

EESC 300/350 DIRECTED STUDIES IN EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to EESC300/350, Directed Studies in Earth and Environmental Sciences. Generally there are no lectures in a directed studies subject. Instead, this subject will give you an unique opportunity to conduct an original research project, with the assistance of a supervisor. As part of the directed studies you will write a research report and give a presentation to other students enrolled in this subject.

The learning skills of a Directed Studies program can often be transferred into your chosen career. Four skills that are concentrated upon in this subject are:

1. presentation skills
2. research skills,
3. analytical skills and
4. report writing skills.

Please take time to read this subject outline. Important material concerning the aims and objectives of a Directed Studies program, together with assessment procedures are outlined in the document.

SUBJECT DETAILS

This subject **normally** consists of a major research report (which may take the form of a literature study) together with a seminar presentation held in **week eleven** of session. You are required to meet regularly with your supervisor at mutually agreed times to discuss research report progress and any difficulties encountered during the project. You are expected to participate in research activities for at least seven hours each week. Your supervisor may require you to work to a schedule of tasks, (e.g. completion of a research proposal, a literature review, or laboratory analysis) by set dates. As outlined below such tasks may be assessable.

Class Contact Hours (Where Applicable)

As arranged with your supervisor.

Compulsory attendance at seminar presentations held in week 11. You will be required to make a presentation on your project at this session and to contribute to assessment of your fellow students' presentations.

ASSESSMENT

Normally assessment in EESC300/350 will be carried out according to the marking allocation outlined in the table below. However, in some circumstances students may be required to complete additional assignments depending on the nature of the research project. The academic supervisor will determine the nature of these additional assignments. Further, to allow for the requirement of the various disciplines in the School, your supervisor may require that the **80% of marks allocated to the report** be spread over a series of smaller assessable tasks. For example, the supervisor may require that a discussion of your methods be submitted and assessed or that your laboratory results be appropriately recorded and presented for assessment.

Major research projects (80% of the final mark in EESC300/350) will be assessed by two academic members (one member normally being the student's supervisor) of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

| Assessment | When? Date & Time | Where? | Grade |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Research Presentations | Week 11 – dates to be advised | To be announced | 20%* |
| Research Project | Thursday of week 13, 4.30pm | Two copies to Supervisor's Office | 80% |

*Note: The grade for your seminar presentation will be calculated by combining an average of the marks allocated by academic staff attending your presentation (80%) and the average marks awarded by other directed studies students attending your presentation (20%).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The learning outcomes of this subject focus upon critical thinking and analytical skills.

At the completion of your research project you should be able to

1. demonstrate your command over a particular body of knowledge,
2. demonstrate that you can successfully design and implement a research project,
3. demonstrate you can work to deadlines and produce a professionally written and finished report,
4. demonstrate your presentation standards.

Assessment Guidelines

- All reports/assignments/exercises used for assessment must be submitted to (and, after marking, collected from) the staff member who set the report/assignment/exercise by the due date and time; receipts will be issued.
- Extensions of time to submit material used for assessment will be granted only if there are clearly extenuating circumstances.
- The penalty for late submission of a report/assignment/exercise will be ten (10) percent of the maximum mark per day (or part of) after the due time and date. No work more than one week late will be accepted.

Special consideration.

Students who believe that their academic performance has been affected adversely by illness or other causes beyond their control, or if they are unable to attend a compulsory class, test or complete an assessable task should follow University procedures for Special Consideration.

Seminar Presentation

Each student will give a 10 minute seminar presentation, with 5 minutes for discussion.

Format of Research Project

A research report is required from each student (maximum word limit 5,000 words). The student and the supervisor should discuss a suitable format for the report and the criteria by which it will be assessed.

1. Due Date:

This research report is due at or before 4.30pm on Thursday in Week 13 and must be handed directly to your supervisor.

2. Late Submission:

The penalty for lateness is 10% of the mark available for each day.

4. Extensions:

Students seeking extensions must follow University requirements for Special Consideration.

PLAGIARISM – A formal warning

Plagiarism means using the ideas of someone else without giving them proper credit. This person may be an author, critic, journalist, artist, composer, lecturer, tutor or another student. When it is desirable, or necessary, to use other people's material, take care to include appropriate references and attribution - do not pretend the ideas are your own. Intentional plagiarism is a serious form of cheating. Unintentional plagiarism can result if you don't understand and use the acceptable scholarly methods of acknowledgement. Plagiarism is not acceptable and may result in the imposition of severe penalties. Students should refer to the University of Wollongong's policy on Plagiarism available on the University Handbook. See also the University's statement on "**Acknowledgment Practice**" published in the University Handbook. See:

http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook/codesofprac/teaching_code.html and

<http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/plagiarism.html>