

UNIT OUTLINE

Year: 11/12 Accreditation: T/A

Timetable Period: Semester 1 2021

Classroom Teacher: Miriam Ambrose

Executive Teacher: Debbie O'Brien

Course Title	Earth and Environmental Science	Course Code:	2504
Semester Unit	Introduction to Earth systems	Unit Value/Code:	1.0 / 23939
Term Unit (a)	Introduction to Earth Systems a	Unit Value/Code:	0.5 /
Term Unit (b)	Introduction to Earth Systems b	Unit Value/Code:	0.5 /

Specific Unit Goals:

- understand the key features of Earth systems, how they are interrelated, and their collective 4.5 billion year history
- understand scientific models and evidence for the structure and development of the solid Earth, the hydrosphere, the atmosphere and the biosphere
- use science inquiry skills to collect, analyse and communicate primary and secondary data on Earth and environmental phenomena; and use these as analogues to deduce and analyse events that occurred in the past
- evaluate, with reference to empirical evidence, claims about the structure, interactions and evolution of Earth systems
- communicate Earth and environmental understanding using qualitative and quantitative representations in appropriate modes and genres

Content Summary:

Development of the geosphere

- The principle of uniformitarianism
- Stratigraphic principles
- Relative geological time scale
- Absolute time scale
- Internal structure of the earth
- Minerals
- The rock cycle
- Soil

- The catastrophic collapse of ecosystems inferred from the fossil record

Development of atmosphere and hydrosphere

- Early and modern atmosphere
- Water and its properties

Development of Biosphere

- Fossil evidence of Life
- Origin of Life
- Abiotic and Biotic factors in Ecosystems
- Sedimentary rocks and fossils
- Diversification and proliferation of living organisms over time

Cost of Materials:

Nil

Assessment:

TASK	DUE DATE	WEIGHTING
Assignment 1	Week 6	20%
Exam 1	Week 8	30%
Assignment 2	Week 14	20%
Exam 2	Week 18	30%

SPECIFIC ENTRY & EXIT REQUIREMENTS FOR TERM UNITS:

This is a Semester Unit; students wishing to enter or exit after the end of term must have the change approved by the Academy Executive Leader and need to complete 50% of the assessment

Attendance and Participation

It is expected that students will attend and participate in all scheduled classes/contact time/structured learning activities for the units in which they are enrolled, unless there is due cause and adequate documentary evidence is provided. Any student whose attendance falls below 90% of the scheduled classes/contact time or 90% participation in structured learning activities in a unit, without having due cause with adequate documentary evidence will be deemed to have voided the unit. However, the principal has the right to exercise discretion in special circumstances if satisfactory documentation is supplied.

Completion of Assessment Items

Students are expected to substantially complete and submit all assessment items. Exemption from an item and/or alternative assessment without penalty is available to students providing adequate documentary evidence. To meet the minimum assessment requirements of a unit, a student must substantially complete and submit at least 70% of the total assessment. However, the principal has the right to exercise discretion in the award of a grade or score in special circumstances where satisfactory documentation is supplied.

Late Submission of Assessment Items

Students are encouraged to submit work on time as this is a valuable organisational skill. Students are also encouraged to complete work even if it is late as there are educational benefits in so doing. The following policy is to ensure equity for all students:

- All assessment tasks are expected to be submitted by the specified due date
- Where marks are awarded for assessment tasks, a late penalty will apply unless an extension is granted. The penalty for late submission is 5% of possible marks per calendar day late, including weekends and public holidays, until a notional zero is reached. If an item is more than 7 days late, it receives the notional zero. Submission on weekends or public holidays is not acceptable. Calculation of a notional zero is based on items submitted on time or with an approved extension (Refer to Notional Zeros)
- Where marks are not awarded, and a grade only is given for an assessment task, teachers will take into account the extent to which students have demonstrated their ability to complete and submit the task by the due date (taking into account any extensions granted) in awarding the grade

- Unless there are exceptional circumstances, students must apply for an extension to the specified due date in advance, providing due cause and adequate documentary evidence for late submission
- It may not be possible to grade or score work submitted late after marked work in a unit has been returned to other students
- The principal has the right to exercise discretion in the application of the late penalty in special circumstances where satisfactory documentation has been provided.

Notional Zeros

Where students fail to hand in assessment items for which marks are awarded, they will be awarded a notional zero for that assessment item. The notional zero will be a score, which lies between 0.1 of a standard deviation below the lowest genuine score for that item and zero. Note: if the lowest genuine score is zero, the notional zero is zero.

Cheating and Dishonest Practice

The integrity of the College's assessment system relies upon all involved acting in accordance with the highest standards of honesty and fairness. Plagiarism is the copying, paraphrasing or summarising of work, in any form, without acknowledgement of sources, and presenting this as a student's own work. Examples of plagiarism could include, but are not limited to:

- submitting all or part of another person's work with/without that person's knowledge
- submitting all or part of a paper from a source text without proper acknowledgement
- copying part of another person's work from a source text, supplying proper documentation, but leaving out quotation marks
- submitting materials which paraphrase or summarise another person's work or ideas without appropriate documentation
- submitting a digital image, sound, design, photograph or animation, altered or unaltered, without proper acknowledgement of the source.

Right to Appeal

The ACT system operates a hierarchy of reviews and appeals:

- Student seeks review from teacher regarding assessment task mark/grade, unit score, unit grade, course score
- Student seeks review from head of department, if required following review by teacher
- Student appeals to her/his college principal for a review of college assessment relating to assessment task grade/mark, unit grade, unit score, course score, penalty imposed for breach of discipline in relation to assessment
- Student, who has been through the college appeal process, may appeal to the Board against the college procedures by which the appeal decision was reached.

Further information on relevant BSSS policies can be found here:

http://www.bsos.act.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/479803/P_and_P_Manual_2021_v4.pdf