COURSE OUTLINE

ENS282 Coastal and Marine Ecology

School: School of Science, Technology and Engineering

2026 | Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay

BLENDED LEARNING

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to unisc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

The oceans harbour a greater diversity of life than any other environmental realm. In this course you will learn about the diversity of marine ecosystems, the species inhabiting them, and the physical and chemical factors influencing marine ecosystems. We shall explore rocky shores, sandy beaches, estuaries, mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass, reefs and open-water ecosystems. We will emphasise the seminal contributions that marine ecology has made to the broader field of ecology, and teach you fundamental skills in the scientific investigation of marine and coastal ecosystems.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Learning materials that provide fundamental knowledge about how the ocean works and how coastal ecosystems are structured and function. Learning materials typically include online videos of varying length, readings and quizzes.	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On-campus workshops support learning materials, introduce the content to be covered on field trips and support students in completing the major assessments. No workshops in weeks when field trips occur.	3hrs	Week 1	11 times
Fieldwork – Fieldtrips support key concepts presented in both the learning materials and tutorials, and provide opportunities for students to apply their skills in a field setting. Occurs typically in weeks 3 and 4 (dependent on tide times), with final dates confirmed in class in week 1.	7hrs	Week 3	2 times

1.3. Course Topics

Ocean currents, winds and tides, estuaries, seagrasses, mangroves, reefs, seaweeds and kelps, climate change impacts, marine conservation ecology.

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		GRADUATE QUALITIES Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Communicate effectively and professionally to informed audiences.	Empowered Engaged
2	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of major marine ecosystems and the forces that shape marine biodiversity.	Knowledgeable
3	Critically analyse and evaluate field data to investigate basic ecological patterns in coastal ecosystems.	Creative and critical thinker Sustainability-focussed
4	Work as a group to communicate complex scientific principles simply	Empowered Ethical Engaged

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the UniSC Glossary of terms for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

SCI110 or SCI102 or ANM104

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Online quizzes will be available throughout the trimester in class, whereby students can submit answers to questions and receive formative feedback on current understanding of the material.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	0%	Up to 20 questions.	Refer to Format	In Class
All	2	Written Piece	Group	25%	1000 words	Week 6	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Oral	Individual and Group	35%	15 minutes (12 minute presentation, plus 3 minutes of questions)	Week 12	In Class
All	4	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	20%	1 hour	Exam Period	Online Submission
All	4	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	20%	1 hour	Exam Period	Online Test (Quiz)

All - Assessment Task 1: Weekly Quiz

GOAL:	Revise the weekly content and prepare for the final exam.
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Online quizzes (likely Kahoot) weeks 2-10.
CRITERIA:	**No.** — **Learning Outcome assessed** 1 Correctly answering a series of multiple choice questions relating to the learning materials — 2
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Applying technologies, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 2: Group data submission and field performance

GOAL:	To demonstrate ability to work as a group to collect and collate marine ecology field data. Includes assessment of the quality of activities undertaken in the field, unseen questions relating to the field activities, and the submission of a formatted excel document.
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Field performance and formatted excel document (per template) submitted as a group.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrate your capacity to collect and collate marine ecology field data	3
2	Work as a group to collect and collate marine ecology field data	1 3 4

GENERIC SKILLS:	Collaboration, Organisation, Applying technologies

All - Assessment Task 3: Group presentation

GOAL:	To work as a group, and demonstrate knowledge and basic analytical skills in the scientific investigation of coastal and marine ecosystems.
PRODUCT:	Oral
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	A concise 15 minute presentation (12 minute presentation, plus 3 minutes of questions) presented as a group in the usual class time slot in weeks 11 or 12 using PowerPoint slides, that summarises the rationale, methods and key results of the field trip(s), including tests of ecological hypotheses based on analyses of data collected by students, and contextualisation of the findings with respect to species biology and conservation.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrate your capacity to write a concise and effective scientific report	1 3
2	Demonstrate your capacity to analyse marine ecology field data and to produce effective scientific figures and tables	1 3
3	Demonstrate your capacity to identify, synthesise and interpret scientific journal articles	2
4	Work as a group to present complex scientific concepts simply	4

GENERIC SKILLS:	Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 4: Final examination- applied questions

GOAL:	To demonstrate applied applications of knowledge of marine and coastal ecology as taught in the course.
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	A one (1) hour online exam comprised of long answer(paragraph to one page) questions.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrate your knowledge of marine and coastal ecology	2
2	Apply knowledge from learning materials, tutorials, field trips and readings to solve unseen problems	2 3

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation

All - Assessment Task 4: Final examination- habitat content

GOAL:	To demonstrate knowledge of marine and coastal ecology and the habitats detailed as part of the course.
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	A one (1) hour online exam comprised of multiple choice questions.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrate your knowledge of marine and coastal ecology	2

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

> There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Nil

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and low to moderate levels of health and safety risk exists. Moderate risks may include working in an Australian bush setting, working with people, working outside normal office hours for example. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the online induction training for students, and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:
(a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
(b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:
(a) One day: deduct 5%;
(b) Two days: deduct 10%;
(c) Three days: deduct 20%;
(d) Four days: deduct 40%;
(e) Five days: deduct 60%;
(f) Six days: deduct 80%;
(g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:
Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The Student Charter sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- UniSC Student Central
- UniSC Adelaide Student Central