

# CULT 7003 ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 102339

**Coordinator** Josh Wodak (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Josh+Wodak/>)

**Description** This unit provides an overview of the emerging interdisciplinary field of Environmental Humanities. It provides a space of dialogue for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) students to work collaboratively in developing novel ways of thinking about the relationships between culture and nature. The Unit centres on emerging conceptual trends interrogating notions such as: Anthropocene, extinction, planetary boundaries, critical zones, socio-ecological change dynamics, as a way of engaging with fundamental questions of meaning, justice, value, responsibility and purpose in a time of rapid and escalating change. The unit also focuses on methodological issues and tackles questions of co-construction between HASS and STEM disciplines.

**School** Graduate Research School

**Discipline** Society and Culture, Not Elsewhere Classified.

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

**Level** Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

## Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in a postgraduate program.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the historical, philosophical and political implications of human transformation of the environment and the ways we rethink our relations with other non-human beings.
2. Define the major theoretical traditions in environmental humanities identifying the multiple subareas within environmental humanities and understanding their origins, connections, and divergences.
3. Use a range of methods to analyse, critically interrogate, and offer solutions to diverse perspectives on contemporary environmental concerns and dilemmas.
4. Use interdisciplinary approaches to tackling complex problems, including developing research, writing and presentation skills that successfully integrate knowledge from humanities, social sciences, science and technology, and the natural sciences.
5. Demonstrate the ability to translate and present research in an academic forum.

## Subject Content

This subject is offered through a combination of online and face-to-face delivery. Students are required to attend 5 x 2 hour lectures, 10 x 2 hour seminars and 1 x 2 hour symposium. The subject makes extensive use of blended learning for accessing resources and activities. Students are expected to spend approximately 120 hours on this subject, working through the reading program, contributing to online discussions, completing the assessment tasks and attending the compulsory lectures/seminars.

Preliminary content include:

1. Conceptualising the environmental humanities: concepts and methods for studying cultures/natures
2. Understanding living systems and coupled socio-ecological dynamics
3. Living in the Anthropocene: exceeding planetary boundaries
4. Approaches in Environmental History
5. Debates in Environmental Anthropology
6. Sustainability and Design
7. Normative principles of Environmental Justice
8. Science, democracy and citizenship
9. Researching global change; interdisciplinary challenges.

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Item	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/Group Task
Literature review	2,000 words	25	N	Individual
Research Article or Paper	4,000 words	35	N	Individual
Symposium Presentation	15 minutes	35	N	Individual
Provocation	3 images	5	N	Individual

Teaching Periods