



# EVST19021 Sustainability Issues and Solutions

## Term 3 - 2017

Profile information current as at 07/05/2024 01:22 am

All details in this unit profile for EVST19021 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

## General Information

### Overview

The impacts of human populations on the natural environment are well studied but little progress has been made to improve the sustainability of our lifestyle due to the complex interactions among social, economic and environmental imperatives. In Sustainability Issues and Solutions you will investigate the impact of human activities on a range of living and non-living, renewable and non-renewable natural resources. By applying 'Systems Thinking' you will practise developing solutions that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. On completion of this unit you will have a broad appreciation of the balances underpinning both temporal and spatial variation in sustainability and human efforts to control these.

### Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 3*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

### Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Minimum of 72 credit points

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

### Offerings For Term 3 - 2017

- Distance

### Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

### Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

## Class and Assessment Overview

### Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

### Class Timetable

#### [Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

#### [Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

### Assessment Overview

#### 1. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

#### 2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

#### 3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

#### 4. **Group Discussion**

Weighting: 10%

### Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

## CQUniversity Policies

**All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).**

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

## Previous Student Feedback

### Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

#### Feedback from Moodle feedback, emails and personal communication

**Feedback**

Some students struggled with writing assignments in the required genre

**Recommendation**

An example of the genre required for each written assignment will be provided.

#### Feedback from Moodle

**Feedback**

Students really appreciated the currency of the course resources.

**Recommendation**

Course resources be updated to ensure they contain the most recent advances in the field.

## Unit Learning Outcomes

**On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:**

1. Discuss the economic, ethical and ecological issues associated with the sustainable utilisation of the earth's renewable and non-renewable natural resources.
2. Explain the importance of systems thinking and an understanding of temporal and spatial scales and feedback loops in determining solutions to sustainable management of resources.
3. Discuss the shortcomings in our understanding and acceptance of the processes that lead to sustainability.
4. Develop a range of possible strategies that would help to ensure the sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

## Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving		•	•	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•	•
5 - Team Work				•
6 - Information Technology Competence				•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence	•		•	•
8 - Ethical practice	•	•	•	•
9 - Social Innovation				
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures				

### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		
2 - Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		
3 - Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		
4 - Group Discussion - 10%	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		

## Textbooks and Resources

### Textbooks

**There are no required textbooks.**

### IT Resources

**You will need access to the following IT resources:**

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

## Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)  
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Judith Wake** Unit Coordinator  
[j.wake@cqu.edu.au](mailto:j.wake@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1 - 06 Nov 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Sustainability concepts and the application of systems thinking	Study Guide Chapter 1	

### Week 2 - 13 Nov 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Ecological, economic and social measures of sustainability	Study Guide Chapter 2	

### Week 3 - 20 Nov 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Biodiversity	Study Guide Chapter 3	Forum 1 closes midnight Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2017

### Week 4 - 27 Nov 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Management of water resources	Study Guide Chapter 4	

### Vacation Week - 04 Dec 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
--------------	---------	------------------------------

### Week 5 - 11 Dec 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Food production systems	Study Guide Chapter 5	<b>Presentation on a sustainable agricultural production system</b> Due: Week 5 Monday (11 Dec 2017) 11:45 pm AEST

<b>Week 6 - 18 Dec 2017</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
Marine resource management	Study Guide Chapter 6	Forum 2 closes midnight Sunday 24th December 2017
<b>Week 7 - 01 Jan 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
Energy generation and use	Study Guide Chapter 7	
<b>Week 8 - 08 Jan 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
Transport systems	Study Guide Chapter 8	<b>Debate on the impacts of marine reserves on the sustainability of Australian fishing industries</b> Due: Week 8 Monday (8 Jan 2018) 11:45 pm AEST
<b>Week 9 - 15 Jan 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
Building and urban design	Study Guide Chapter 9	Forum 3 closes midnight Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2018
<b>Week 10 - 22 Jan 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
Waste minimisation and reuse	Study Guide Chapter 10	
<b>Week 11 - 29 Jan 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
Population and sustainable development	Study Guide Chapter 11	
<b>Week 12 - 05 Feb 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
Cultural change and social innovation	Study Guide Chapter 12	Forum 4 closes midnight Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2018  <b>Report on the management of plastic waste</b> Due: Week 12 Monday (5 Feb 2018) 11:45 pm AEST
<b>Review/Exam Week - 12 Feb 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
<b>Exam Week - 12 Feb 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>

## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Presentation on a sustainable agricultural production system

#### Assessment Type

Written Assessment

#### Task Description

Sustainable agriculture aims to integrate a healthy environment, economic profitability, and social and economic equity. Choose a sustainable agricultural system (not just a sustainable practice) and develop a presentation you could use to provide information to an agricultural community. You should provide a balanced assessment of the system based on scientific evidence.

Prepare and submit a PowerPoint presentation of 15 slides, maximum, including the title slide and a slide of references.

You should not have more than seven dot points or 30 words per slide. Include extra information you would use to clarify the information on the slides as dot points in the notes section below the slide. The notes section should be between about 1000 and 1500 words in total over all the slides.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 5 Monday (11 Dec 2017) 11:45 pm AEST

**Return Date to Students**

Week 7 Thursday (4 Jan 2018)

**Weighting**

30%

**Minimum mark or grade**

45%

**Assessment Criteria**

Assignment will be assessed on:

- Clarity of presentation and logical presentation of issues
- Application of science and sustainability principles
- Comprehensive coverage of relevant issues
- Use of valid information sources and accuracy of reference details
- Appropriateness of language and presentation to audience

**Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Submission Instructions**

Submit as a Powerpoint file

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Discuss the economic, ethical and ecological issues associated with the sustainable utilisation of the earth's renewable and non-renewable natural resources.
- Explain the importance of systems thinking and an understanding of temporal and spatial scales and feedback loops in determining solutions to sustainable management of resources.
- Discuss the shortcomings in our understanding and acceptance of the processes that lead to sustainability.
- Develop a range of possible strategies that would help to ensure the sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

**Graduate Attributes**

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

## 2 Debate on the impacts of marine reserves on the sustainability of Australian fishing industries

**Assessment Type**

Written Assessment

**Task Description**

Prepare the arguments, both FOR and AGAINST, for a debate on the following topic:

*The extent of the marine reserves in Australia threatens the sustainability of Australian fishing industries.*

You should focus on a particular marine reserve (or collection of marine reserves) or a particular fishing industry. Your arguments should be based on detailed scientific information, not sweeping generalisations.

You should provide a brief introduction to the topic, then a series of arguments for each side of the debate in a TABLE with two columns headed: FOR and AGAINST. Complete your assignment with a brief concluding paragraph, setting out which side has the strongest argument. Your assignment should not exceed 2000 words with roughly equal numbers of words for each case. You should ensure you apply the principles of Systems Thinking, use only credible information sources, and cite references where applicable.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 8 Monday (8 Jan 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

**Return Date to Students**

Week 10 Monday (22 Jan 2018)

**Weighting**

30%

**Minimum mark or grade**

45%

**Assessment Criteria**

Assignment will be assessed on:

- Comprehensive coverage of arguments both for and against
- Logical presentation of arguments
- Relevance of issues raised
- Clarity of expression
- Evidence of research and critical thinking
- Selection of credible sources and correct referencing

**Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Submission Instructions**

Submit as a Word file

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Discuss the economic, ethical and ecological issues associated with the sustainable utilisation of the earth's renewable and non-renewable natural resources.
- Explain the importance of systems thinking and an understanding of temporal and spatial scales and feedback loops in determining solutions to sustainable management of resources.
- Discuss the shortcomings in our understanding and acceptance of the processes that lead to sustainability.
- Develop a range of possible strategies that would help to ensure the sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

**Graduate Attributes**

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

### 3 Report on the management of plastic waste

**Assessment Type**

Written Assessment

**Task Description**

Queensland has plans to introduce a ban on the supply of single-use, lightweight, plastic shopping bags and to introduce a beverage container refund scheme. Choose **one** of these initiatives and write a report on the environmental, economic and social impacts of the scheme. You should conclude by weighting up the evidence and concluding whether the scheme should be implemented or not.

Format your assignment as a report with headings and an executive summary. Maximum word limit: 2500 words. The word count will include words in tables and the executive summary but not words in figures, or reference citations and list.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 12 Monday (5 Feb 2018) 11:45 pm AEST

**Return Date to Students**

Review/Exam Week Friday (16 Feb 2018)



**Weighting**

30%

**Minimum mark or grade**

45%

**Assessment Criteria**

Assignment will be assessed on:

- Logical and comprehensive presentation of information
- Evidence of critical thinking and problem solving
- Validity of conclusion from evidence presented
- Clarity of expression
- Evidence of research and accurate referencing
- Overall presentation, including format of diagrams and tables, correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Submission Instructions**

Submit as a Word file

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Discuss the economic, ethical and ecological issues associated with the sustainable utilisation of the earth's renewable and non-renewable natural resources.
- Explain the importance of systems thinking and an understanding of temporal and spatial scales and feedback loops in determining solutions to sustainable management of resources.
- Discuss the shortcomings in our understanding and acceptance of the processes that lead to sustainability.
- Develop a range of possible strategies that would help to ensure the sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

**Graduate Attributes**

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

## 4 Group Discussion

**Assessment Type**

Group Discussion

**Task Description**

You are required to post relevant comments to each of the four forums to obtain the maximum marks. Each forum will be open for approximately three weeks. Forum posts must be 200 words or less and be presented as dot points. There is no minimum mark or grade for this assessment item. Therefore, you do not have to attempt it in order to pass the course overall. However, it also means you will not be awarded a supplementary assessment if you come close to passing and/or you do not meet the criteria for a Pass grade in one assessment item.

**Assessment Due Date**

Forum 1 will close at the end of week 3, Forum 2 at the end of week 6, Forum 3 at the end of week 9 and Forum 4 at the end of week 12.

**Return Date to Students**

Exam Week Friday (16 Feb 2018)

Mark will be available through the moodle gradebook.

**Weighting**

10%

**Assessment Criteria**

Your posts will be assessed on:

- Relevance to the question
- Evidence of critical thinking
- Clarity of arguments
- Conciseness of posts

### **Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

### **Submission**

Online

### **Submission Instructions**

Post to forums in Moodle

### **Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Discuss the economic, ethical and ecological issues associated with the sustainable utilisation of the earth's renewable and non-renewable natural resources.
- Discuss the shortcomings in our understanding and acceptance of the processes that lead to sustainability.
- Develop a range of possible strategies that would help to ensure the sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

### **Graduate Attributes**

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Team Work
- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

## Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

### What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

### Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

### Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

### What can you do to act with integrity?



#### Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



#### Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



#### Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem