

LAW425 Environmental Law

School: School of Law and Society

2026 | Trimester 2

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.

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

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

This course introduces students to the way in which law engages with the non-human environment. Firstly, the course locates and reconceptualises 'nature' within the legal sphere, by focusing on the international emergence of an ecological jurisprudence. Students will then engage with environmental policies and regulations situated in diverse philosophical frameworks. Finally, the course will focus on the Australian environmental regulatory regime.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On-Campus Tutorial	2hrs	Week 2	10 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online Tutorial	2hrs	Week 2	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

The course engages with critical and theoretical analyses of law and in relation to the contested idea of 'nature'. Working through both practical and theoretical understandings of nature and the environment, this course examines the Australian legal framework through an analytical lens. In this course, you will learn:

- Law and Nature – *How do law and nature interact, and what are the crises and predicaments that face the environment?* (Ecological Crises, Ideas of Law and Nature, Environmental Ethics, Wild Law)
- Ecological Jurisprudence – *How are law, society, and nature interconnected?* (Ecological Jurisprudence, International Environmental Law, Australian Environmental Law)
- Legal Frameworks – *How does Australian law govern our interactions with nature?* (Planning Law, Biodiversity Protection, Cultural Heritage, Pollution and Waste Management, Compliance and Enforcement)

2. What level is this course?

400 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES		GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Identify and explain the cultural, philosophical, political, social and historical contexts in which the ideas of 'law' and 'nature' are located.	Knowledgeable Empowered
2	Demonstrate an understanding of environmental ethical concerns in relation to environmental law and regulation.	Knowledgeable Ethical Sustainability-focussed
3	Utilize critical thinking, analysis, and sound judgment to apply legal knowledge effectively in diverse contexts, generating appropriate and practical responses to complex problems and ethical issues.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical
4	Demonstrate effective, persuasive, and contextually appropriate written and oral communication.	Empowered
5	Develop and demonstrate effective presentation skills, including proper referencing and citation techniques, to communicate legal information accurately and professionally.	Empowered

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

((LAW100 or LAW101) and (LAW105 or LAW103) and LAW108) or LAW102 or (Successful Completion of 96 Units)

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

In addition to the oral and written feedback provided on the 'Ecological Jurisprudence' assessment task, formative feedback will be provided in the form of class discussion of the methods of analysis appropriate to environmental law during tutorials.

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	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	50%	20 minute presentation and 10 minutes of questions, plus 2,000 words	Week 12	To be Negotiated
All	2	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	50%	3 hours	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Ecological Jurisprudence

GOAL:	The goal of the 'Ecological Jurisprudence' written piece is to allow students to articulate an argument of their choice in relation to the intertwined ideas of 'law' and 'nature'.						
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece						
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:							
FORMAT:	Oral and Written Piece						
CRITERIA:	No.					Learning Outcome assessed	
	1	Providing an explanation on an issue of their choice in relation to ecological jurisprudence				1	2
	2	Critical analysis and evaluation of material, including evaluating and making judgements about the issue under analysis				3	
	3	Demonstration of advanced academic writing skills via use of accurate, appropriate and persuasive expression				4	5
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy						

All - Assessment Task 2: Examination

GOAL:	The goal of the final exam is to allow students to evaluate and appraise a legal environmental problem in Australia.		
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled		
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:			
FORMAT:	Answers to unseen hypothetical problem questions		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Identification of relevant legal issues	1 2
	2	Application of relevant legal principles	3
	3	Quality of writing, referencing, spelling, grammar and punctuation	4 5
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy		

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

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the [Library](#) at no additional cost.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Recommended	Alessandro Pelizzon	0	Ecological Jurisprudence	n/a	forthcoming
Required	ROWENA. MAGUIRE	2025	ENVIRONMENTAL, PLANNING AND CLIMATE LAW IN QUEENSLAND.	2nd ed	LexisNexis

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. 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](#)