



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University

# Built Environment

PLAN1002  
Sustainability and Environment



## Disclaimer

Information within this document is subject to change. The full and most accurate course outline will be available in Moodle closer to the start of the term in which the course is offered.

## 1. COURSE STAFF

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## 2. COURSE DETAILS

<b>Credit Points</b>	6 units of credit (uoc)
<b>Workload</b>	Approx. 150 hours including class contact hours, weekly individual and group online learning activities, readings, class preparation, and assessment activities.
<b>Teaching Times and Location</b>	Find details in timetable <a href="http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au">http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au</a>

## Description

This course examines the interrelationships between urbanisation, planning and the sustainable management of environmental systems. It introduces the role of environmental processes in shaping the patterns of the physical environment and the operation of global environmental systems, with a focus on interaction of humans with their environment and the causes of environmental crises. The role of environmental factors and their centrality to complex and typically contested planning issues including population growth, resource extraction, biodiversity, and food and water security is considered. The course reviews principles of ecologically sustainable development and encourages students to consider how issues are framed, how solutions are negotiated and question whether current planning frameworks help or hinder broader sustainability objectives. Students are introduced to key concepts associated with 'sustainable urbanism' including low carbon development, green infrastructure, climate change adaptation and mitigation. Analytical and procedural tools for use in strategic and tactical management of the urban environment and non-metropolitan regions impacted by urbanisation are introduced.

## Aims

The aims of Sustainability and Environment is to provide students with a grounded introduction to the role of sustainable development in managing environmental issues and the role of planning for a more sustainable future. The concepts of environment and sustainability, together with their conflicting priorities are discussed along with the difficulties of incorporating them into the current socio-political and economic systems. The major physical and biophysical systems of environments are explained in relation to current issues including population pressure, energy use, land degradation, climate change, water resources, transport and urban living.

The key aims of this course are:

1. To explore in depth topics and issues related to environment and sustainability.
2. To develop an understanding of the impacts, responses, and contested solutions to environmental problems.
3. To develop an understanding of key environmental policy and planning principles.
4. To develop a critical awareness of the processes of environmental knowledge production.
5. To understand how planning can promote sustainable development.
6. To understand the interplay between environmental systems and planning frameworks which work within those systems.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

At the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Appreciate the role of environmental systems and processes in shaping the patterns of the physical environment
2. Develop a critical awareness of the processes of environmental knowledge production
3. Develop an understanding of key environmental policy and planning principles.
4. Identify how planning decisions and activity can promote sustainable development
5. Identify and utilise the analytical and procedural tools used in strategic and tactical management of the urban environment and non-metropolitan regions impacted by urbanism
6. Critically examine the principles of ecologically sustainable development
7. Recognise the benefits and limitations of the range of analytical and applied methods used for the assessment and management of environmental impacts in planning processes

## 3. ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Weight	CLOs Assessed
1. Participation and tutorial preparation	15%	1, 3, 3, 6, 7
2. Understanding environmental processes	35%	1
3. Group presentation	20%	3, 4, 6
4. State of Environment Reportt	30%	2, 3, 4, 5, 7

## 4. COURSE IMPROVEMENT AND FEEDBACK

Feedback from students is an integral part of improving courses and teaching approaches. One of the primary mechanisms of feedback is myExperience, which we strongly urge all students to complete at the end of term. Course convenors use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. This is communicated in Moodle in the myFeedback Matters page.