or a dialogue in order to address. If so, see consultation times above and/or schedule an appointment.
- Are you addressing your request to the most appropriate person?

Specific email subject title to enable easy identification of issue
- Identify the subject code of the subject you are enquiring about (as staff may be involved in more than one subject) put this in the email subject heading. Add a brief, specific query reference after the subject code where appropriate.

Professional courtesy
- Address the staff member appropriately by name (and formal title if you do not yet know them).
- Use full words (avoid ‘text-speak’ abbreviations), correct grammar and correct spelling.
- Be respectful and courteous.
- Allow 3 – 4 working days for a response before following up. If the matter is legitimately urgent, you may wish to try telephoning the staff member (and leaving a voicemail message if necessary) or inquiring at the School Office.
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Section A: General Information

Subject Learning Outcomes
On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Identify and articulate real world problems derived from geology, physical geography, environmental or spatial sciences
2. Critically evaluate information and data to assess scientific methods and frameworks pertaining to geology, physical geography, environmental or spatial sciences
3. Locate, synthesise and evaluate data, information, results and literature pertaining to geology, physical geography, environmental or spatial sciences using appropriate methods, measurements, tools and technologies
4. Communicate scientific perspectives and knowledge effectively to a range of audiences using appropriate technologies and communication skills
5. Demonstrate ethical, professional, public and personal conduct and capacity to reflect on and direct own learning and practice and participate constructively in decision making within the context of geology, physical geography, environmental or spatial sciences
6. Apply knowledge and appropriate techniques, including those associated with fieldwork, to evaluate possible solutions to real world problems and defend choice of solution against alternatives

Subject Description
This subject will consist of a library, field and/or laboratory study on some topical aspect of earth and environmental sciences equivalent to one half of full-time study.

eLearning Space
This subject has materials and activities available via eLearning. To access eLearning you must have a UOW user account name and password, and be enrolled in the subject. eLearning is accessed via SOLS (student online services). Log on to SOLS and then click on the eLearning link in the menu column. For information regarding the eLearning spaces please use the following link:
http://uowblogs.com/moodlelab/files/2013/05/Moodle_StudentGuide-1petpo7.pdf

Lecture, Tutorial, Laboratory Times
All timetable information is subject to variation. Check latest timetabling information on the ‘Current Student’ webpage on UOW website or log into SOLS to view your personal timetable prior to attending classes.


Readings, References and Materials
Textbooks:
As designated by your academic supervisor.

Prescribed Readings (includes eReadings):
As designated by your academic supervisor.
Materials:
As designated by your academic supervisor.

Recommended Readings:
As designated by your academic supervisor.

Recommended readings are not intended as an exhaustive list, students should use the Library catalogue and databases to locate additional resources.

Recent Changes to this Subject
Nil

Laboratory Safety Guidelines
The rules below are general rules that are required in laboratories.

- Before commencing your project you are to ensure that you understand specific procedures for the laboratory in which you work.
- You will need to fill out a risk assessment form before commencing any experiments (confer with your laboratory supervisor).
- Never use any equipment or attempt any experiment without checking the safety implications with your laboratory supervisor or experienced delegated laboratory worker.
- Undergraduate students are not permitted to work after hours unless there is appropriate approval and supervision.

Fieldwork Safety Guidelines
The rules below are general rules that are required when participating in practicals which involve fieldwork.

- Before commencing fieldwork you are to ensure that you understand specific procedures and policy related to fieldwork safety.
- You will need to review a Risk Assessment form for the fieldwork to be conducted, then complete a Fieldwork Participant Acknowledgement form before commencing any fieldwork. These materials will be made available by the Subject Coordinator.
- You must inform the Subject Coordinator of any medical conditions which may impact upon your ability to participate in fieldwork before commencing any fieldwork.
- All Reasonable Adjustment cases must be discussed with the Subject Coordinator prior to commencing fieldwork.
- Attendance on field excursions may be denied to students who do not abide by these, and other conditions which may be specified by the Subject Coordinator.

Schedule of Learning*
As this is a research based subject the list of topics covered will be negotiated between the student and their supervisor.
### Section B: Assessment

#### Assessment Summary

**Option A: Introductory Coursework & Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Form of Assessment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Return/Feedback Due Dates</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 1</td>
<td>Coursework Assessments</td>
<td>Week 13 – 3 June</td>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 2</td>
<td>Report(s)/Essay</td>
<td>Week 12 – 27 May</td>
<td>10 June</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 3</td>
<td>Seminar/Presentation</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>3 June</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Marks</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Option B: Research Only**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Form of Assessment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Return/Feedback Due Dates</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 4</td>
<td>Major report</td>
<td>Week 13 – 3 June</td>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 5</td>
<td>Seminar/Presentation</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>3 June</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Marks</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Details of Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks will be marked using explicit criteria that are provided below to students prior to submission.

**Option A: Introductory Coursework & Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment 1</th>
<th>Coursework Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Due date</td>
<td>Friday 3 June - week 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighting</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission</td>
<td>Submit your assignment through Turnitin or, with prior permission, submit a hardcopy of your assignment to your academic supervisor and notify the subject co-ordinator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Collaboration</td>
<td>Individual Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>TBA – Details to be provided by academic supervisor in consultation with the subject co-ordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Students will be expected to attend and partake in the learning activities of the subject that they are allocated to. The objective of which is to develop a solid foundation that will allow the student to undertake an appropriate research project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style and format</td>
<td>TBA – Details to be provided by academic supervisor in consultation with the subject co-ordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marking Criteria</td>
<td>TBA – Details to be provided by academic supervisor in consultation with the subject co-ordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Assessment 2

**Report(s)/Essay**

**Due date** Friday 27 May - Week 12

**Weighting** 40%

**Submission** Submit your assignment through Turnitin or, with prior permission, submit a hardcopy of your assignment to your academic supervisor and notify the subject co-ordinator.

**Type of Collaboration** Individual Assessment

**Length**

- TBA – Details to be provided by academic supervisor in consultation with the subject co-ordinator

**Details**

Utilising the knowledge gained in the above assessments, students will need to negotiate with the subject coordinator a topic and structure for this assessment task. Options that may be selected include field reports, laboratory reports, literature review, essay or research paper.

**Style and format**

- TBA – Details to be provided by academic supervisor in consultation with the subject co-ordinator

**Subject Learning Outcomes**

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Marking Criteria**

- TBA – Details to be provided by academic supervisor in consultation with the subject co-ordinator

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### Assessment 3

**Seminar/Presentation**

**Due date** Week 13

**Weighting** 10%

**Submission** N/A – Presentation only required.

**Type of Collaboration** Individual Assessment

**Length**

- 20 minute presentation and questions time

**Details**

Students are expected to present the work undertaken for Assessment 2 and be prepared to answer questions.

**Style and format**

Oral PowerPoint presentation

**Subject Learning Outcomes**

- 1, 2, 4, 5

**Marking Criteria**

Presentation skills, format, and depth of understanding of the topic

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### Option B: Research Only

### Assessment 4

**Major report**

**Due date** Friday 3 June - Week 13

**Weighting** 90%

**Submission** Submit your assignment through Turnitin or, with prior permission, submit a hardcopy of your assignment to your academic supervisor and notify the subject co-ordinator.

**Type of Collaboration** Individual Assessment

**Length**

- TBA – Details to be provided by academic supervisor in consultation with the subject co-ordinator

**Details**

Students will need to negotiate with the subject coordinator a topic and structure for this assessment task. Options that may be selected include field reports, literature review, essay or laboratory research paper.

**Style and format**

- TBA – Details to be provided by academic supervisor in consultation with the subject co-ordinator

**Subject Learning Outcomes**

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Marking Criteria**

- TBA – Details to be provided by academic supervisor in consultation with the subject co-ordinator
Assessment 5  Seminar/Presentation
Due date  Week 13
Weighting  10%
Submission  N/A – Presentation only required.
Type of Collaboration  Individual Assessment
Length  20 minute presentation and questions time
Details  Students are expected to present the work undertaken for Assessment 1 and be prepared to answer questions.
Style and format  Oral PowerPoint presentation
Subject Learning Outcomes  1, 2, 4, 5
Marking Criteria  Presentation skills, format, and depth of understanding of the topic

Minimum Requirements for a Pass in this Subject
To receive a clear pass in this subject a total mark of 50% or more must be achieved. In addition, failure to meet any of the minimum performance requirements is grounds for awarding a Technical Fail (TF) in the subject, even where total marks accumulated are greater than 50%. The minimum performance requirements for this subject are:

- attempt all assessment tasks
- pass all assessment tasks
- meet the minimum student attendance and participation requirements (set out below)

Minimum Student Attendance and Participation
It is expected that students will allocate 24 hours per week to this subject, including any required class attendance, completion of prescribed readings and assessment tasks.

Attendance is not an assessable component for the purposes of assessment mark calculations. However, attendance at certain classes may be compulsory and students are expected to attend School seminars and HDR student proposal, progress report and final report presentations [change in accordance with subject requirements] where attendance is recorded. Failure to meet attendance requirements may result in a Technical Fail for the subject.

Where attendance is compulsory, absences will require the submission of an application for Academic Consideration via SOLS and the presentation of suitable documentation, for example a Medical Certificate, to Student Central as soon as practical. For further details about applying for academic consideration visit the Student Central webpage:

Scaling
Scaling will not occur in this subject.

Late Submission
Late submission of an assessment task without an approved extension of the deadline is not acceptable. If you are unable to submit an assessment due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. medical grounds or compassionate grounds), you can make an application of academic consideration. Not all circumstances qualify for academic consideration. For further details about applying for academic consideration visit the Student Central webpage:
Late Submission Penalty
Late submission of an assessment task without an approved extension of the deadline is not acceptable. Marks will be deducted for late submission at the rate of 10% of the total possible marks for that particular assessment task per day. This means that if a piece of work is marked out of 100, then the late penalty will be 10 marks per day (10% of 100 possible marks per day). The formula for calculating the late penalty is the total possible marks x 0.10 x number of days late. For the purposes of this policy a weekend (Saturday and Sunday) will be regarded as two days.

For example:

- Student A submits an assessment which is marked out of 100. The assessment is submitted 4 days late. This means that a late penalty of 40 marks will apply (100 x 0.10 x 4). The assessment is marked as per normal out of 100 and is given a mark of 85/100, and then the late penalty is applied. The result is that the student receives a final mark of 45/100 for the assessment (85 (original mark) – 40 marks (late penalty) = 45/100 (final mark)).

- Student B submits a report which is marked out of 20. The report is submitted three days late. This means that a late penalty of 6 marks will apply ((20 x 0.10 x 3). The report is marked as per normal out of 20 and is given a mark of 15/20, and then the late penalty is applied. The result is that the student receives a final mark of 9/20 for the report (15 (original mark) – 6 marks (late penalty) = 9/20 (final mark)).

No marks will be awarded for work submitted after the assessment has been returned to the students (except where a particular assessment task is undertaken by students at different times throughout the session, but where the assessment is based on experiments or case studies specific to a student). Notwithstanding this, students must complete all assessment tasks to a satisfactory standard and submit them, regardless of lateness or loss of marks, where submission is a condition of satisfactorily completing the subject.

System of Referencing Used for Written Work
The Author-Date (Harvard) referencing system should, unless otherwise specified for a particular assessment (check Details of Assessment Tasks), be utilised. A summary of the Harvard system can be accessed on the Library website at: http://public01.library.uow.edu.au/refcite/style-guides/html/

Use of Internet Sources
Students are able to use the Internet to access the most current information on relevant topics and information. Internet sources should only be used after careful critical analysis of the currency of the information, the role and standing of the sponsoring institution, reputation and credentials of the author, the clarity of the information and the extent to which the information can be supported or ratified by other authoritative sources.

Plagiarism
The full policy on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism is found in the Policy Directory on the UOW website.

“The University’s Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy, Faculty Handbooks and subject guides clearly set out the University’s expectation that students submit only their own original work for assessment and avoid plagiarising the work of others or cheating. Re-using any of your own work (either in part or in full) which you have submitted previously for assessment is not permitted without appropriate acknowledgement. Plagiarism can be detected and has led to students being expelled from the University.

The use by students of any website that provides access to essays or other assessment items (sometimes marketed as ‘resources’), is extremely unwise. Students who provide an assessment item (or provide access to an assessment item) to others, either directly or indirectly (for example by uploading an assessment item to a website) are considered by the university to be intentionally or recklessly helping other students to cheat. This is considered academic misconduct and students place themselves at risk of being expelled from the University.”
Submission of Assessments
Assessments should be submitted through Turnitin. Normally assessments can be submitted to Turnitin prior to the submission date to check for originality and corrected if necessary before final submission. In some cases, following prior agreement with their academic supervisor, hardcopies of the assessment can be submitted to the academic supervisor with notification provided to the subject co-ordinator.

Assessment Return
Students will be able to view their assessed assignment through Turnitin or collect the hardcopy of their assessed assignment from their academic supervisor.
Section C: General Advice

Students should refer to the Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health website for information on policies, learning and support services and other general advice.

University Policies

Students should be familiar with the following University policies:

a. Code of Practice – Teaching and Assessment

b. Code of Practice – Research, where relevant

c. Code of Practice – Honours, where relevant

d. Student Charter

e. Code of Practice – Student Professional Experience, where relevant

f. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

g. Student Academic Consideration Policy

h. Course Progress Policy

i. Graduate Qualities Policy

j. Academic Complaints Policy (Coursework and Honours Students)

k. Policy and Guidelines on Non-Discriminatory Language Practice and Presentation

l. Workplace Health and Safety, where relevant

m. Intellectual Property Policy

n. IP Student Assessment of Intellectual Property Policy, where relevant

o. Human Research Ethics Guidelines, where relevant

p. Student Conduct Rules and accompanying Procedures or Research Misconduct Policy for research students
Student Support Services and Facilities
Students can access information on student support services and facilities at the following link. This includes information on “Academic Support”, “Starting at University”, “Help at University” as well as information and support on “Career’s and Jobs”. http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/index.html

Student Etiquette
Guidelines on the use of email to contact teaching staff, mobile phone use in class and information on the university guide to eLearning ‘Netiquette’ can be found at http://www.uow.edu.au/student/elearning/netiquette/index.html

Version Control Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version Control</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>Author/Reviewer</th>
<th>Approved By</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20160118</td>
<td>Prof Brian jones – Subject Coordinator</td>
<td>Sonia Losinno – ADE Nominee</td>
<td>FINAL EESC950 Autumn 2016 Subject Outline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>