Welcome to ARTS 2243 Waste and Society. Within this course we consider the philosophical, historical, political, sociological, cultural, communication and environmental dimensions of the wastes generated by human society.

Topics include: urban environments and wastes, life cycles of materials, discourses of wastes, the social implications of waste management technologies, and the ‘colonization of the future’ by wastes.

Waste examples will include household wastes, water and sewage, nuclear materials, wastes from industry, e-waste, and the creation of ‘wastelands’ and contaminated sites.

We will explore solutions to the generation of wastes and ways to manage wastes through studying the precautionary principle, environmental justice, international waste conventions and treaties and regulatory and community responses to wastes.
Course outline content:

1. Course Staff and Contact Details
2. Course Details
3. Learning and Teaching Rationale
4. Teaching Strategies
5. Course Assessment
6. Extension of Time for Submission of Assessment Tasks
7. Attendance
8. Class Clash
9. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism
10. Course Schedule
11. Course Resources
12. Course Evaluation and Development
13. Student Support
14. Grievances
15. Other Information
# Course Outline

## 1. Course Staff and Contact Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Convenor</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor Judy Motion</td>
<td>Morven Brown 352</td>
<td>02 9385 4857</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.motion@unsw.edu.au">j.motion@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consultation Time: Wednesday 3.00 – 5.00

## 2. Course Details

**Units of Credit (UoC)** | 6

**Course Description**
Within this course we consider the relationship between consumer culture and waste from philosophical, historical, political, sociological, cultural, communication and environmental dimensions.

**Course Aims**

1. Explain the historical, social and cultural context for the production of wastes.

2. Analyze the relationship between technology and society that allows waste streams to be generated.

3. Apply selected disciplinary approaches to the understanding of waste and society; and make a trans-disciplinary synthesis; ‘a way of looking’ at wastes.

4. Apply upper level skills of critical analysis, problem solving and interpretation, inflected through imaginative and creative approaches.

5. Conduct independent research, individually and in groups, with demonstrated ability to assemble, synthesise and communicate findings and interpretations.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. An understanding of the approaches to environmental problem solving taken by the fields of history, philosophy, political science, history and philosophy of science, sociology, communication and ecology.

2. The ability to utilise a variety of research techniques in the analysis and resolution of environmental controversies.

3. Familiarity with the typical means of conducting research in both the humanities and sciences fields.

4. Experience in conducting research into an issue of environmental concern from at least one of the disciplinary approaches listed above.

5. The ability to interpret and analyse the means of communication utilised by the various different disciplines, including technical documents, lay analyses, creative and journalistic media.

6. The skills to clearly articulate a case and coherently present it both via written and oral means.

7. The capacity to critically analyse and evaluate knowledge claims in scientific and humanities fields.

8. The knowledge to contribute to analysis of environmental controversy.

**Graduate Attributes**

1. An understanding of the approaches to environmental problem solving taken by the fields of history, philosophy, political science, history and philosophy of science, sociology, communication and ecology.

2. The ability to utilise a variety of research techniques in the analysis and resolution of environmental controversies.
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Familiarity with the typical means of conducting research in both the humanities and sciences fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Experience in conducting research into an issue of environmental concern from at least one of the disciplinary approaches listed above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>The ability to interpret and analyse the means of communication utilised by the various different disciplines, including technical documents, lay analyses, creative and journalistic media.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>The capacity to effectively utilise electronic communication technologies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>The skills to clearly articulate a case and coherently present it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>The capacity to critically analyse and evaluate knowledge claims in scientific and humanities fields.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>The knowledge to contribute to analysis of environmental controversy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Understanding of historical evolution of various knowledge claims regarding the environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Skills and experience in devising work schedules and ability to meet tight deadlines.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>A high degree of competency to work collaboratively.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>The skills and knowledge required to interpret and evaluate issues in circumstances of conflicting viewpoints.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>The skills and knowledge required to interpret and evaluate issues in circumstances of conflicting viewpoints.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Learning and Teaching Rationale

If it is left 'taken for granted', waste seems like a normal part of human society. But if its impacts, both social and environmental, are confronted head on, waste is both mystifying and appalling. This course is designed to challenge students with the impacts of waste in order to shift towards an imaginative search for solutions.

Assessment will take a variety of forms, including both conventional formats like an essay and a report, and a more creative ‘visioning exercise’ in which students will be asked to work in groups to combine disciplinary perspectives, personal reflections and their own imagination to contribute to a vision of a society much more in control of waste. This exercise can be approached in a variety of different ways. Through this assessment item we will aim to move beyond the here and now of practical waste issues, to a re-formulation of human values underpinning a different future.

There is a major challenge for students in this course: you will need to keep thinking through the themes that arise in all elements of the course, and keep asking yourselves 'what does all this mean?' In other words, you will be challenged to adopt a reflective and interpretative approach to this waste.

4. Teaching Strategies

This will be a blended and open learning environment with students exposed to a variety of teaching methods and conceptual approaches. Students are encouraged to discuss the many issues raised in a respectful and trusting environment: where everyone is listened to and their opinion acknowledged.

5. Course Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes Assessed</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>35 %</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>1-11, 12-14</td>
<td>15 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group presentation</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>1-14</td>
<td>Weeks 11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project report</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>45 %</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>1-14</td>
<td>3 June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment one: Essay (2000 words maximum, weighting – 35%)

Essay topics will challenge you to consider the course concepts and themes. You are encouraged to use examples and may concentrate on a particular industry and analyse its production and management of waste. This is an individual assessment – your essay should be a maximum of 2000 words and it is due 15 April. Please submit your essay electronically via turnitin - moodle – the deadline for electronic submission is 4 pm. Your essay will be graded electronically. Choose one essay topic from the list below.

Essay topics:
1. What issues relating to waste production and management should we be concerned about and why?
2. Compare and contrast cultural approaches and theories of practice by applying them to a specific industry.
3. Critique the notion of a throwaway society.
Assessment two: Waste Futures - Group project presentation (20 minutes, weighting 20 %)
The overall purpose of this assessment is to explore possible waste futures. Working in
groups you are expected to present in week eleven or twelve. This presentation will be built
around a creative project that engages with a ‘waste stream’ of your choice. Further details of
the assessments will be provided in the first tutorial, including a list of possible topics.

Assessment three: Individual research report (2000 words, weighting 45 %)
This assessment will build upon the research you have undertaken as a group in assessment
two. Working individually, you are expected to go beyond a simple description of waste, to
explore how a particular kind of waste is valued and managed, how it impacts upon people
and the environment, how you are positioned in relation to this waste, as well as what may
be done about it. Due 3 June.

ATTENDANCE

Please Note: The Arts and Social Sciences Protocols and Guidelines state:

A student who attends less than 80% of the classes/activities and has not submitted
appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain their absence may
be awarded a grade of UF (Unsatisfactory Fail).

The Attendance Guidelines can be found in full at:
https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/Protocols-Guidelines/

Grades

All results are reviewed at the end of each semester and may be adjusted to ensure
equitable marking across the School.

The proportion of marks lying in each grading range is determined not by any formula or
quota system, but by the way that students respond to assessment tasks and how well they
meet the objectives of the course. Nevertheless, since higher grades imply performance that
is well above average, the number of distinctions and high distinctions awarded in a typical
course is relatively small. At the other extreme, on average 6.1% of students do not meet
minimum standards and a little more (8.6%) in first year courses. For more information on the
grading categories see: https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assignments which are submitted to the School Assignment Box must have a properly
completed School Assessment Coversheet, with the declaration signed and dated by hand.
The Coversheet can be downloaded from
https://hal.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/. It is your responsibility to
make a backup copy of the assignment prior to submission and retain it.

Assignments must be submitted before 4:00pm on the due date. Assignments received after
this time will be marked as having been received late.
Late Submission of Assignments

The Arts and Social Sciences late submissions guidelines state the following:

- An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).
- The late penalty is the **loss of 3%** of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late.
- Work submitted 14 days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.
- Work submitted 21 days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

The Late Submissions Guidelines can be found in full at: [https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/Protocols-Guidelines/](https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/Protocols-Guidelines/)

The penalty may not apply where students are able to provide documentary evidence of illness or serious misadventure. Time pressure resulting from undertaking assignments for other courses does not constitute an acceptable excuse for lateness.

6. Extension of Time for Submission of Assessment Tasks

The Arts and Social Sciences Extension Guidelines apply to all assessed tasks regardless of whether or not a grade is awarded, except the following:

1. any form of test/examination/assessed activity undertaken during regular class contact hours
2. any task specifically identified by the Course Authority (the academic in charge of the course) in the Course Outline or Learning Management System (LMS), for example, Moodle, as not available for extension requests.

A student who missed an assessment activity held within class contact hours should apply for Special Consideration via myUNSW.

The Arts and Social Sciences Extension Guidelines state the following:

- A student seeking an extension should apply through the Faculty’s online extension tool available in LMS.
- A request for an extension should be submitted before the due time/date for the assessment task.
- The Course Authority should respond to the request within two working days of the request.
- The Course Authority can only approve an extension up to five days. A student requesting an extension greater than five days should complete an application for Special Consideration.
- The Course Authority advises their decision through the online extension tool.
• If a student is granted an extension, failure to comply will result in a penalty. The penalty will be invoked one minute past the approved extension time.

7. Attendance

The Arts and Social Sciences Attendance Guidelines state the following:

• A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

• If a student is unable to attend all classes for a course due to timetable clashes, the student must complete the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Permitted Timetable Clash form (see information at Item 8 below). A student unable to attend lectures in a course conducted by the School of Education can apply for “Permission to Participate in Lectures Online”.

• Where practical, a student’s attendance will be recorded. Individual course outlines/LMS will set out the conditions under which attendance will be measured.

• A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

• If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

• Reserve members of the Australian Defence Force who require absences of more than two weeks due to full-time service may be provided an exemption. The student may also be permitted to discontinue enrolment without academic or financial penalty.

• If a Course Authority rejects a student’s request for absence from a class or activity the student must be advised in writing of the grounds for the rejection.

• A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance.

• A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course’s learning outcomes and/or volume of learning.

• A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

• The Dean will only grant such a request after consultation with the Course Authority to ensure that measures can be organised that will allow the student to meet the course’s learning outcomes and volume of learning.

• A student who attends less than 80% of the classes/activities and has not submitted appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain their absence may be awarded a final grade of UF (Unsatisfactory Fail).

• A student who has submitted the appropriate documentation but attends less than 66% of the classes/activities will be asked by the Course Authority to apply to discontinue the course without failure rather than be awarded a final grade of UF. The final decision as to whether a student can be withdrawn without fail is made by Student Administration and Records.
Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the Student Misconduct Policy.

8. Class Clash

Students who are enrolled in an Arts and Social Sciences program (single or dual) and have an unavoidable timetable clash can apply for permissible timetable clash by completing an online application form. Students must meet the rules and conditions in order to apply for permissible clash. The rules and conditions can be accessed online in full at: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/FASSFile/Permissible_Clash_Policy.pdf

For students who are enrolled in a non-Arts and Social Sciences program, they must seek advice from their home faculty on permissible clash approval.

9. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism.

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However, more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student’s work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an Honours thesis) or even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here: http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf
## 10. Course Schedule

*To view course timetable, please visit: [http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/](http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Commencing</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecture Content</th>
<th>Tutorial content and readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>What is waste?</td>
<td>Waste Introduction and course overview</td>
<td>No tutorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Issues of consumption</td>
<td>Consumption and the cultural turn Theories of practice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Culture vs. practice</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Household waste</td>
<td>The politics of food waste and everyday practices</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Food waste practices</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>Urban water</td>
<td>Recycled water Public and private waste</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Beyond acceptance</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>Fashion waste</td>
<td>University of New South Wales.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Industry practices and consumer values</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-semester break 3-12 April</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Issues of cultural exploitation</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>University waste- UNSW and beyond</td>
<td>Sustainable e-waste treatment in emerging economies. Waste Management, 32(11), 2134-2146. <strong>ASSIGNMENT ONE DUE 15 APRIL</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>Waste futures laboratory</td>
<td>Waste futures Laboratory</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT TWO DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 May</td>
<td>Waste futures laboratory</td>
<td>Waste futures Laboratory</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT TWO DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>No lecture</td>
<td>Waste futures Laboratory</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 11. Course Resources

**Journals**

- Public Understanding of Science
- Science; Technology and Human Values
- Environment and Planning A: Waste Management
- Sociology
- The Sociological Review

**Additional Readings**


**Websites**


### 12. Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students’ feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW’s Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

### 13. Student Support

The Learning Centre is available for individual consultation and workshops on academic skills. Find out more by visiting the Centre’s website at: [http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au)

### 14. Grievances

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should, in the first instance, attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors.

If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and Languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints](https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints)

### 15. Other Information

**myUNSW**

myUNSW is the online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing and current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links: [https://my.unsw.edu.au](https://my.unsw.edu.au)

**OHS**

UNSW’s Occupational Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For all
matters relating to Occupational Health, Safety and environment, see https://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/

**Special Consideration**

In cases where illness or other circumstances produce repeated or sustained absence, students should apply for Special Consideration as soon as possible.

The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration.

Applications on the grounds of illness must be filled in by a medical practitioner. Further information is available at: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

**Student Equity and Disabilities Unit**

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at: http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au/

Issues that can be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.