

# EART 3006 SCIENCE OF THE ANTHROPOCENE

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 301212

**Coordinator** Jason Reynolds ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Jason Reynolds/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Jason%20Reynolds/))

**Description** The subject explores how the earth has been irreversibly altered through human activities. Topics include the composition of the ocean, land, and atmosphere, and the impacts humans have had on these systems. The subject looks at the detection and control of modern pollutants with a focus on field sampling and modelling of selected environmental systems. These topics will be brought to life in a two-day field trip to sites of significant anthropogenic impact.

**School** Science

**Discipline** Geochemistry

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 2 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 3 subject

**Equivalent Subjects** EART 3002 Environmental Geochemistry  
EART 3003 Environmental Geochemistry

**Restrictions**

Successful completion of 120 credit points

**Assumed Knowledge**

A basic understanding of scientific enquiry including the periodic table, equilibria, and pH. Introductory statistics including mean, standard deviation, and distributions.

## Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe the chemistry of the surface of the Earth, and how it is modified by human activity.
2. Construct and detail the geochemical cycles of various elements
3. Studying the effects of equilibrium for acidity and alkalinity
4. Explain current environmental issues with a focus on the anthropocene
5. Discuss environmental quality criteria in terms of their significance and monitoring, remediation, and rehabilitation of various human-impacted environments.
6. Develop skills used to monitor environmental materials, including the design, construction, testing, and evaluation of a pollutant removal device.
7. Synthesise information on the impacts of the anthropocene for presentation to peers and an academic audience.

## Subject Content

The formation of the solar system and Earth  
The geological principles relating to elemental mobility  
The impacts of humans cycling of elements  
The artefacts of the Anthropocene on Earth  
Current environmental issues and remediation

Field visits to sites having significant anthropogenic impact  
The design and testing of devices to remove anthropogenic pollutants

## 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.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Report	4 x 10%	40	N	Individual	N
Presentation	1 x 10 minutes	20	N	Individual	N
Practical	1x10 minutes	20	N	Group	N
Essay	2,000 words	20	N	Individual	N

Prescribed Texts

- Ellis, E. (2018) Anthropocene A Very Short Introduction. Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0198792987

Teaching Periods

## Spring (2025)

### Hawkesbury

**On-site**

**Subject Contact** Jason Reynolds ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Jason Reynolds/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Jason%20Reynolds/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=EART3006\\_25-SPR\\_HW\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=EART3006_25-SPR_HW_1#subjects))