



PBHL13001 *Public Health and Environmental Sustainability*

Term 1 - 2022

Profile information current as at 14/12/2025 06:36 am

All details in this unit profile for PBHL13001 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 World Health Organisation has identified the link between anthropogenic environmental change and public health as an issue of significant concern and has engaged in a workplan with priorities to advocate and raise awareness, strengthen partnerships, enhance scientific evidence and strengthen health systems. This unit aims to develop your understanding of factors within the anthropogenic and natural environments that impact upon health outcomes, including environmentally transmitted diseases, climate change and sustainable development. Content will include an exploration of zoonotic diseases, vector borne conditions, emerging epidemiologic trends, community resilience and capacity building. You will discover the value of participation through an exploration of community resilience and capacity building. Prevention will be emphasised as you learn about the aetiologies, risk factors, epidemiological trends and underlying environmental factors relating to a range of diseases of public health importance. The theme of partnership will be developed as you examine the issue of environmental sustainability and emerging environmental health issues while learning the importance of working with traditional and contemporary custodians of natural environments, collaborating with government and non-government agencies in creating healthy environmental policy.

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

96 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 1 - 2022

- Online

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. **Online Test**

Weighting: 15%

2. **Online Test**

Weighting: 15%

3. **Group Discussion**

Weighting: 30%

4. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

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 Reflection

Feedback

Some students were not able to apply the content at a deeper level when preparing their discussion papers.

Recommendation

Develop additional structured tutorials to guide the students in deeper analysis.

Feedback from Unit Evaluation

Feedback

Low response rate to unit evaluation.

Recommendation

Promote evaluation survey more often in future years.

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Explain primary drivers of environmental change and how they interact to result in public health consequences
2. Examine the aetiology and risk factors of environmentally transmitted diseases and conditions
3. Evaluate the social-ecological framework as a means to build and maintain partnerships to address environmental health issues
4. Predict and debate potential scenarios to respond to environmental health challenges based on current and emerging evidence
5. Communicate information relating to emerging environmental health issues to a wide variety of audiences
6. Describe the use of Health Impact Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and social innovation in the development of sustainable public policy to support health.

Content in this unit aligns with the enHealth Skills and Knowledge Matrix as follows:

Part 1- all generic skills

Part 2- underpinning skills and knowledge in the areas of:

- microbiology
- foundation and applied principles of natural and built environmental science
- science
- public and environmental health concepts
- research methods
- political, legislative and policy context
- risk assessment and management
- communication, cultural awareness and interpersonal skills

Part 3- applied skills and knowledge under the headings of

- Prevention and control of notifiable and communicable diseases
- Indigenous environmental health
- Sustainability and climate change

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

 N/A Level	 Introductory Level	 Intermediate Level	 Graduate Level	 Professional Level	 Advanced Level
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Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 - Online Test - 15%	•		•			
2 - Online Test - 15%		•				
3 - Group Discussion - 30%			•		•	
4 - Written Assessment - 40%				•		•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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 - Online Test - 15%	•	•	•			•				
2 - Online Test - 15%	•	•	•			•				
3 - Group Discussion - 30%	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		
4 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•			•	•	◦	

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

PBHL13001

Prescribed

Environment, Health and Sustainable Development

Edition: 2nd edn (2017)

Authors: Emma Hutchinson, Sari Kovats

Open University Press, McGraw Hill Education

Maidenhead , Berkshire , United Kingdom

ISBN: 9780335245376

Binding: Paperback

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Zoom Conferencing (Webcam and Microphone)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Lisa Bricknell Unit Coordinator

l.bricknell@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 07 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Environmental sustainability and driving forces behind environmental change.	Hutchinson & Kovats (2017) Chapter 2	

Week 2 - 14 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Environmental sustainability and driving forces behind environmental change.	Hutchinson & Kovats (2017) Chapter 3	

Week 3 - 21 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Environmental sustainability and driving forces behind environmental change.	Hutchinson & Kovats (2017) Chapter 12	

Week 4 - 28 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Environmental sustainability and driving forces behind environmental change.

Hutchinson & Kovats (2017) Chapter 13

Quiz 1: Sustainability and driving forces behind environmental change Due: Week 4 Friday (1 Apr 2022) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 5 - 04 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Impacts of environmental change upon public health	Hutchinson & Kovats (2017) Chapter 4 & 5	

Vacation Week - 11 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Week 6 - 18 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Impacts of environmental change upon public health	Hutchinson & Kovats (2017) Chapter 6 & 8	Quiz 2: Impacts of environmental change upon public health Due: Week 6 Friday (22 Apr 2022) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 7 - 25 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Impacts of environmental change upon public health	Hutchinson & Kovats (2017) Chapters 7 & 9	

Week 8 - 02 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Impacts of environmental change upon public health	Hutchinson & Kovats (2017) Chapter 10	Assessment task 3: Seminars to be scheduled this week. Speakers' notes/slides and Self & Peer assessment DUE Friday 6 May 11:45pm

Week 9 - 09 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Responding to emerging environmental health challenges	Hutchinson & Kovats (2017) Chapter 11	

Week 10 - 16 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Responding to emerging environmental health challenges	Hutchinson & Kovats (2017) Chapter 14	

Week 11 - 23 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Responding to emerging environmental health challenges		

Week 12 - 30 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Responding to emerging environmental health challenges		Discussion paper Due: Week 12 Friday (3 June 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Review/Exam Week - 06 Jun 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Exam Week - 13 Jun 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Assessment Tasks

1 Quiz 1: Sustainability and driving forces behind environmental change

Assessment Type

Online Test

Task Description

- The quiz will open on the Friday of Week 3 and remain open until 5:00pm on the Friday of Week 4.
- There is no time limit to complete the quiz and you can save your quiz and return to it later (while the quiz is available).
- You will get your final result from the quiz showing which questions you got right or wrong. This will let you know what areas you need to study/revise.
- You should choose the most correct answer.

Assessment Due Date

Week 4 Friday (1 Apr 2022) 5:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Results will be available once the quiz has closed.

Weighting

15%

Assessment Criteria

This quiz will assess the student's knowledge of the principles of sustainability and the drivers of environmental change.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Explain primary drivers of environmental change and how they interact to result in public health consequences
- Evaluate the social-ecological framework as a means to build and maintain partnerships to address environmental health issues

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Technology Competence

2 Quiz 2: Impacts of environmental change upon public health

Assessment Type

Online Test

Task Description

- The quiz will open on the Friday of Week 5 and remain open until 5:00pm on the Friday of Week 6.
- There is no time limit to complete the quiz and you can save your quiz and return to it later (while the quiz is available).
- You will get your final result from the quiz showing which questions you got right or wrong. This will let you know what areas you need to study/revise.
- You should choose the most correct answer.

Assessment Due Date

Week 6 Friday (22 Apr 2022) 5:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Results will be available once the quiz has closed.

Weighting

15%

Assessment Criteria

This quiz will test the student's knowledge of the aetiology, risk factors and emerging epidemiologic trends of environmentally transmitted diseases and conditions.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Examine the aetiology and risk factors of environmentally transmitted diseases and conditions

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Technology Competence

3 Seminar

Assessment Type

Group Discussion

Task Description

Early in the term you will be formed into groups. Each group will prepare and present a Q&A style seminar on Zoom for the rest of the class. Your topic will be a public health issue that is related to or caused by environmental change. Your seminar should:

- identify the public health issue and the complex adaptive system surrounding it
- explore the driving forces and pressures behind environmental change and how they influence your public health issue
- encourage discussion about responses to the challenges you have identified

You will need to submit your presentation slides (if used) and your speaker's notes on Moodle by Friday of Week 8.

You will also need to participate in seminars presented by other teams by attending AND preparing a question for the panel for consideration ahead of time (10% of the grade for this assessment task).

Seminars will be held at agreed times during Week 8.

Each student will also need to complete an online self and peer assessment task that is worth 20% of the overall grade for this assessment task. The SPA is due on Friday of Week 8. **Failure to participate actively as a team member will result in you achieving ZERO marks for this assessment task.**

Assessment Due Date

Agreed times during Week 8. Your Presentation Slides/speakers' notes and Self and Peer Assessment task are due Friday of Week 8 at 11:45 pm.

Return Date to Students

Week 9 Friday (13 May 2022)

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

- Knowledge of the public health issue (30%)
- Depth of response and discussion (40%)
- Team participation (self and peer assessment) (20%)
- Attendance and participation in discussion (10%)

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online Group

Submission Instructions

Participation via Zoom; submit SPA online; group submission of presentation slides/speakers' notes via Moodle.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Evaluate the social-ecological framework as a means to build and maintain partnerships to address environmental health issues
- Communicate information relating to emerging environmental health issues to a wide variety of audiences

Graduate Attributes

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

4 Discussion paper

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

This is your opportunity to investigate and theorise in depth about an issue of interest that has arisen from your research. Using the topic chosen for your seminar, write a discussion paper around a specific topic related to your selected public health challenge. Consider possible future scenarios, linkages and elements within the system and propose methods for responding to the challenge to improve or maintain public health. You should take into account learning that came out of your seminar and group discussions as well as the current evidence from the literature. You may wish to develop scenarios to illustrate the potential impact of your proposed responses.

You should prepare your paper as if for publication in a relevant journal. An exemplar will be provided on Moodle as a guide.

Word limit: 4000 words (+/- 20%)

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Friday (3 June 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Results for this assessment task will be available after Certification of Grades.

Weighting

40%

Minimum mark or grade

Students must achieve an overall composite grade equal to or greater than 50% and a score of 50% (20/40) for this assessment task in order to pass this unit.

Assessment Criteria

Relevance (30%)

- summarises relevant information from credible and reputable sources
- article is relevant to the issue under investigation
- response activities to maintain or improve public health are presented
- response activities are appropriate
- response activities are thoroughly explained
- effectiveness of the response activities is evaluated

Validity (50%)

- depth and extent of discussion
- discussion is thorough and logically presented
- accuracy of the statements and scenarios proposed

- recommendations for future activities have been based on critical thought, analysis of the evidence and synthesis of new ideas
- creativity in integrating existing evidence to propose scenarios and solutions
- depth and range of research

Organisation (10%)

- structure and flow of information
- coherence and clarity of expression (spelling, grammar, syntax)
- all sources attributed

Presentation (10%)

- style and formatting
- typographical matters (types, font, headings etc)
- referencing is consistent and in accordance with Harvard style
- length (4000 words \pm 20%)

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Predict and debate potential scenarios to respond to environmental health challenges based on current and emerging evidence
- Describe the use of Health Impact Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and social innovation in the development of sustainable public policy to support health.

Graduate Attributes

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

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