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The published on-line version of the Course Profile is the authoritative version and by the publication of the Course Profile on-line the University deems the student has been notified of and read the course requirements.

# 1. General Course Information

## 1.1 Course Details

<b>COURSE CODE</b>	2315ENV
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Urban Ecology and Biodiversity
<b>ACADEMIC ORGANISATION</b>	ESC School of Environment and Science
<b>TRIMESTER</b>	Trimester 1 2021
<b>MODE</b>	Blended
<b>LEVEL</b>	Undergraduate
<b>LOCATION</b>	Nathan, On Campus
<b>CREDIT POINT VALUE</b>	10

## Course Description:

This course provides a basic grounding in main concepts of biodiversity and ecology with an urban focus. Students will gain an understanding of the different types of terrestrial plants and animals, how they have evolved and are classified, and how they interact with the biotic and abiotic environments in cities. The focus will be on a practical understanding of Australian ecosystems and their interactions in an urban setting, and the benefits that urban biota and ecosystems provides to people living in cities. Assessment is by assignments, laboratory work and final examination.

## Assumed Background:

It is assumed that students have some background in Biology and/or Planning to undertake this course.

## 1.2 Course Introduction

Planning decisions may have far reaching consequences for the environment we live in and hence an understanding of the organisms that make up the environment, the way they alter it and how changes to their diversity can impact on their ecology is essential. This course explores the diversity of life so that students have an understanding of the different types of living organisms, how they have evolved and are classified. It examines how they interact with each other and with the physical environment. It explores how biological systems work and their ecology with an urban ecosystem focus. The focus will be on a practical understanding of Australian ecosystems including freshwater and terrestrial and their interactions.

## Previous Student Feedback

Students enjoyed this course and found it both relevant and interesting with 81% of students satisfied with the course. Student feedback from previous years included

"The lab and studio material related back to each other, which was helpful in connecting concepts. Even though the studios were 3 hours long, the instructor allowed breaks throughout the class time which helped me stay focused on the material."

"Really enjoyed this course! Including the content, assessments and the teaching staff. The content was well structured, ordered, full of local examples and was very relevant. The essay topics were very relevant and interesting, and the lab field work very engaging and fun. All teaching staff were very engaging, knowledgeable, and made lecture and lab content more fun/funnier and relatable."

"I have found quite everything interesting about the natural and the urban diversity, it is a huge and significance thing, and I have learned to realize that we need to put much effort for the biodiversity protection."

"It's been a different perspective on conservation for me and a really engaging look at real world initiatives and ideas as compared to the contexts in which I've learnt about ecology and conservation so far"

"found that it covered a broad range of environmental topics and was taught in an engaging and interesting way. It also had a few lectures on planning-related concepts which i found very helpful."

## 1.3 Course Staff

Primary Convenor **Prof Catherine Pickering**

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<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:c.pickering@griffith.edu.au">c.pickering@griffith.edu.au</a>
<b>HOMEPAGE</b>	<a href="https://experts.griffith.edu.au/18606-catherine-pickering">https://experts.griffith.edu.au/18606-catherine-pickering</a>
<b>CAMPUS</b>	Gold Coast Campus
<b>BUILDING</b>	Science 1 (G24)
<b>ROOM</b>	3.07

Campus Convenor **Dr Wade Hadwen**

<b>PHONE</b>	(07) 373 53987
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:w.hadwen@griffith.edu.au">w.hadwen@griffith.edu.au</a>
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<b>CAMPUS</b>	Nathan Campus
<b>BUILDING</b>	Environment 2 (N13)
<b>ROOM</b>	1.29

Lecturer **Dr Samantha Capon**

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<b>CAMPUS</b>	Nathan Campus
<b>BUILDING</b>	Environment 2 (N13)
<b>ROOM</b>	1.26

Tutor **Dr Clare Morrison**

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<b>CAMPUS</b>	Gold Coast Campus
<b>BUILDING</b>	Science 1 (G24)

## 1.4 Timetable

Timetables are available on [the Programs and Courses website](#).

NB: Details contained in this Section of the course profile and Section 4.1 Learning Activities are to be read in conjunction with the official class timetable. The published class timetable which is the authoritative source for timetabling information for all campuses can be located by clicking on the above link.

## 1.5 Lecture Capture

It is standard practice at Griffith University that lectures timetabled in lecture capture-enabled venues are recorded and made available to students on the relevant course site, in accordance with the University's [Lecture Capture Policy](#).

However there are no lectures offered with this course.

## 2. Aims, Outcomes & Graduate Attributes

### 2.1 Course Aims

Urban Ecology and Biodiversity aims to teach students an understanding of the diversity of organisms that live on Earth and how these organisms shape and interact with the environment. It provides an urban focus, highlighting how urbanization affects biodiversity and ecological process, and the importance of recognising the benefits that biodiversity and ecosystems provide to humans in cities.

### 2.2 Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course you should be able to:

- 1 Understand characteristics of terrestrial organisms
- 2 Understand ecological processes including the effect of urbanization on them
- 3 Critique the broad consequences of planning decisions on the environment
- 4 Critically analyse scholarly readings and synthesise information to communicate complex concepts to diverse audiences, using various modes

### 2.3. Graduate Attributes

For further details on the Griffith Graduate please [click here](#)

Griffith University prepares influential graduates to be:

- [Knowledgeable and skilled, with critical judgement](#)
- [Effective communicators and collaborators](#)
- [Innovative, creative and entrepreneurial](#)
- [Socially responsible and engaged in their communities](#)
- [Culturally capable when working with First Australians](#)
- [Effective in culturally diverse and international environments](#)

**This table demonstrates where each of the Griffith Graduate Attributes is taught, practised and assessed in this course.**

For further details on the Griffith Graduate Attributes please refer to [The Griffith Graduate policy](#).

University wide attributes

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTE	TAUGHT	PRACTISED	ASSESSED
Knowledgeable and skilled, with critical judgement	•	•	•
Effective communicators and collaborators	•	•	•
Innovative, creative and entrepreneurial	•	•	•
Socially responsible and engaged in their communities	•	•	•
Effective in culturally diverse and international environments	•	•	•

## 3. Learning Resources

### 3.1 Required Resources

Details of your Required Learning Resources are available from the [Reading List](#).

### 3.2 Recommended Resources

Details of your Recommended Learning Resources are available from the [Reading List](#).

### 3.3 University Learning Resources

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

[Readings](#) - New online service enabling students to access Required and Recommended Learning resources. It connects to the library catalogue to assist with quickly locating material held in Griffith libraries and enables students to manage and prioritise their readings, add personal study notes and export citations.

[Learning@Griffith](#) - there is a dedicated website for this course via the Learning@Griffith at myGriffith.

[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 academic misconduct, understand what skills you will need in order to maintain academic integrity, and learn about the processes of referencing styles.

[Student Support](#) - provides a range of services to support students throughout their studies including personal support such as Counselling and Health Services; Academic support; and Financial and Welfare support.

The [Careers and Employment Team](#) provides: Career Wellbeing, Career Planning and Decision Making, Finding Jobs, Skills Identification and Development, Graduate Employment Information, LinkedIn Profile Review, Interview Preparation, Online Psychometric and Aptitude Test Preparation, International Student Support, Disability Disclosure Strategies and Higher Degree Research (HDR) Career Consultations.

[Library and Learning Services](#): Library and Learning Services provides a wide range of quality client-focused services and programs to students, researchers and staff of the University. Library and Learning Services works in collaboration with the academic community to achieve academic and research outcomes.

[Support for learning](#) - the University provides access to common use computing facilities for educational purposes.

[Code of Practice](#) - Griffith Information Technology Resources.

## 4. Teaching & Learning Activities

### 4.1 Learning Activities

Week Commencing	Activity	Learning Outcomes
8 Mar 21 - 14 Mar 21	<b>Week 1 Introductory studio (Studio):</b> This studio will outline the course including aims, assessment, teaching team and laboratory requirements etc. Then we will introduce the concept of urban diversity and ecology and why its both interesting and important for students studying planning and environmental science.	1, 2, 3, 4
15 Mar 21 - 21 Mar 21	<b>Week 2 - Biogeography and Evolution (Studio):</b> What is evolution and why is Australia home to koalas, eucalypts and kangaroos but Africa home to elephants and giraffes? This weeks studio will discuss how evolution, biogeography and other events have shaped the continents and the organisms that are found there with a focus on Australia's unique biodiversity and environments.	1, 2, 4
15 Mar 21 - 6 Jun 21	<b>Weeks 2,4,6,8,10,12 Laboratory practical (Laboratory):</b> In these laboratory sessions you will learn to sample different types of urban organisms, analysis ecological data and answer questions regarding their ecology and biology. This will complement the lectures on biodiversity by seeing the animals/plants in the flesh, and also the ecology lectures by understand how they interact with their environment. In Week 2 there will be an introduction to your laboratory sessions that will include the health and safety requirements as well as outlining what the labs will be about and what you will required to do, along with the first laboratory/field session. Remember to come with closed shoes, laboratory coat, and clothing suitable for some field sampling on campus.	1, 2, 4
22 Mar 21 - 18 Apr 21	<b>Weeks 3-5 Urban biodiversity (Studio):</b> These 3 weeks of studios will examine vertebrates, invertebrates and plants including their traits and diversity. It will also focus on what types of animals and plants occur in cities including in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. It will set background for the laboratory components where students will see the animals in the 'flesh' and directly assess the impacts of urbanization on diversity.	1, 2, 3, 4
19 Apr 21 - 6 Jun 21	<b>Weeks 6-12 Urban ecology (Studio):</b> This part of the course will present general ecology, but with an urban flavor. It will examine how organisms are arranged in ecosystems and the process that affect their interactions. In doing so it will focus on urban examples including presenting topical case studies based on the latest research by academics at Griffith University. This will complement the material in the laboratory sessions, where students are sampling organisms in the wild and collecting ecological data.	1, 2, 3, 4

### 4.2 Other Teaching and Learning Activities Information

If a class is usually scheduled on a day that falls on a public holiday, or is cancelled for any reason, the content will be delivered online or integrated across other classes, as appropriate.

Students Repeating a Course: Normally, students repeating a course should not 'carry forward' marks from a previous attempt. Assessment items are usually offered to provide formative experience as well as a summative assessment. Therefore, NO MARK for any assessment item from a previous attempt will be carried forward.

## 5. Assessment Plan

### 5.1 Assessment Summary

This is a summary of the assessment in the course. For detailed information on each assessment, see [5.2 Assessment Detail](#) below.

ASSESSMENT TASK	DUE DATE	WEIGHTING	MARKED OUT OF	LEARNING OUTCOMES	MAXIMUM EXTENSION PERIOD
<i>Test or quiz</i> Week 3 Min Review	22 Mar 21 It will be in week 3 in the studio timeslot	7%	100 marks	1, 2, 4	
<i>Test or quiz</i> Week 5 Min Review	12 Apr 21 It will be in week 5 in the studio timeslot	7%	100 marks	1, 2, 4	
<i>Assignment - Problem Solving Assignment</i> Essay	10 May 21 23:59	30%	100 marks	1, 2, 3, 4	
<i>Assignment - Laboratory/ Laboratory Report</i> Laboratory Report	4 Jun 21 23:59	20%	100 marks	1, 2, 3, 4	
<i>Exam - selected and constructed responses</i> End of trimester Exam	Examination Period	36%	100 marks (Must achieve a min of 45 out of 100)	1, 2, 3, 4	

## 5.2 Assessment Detail

**Title:** Week 3 Min Review

**Type:** Test or quiz

**Learning Outcomes Assessed:** 1, 2, 4

**Due Date:**

22 Mar 21 It will be in week 3 in the studio timeslot

**Weight:** 7%

**Marked out of:** 100

**Task Description:**

This min review will take place in the normal studio slot and will review student's knowledge and understanding of the content of the first two weeks of the course. The date of the in studio review depends on the campus (Wednesday Gold Coast, Friday Nathan). Students will have 30 minutes to complete the min review.

**Criteria & Marking:**

Criteria will be provided through Learning@Griffith

**Submission:** In Person at the School Department. To be completed during the studio and handed into the lecturer at the time

**This assessment item:**

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

**Title:** Week 5 Min Review

**Type:** Test or quiz

**Learning Outcomes Assessed:** 1, 2, 4

**Due Date:**

12 Apr 21 It will be in week 5 in the studio timeslot

**Weight:** 7%

**Marked out of:** 100

**Task Description:**

This min review will take place in the normal studio slot and will review student's knowledge and understanding of the content of the first two weeks of the course. The date of the in studio review depends on the campus (Wednesday Gold Coast, Friday Nathan). Students will have 30 minutes to complete the min review.

**Criteria & Marking:**

Criteria will be provided through Learning@Griffith

**Submission:** In Person at the School Department. To be completed during the studio and handed into the lecturer at the time

**This assessment item:**

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

**Title:** Essay

**Type:** Assignment - Problem Solving Assignment

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

**Due Date:**

10 May 21 23:59

**Weight:** 30%

**Marked out of:** 100

**Task Description:**

Students will select one topic from a list of local environmental issues. They will need to undertake research on the topic including outlining the issue, exploring the biology/ecology and making management recommendations. Students will need to work individually on the topics, and the final report must reflect their own understanding of the topic, and capacity to

communicate that understanding in writing. The report will be assessed for originality using Turn It In before it is marked electronically and feedback provided. The report will be 3000 words and must include a reference list and in text citations consistent with standard referencing styles within the sciences.

**Criteria & Marking:**

Criteria, rubric and questions will be provided through Learning@Griffith early in the trimester

**Submission:** Text Matching Tool - Turnitin. To be submitted to Turn It In on Blackboard at Learning@Griffith

**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:** Laboratory Report

**Type:** Assignment - Laboratory/Laboratory Report

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

**Due Date:**

4 Jun 21 23:59

**Weight:** 20%

**Marked out of:** 100

**Task Description:**

This is a report on the laboratory exercises. Details will be provided on learning@Griffith

**Criteria & Marking:**

Criteria will be provided through Learning@Griffith

**Submission:** Text Matching Tool - Turnitin. To be submitted via turn it in on learning@griffith for the Gold Coast, but in person in the laboratory session at Nathan

**This assessment item:**

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

**Title:** End of trimester Exam

**Type:** Exam - selected and constructed responses

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

**Due Date:**

Examination Period

**Weight:** 36%

**Marked out of:** 100

**Perusal:** 10 minutes

**Duration:** 120 minutes

**Format:** Open Book, Online

**Task Description:**

The end of trimester exam will cover material presented in laboratories and studios from week 5 till 12.

**Criteria & Marking:**

Criteria will be provided through Learning@Griffith

**This assessment item:**

- is a centrally organised activity
- is an individual activity
- does not include a self assessment activity
- contains a mandatory pass component

## 5.3 Late Submission

**For all non-Honours Dissertation courses:** An assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised. The standard penalty is the reduction of the mark allocated to the assessment item by 5% of the total weighted mark for the assessment item, for each working day that the item is late. A working day will be defined as Monday to Friday. Assessment items submitted more than five working days after the due date will be awarded zero marks. To understand how the mark is reduced please refer to [Assessment Procedures for Students](#).

**For all Honours Dissertation courses:** Enrolment in an Honours degree shall be cancelled and the candidature terminated if the candidate fails to lodge their Honours dissertation by the prescribed date including any approved extensions.

## 5.4 Other Assessment Information

**Supplementary Assessment** is not available for this course.

**Final Grades**

A student's final grade for this course will be based on the aggregation and weighting of marks across assessment, any mandatory pass components and grade cut-offs. Grade cut-offs can vary, so you will need to wait for the official release of grades to be sure of your grade for this course.

- This course is a graded course (i.e 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1).
- This course contains mandatory pass components.

**Mandatory pass component**

To be eligible to pass this course, students must:

1. achieve an overall pass mark for this course
2. submit the assessment task: End of trimester Exam
3. achieve a minimum percentage mark of 45% [min 45 out of 100 for 'End of trimester Exam']

## 6. Policies & Guidelines

This section contains the details of and links to the most relevant policies and course guidelines. For further details on University Policies please visit the [Policy Library](#)

### 6.1 Assessment Related Policies and Guidelines

#### University Policies & Guidelines

The University's assessment-related policies can be found in the [Griffith Policy Library](#).

Please refer to the following specific policies:

- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Assessment Procedure for Students](#)

### 6.2 Other Policies and Guidelines

#### University Policies and Guidelines

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have read all sections of the Course Profile for the course/s in which they are enrolled in any enrolment period. The published online version of the Course Profile is the authoritative version and by the publication of the Course Profile online, the University deems the student has been notified of and read the course requirements. Variations to the Course Profile during the trimester of offer are not permitted except in exceptional circumstances and will be advised in writing to all enrolled students and via the [Learning@Griffith](#) website. Additional information regarding the content of this course may be published on the [Learning@Griffith](#) website.

#### Copyright matters

Copyright applies to all teaching materials and materials generated by students which substantially relate to Griffith University courses. *Students are warned against selling Griffith University teaching materials and their student notes online through commercial websites during and after their studies.* You will almost certainly be in breach of copyright law and Griffith's IT Code of Practice if you post these materials on the internet and commercial websites. Please refer to the [Copyright Guide for Students](#) for further information.

#### Health and Safety

Griffith University is committed to providing a safe work and study environment. However, all students, staff and visitors have an obligation to ensure the safety of themselves and those whose safety may be affected by their actions. Staff in control of learning activities will ensure as far as reasonably practical, that those activities are safe and that all safety obligations are being met. Students are required to comply with all safety instructions and are requested to report safety concerns to the University.

General health and safety information is available on the [Health, Safety and Wellbeing](#) website.

#### Other Key Student-Related Policies

All University policy documents are accessible to students via the [Griffith Policy Library](#) and links to key policy documents, in addition to those listed in 6.1 above, are included below for easy reference:

- [Student Communications Policy](#)
- [Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Student Administration Policy](#)
- [Student Charter](#)
- [Student Review and Appeals Policy](#)
- [Student Review and Appeals Procedures](#)
- [Student Complaints Policy](#)