



POIR611

Australian Politics in Global Context

S1 External 2015

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and Lecturer

Lloyd Cox

lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au

Contact via By email

W6A Room 423

Tuesday 10-12

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to GradCertPP or GradCertIntRel

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides an introduction to Australian politics, and examines the key political institutions, ideas and interests which are important in contemporary Australia. The unit considers the state of Australia's democracy, reflecting critically on the role of key institutions such as the Constitution, the High Court, Parliament, and Federalism. It explores the role of political parties in politics and policy, and considers the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant political ideologies in contemporary Australian debates. The unit also explores the way in which Australian institutions and actors have been affected by globalisation, and examines a range of topical case studies in contemporary politics and policy.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

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

Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy

Explain the role of key political institutions and actors in shaping and protecting democracy in the Australian context

Understand and critically evaluate the relationship between political ideologies and public policy in Australian society

Identify and articulate a range of views within a contemporary policy debate, in verbal and written format

Research a policy problem related to the Australian political system or contemporary Australian society and formulate appropriate and persuasive policy recommendations

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Essay One</u>	20%	Friday, 27/03/2015
<u>Essay Two</u>	30%	Friday, 8/05/2015
<u>Discussion Board participation</u>	10%	All year
<u>Final Exam</u>	40%	8/06/2015

Essay One

Due: **Friday, 27/03/2015**

Weighting: **20%**

In this first essay, students will have an opportunity to explore one of the key Australian political institutions that we deal with in the early weeks of the unit. Essays should be submitted via the Center for Outside Education (COE). The essay topics will be put on ilearn in the first week of the unit. Late submissions without an extension will be penalised 1 mark out of 20 for each late day.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy
- Explain the role of key political institutions and actors in shaping and protecting democracy in the Australian context
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- Research a policy problem related to the Australian political system or contemporary Australian society and formulate appropriate and persuasive policy recommendations

Essay Two

Due: **Friday, 8/05/2015**

Weighting: **30%**

The main essay will be 2000 words +/- 10%. with topics to be distributed in week two of the unit. Essays should be submitted via the Center for Outside Education (COE). Late submissions without an extension will be penalised 1.5 marks out of 30 for each late day.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy
- Explain the role of key political institutions and actors in shaping and protecting democracy in the Australian context
- Understand and critically evaluate the relationship between political ideologies and public policy in Australian society
- Identify and articulate a range of views within a contemporary policy debate, in verbal and written format
- Research a policy problem related to the Australian political system or contemporary Australian society and formulate appropriate and persuasive policy recommendations

Discussion Board participation

Due: **All year**

Weighting: **10%**

The marks are for the regularity and quality of students' contributions to the discussion board topics, which can be found on ilearn, and which follow the structure of the readings and the overall unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Final Exam

Due: **8/06/2015**

Weighting: **40%**

The final, take home exam for external students will be put on ilearn by 11.00am on Friday, 5 June. It will be composed of four short essay-type tasks of around 600 words each, drawn from material across the entire unit. These works should be referenced in the usual way. Students should submit their finished work direct to my email - lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au The exam should be sent as one file, not four. This file should be labelled with your name and POL 101 final exam.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy
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Delivery and Resources

Australian Politics in Global Context

Welcome to POL 101, Australian Politics in Global Context. Australian politics has undergone rapid change over the past three decades. The relative stability of the post-war era has given way to a political and social landscape of accelerated transformation. Previously taken-for-granted values are challenged, once stable institutions are destabilised, and the very idea of an Australian political community (what it is, who it encompasses, and the future directions it should take) is the subject of fierce controversy. These political tremors have been expressed most acutely in the rise of and subsequent challenges to multiculturalism, and in the neo-liberal restructuring of key Australian institutions, with an attendant growth of inequality.

In this course, we introduce Australian politics through the lens of debates about globalization and its consequences for state capacities, sovereignty and decision-making. In so doing, we examine key political institutions, ideologies and contemporary issues. We explore the ways in which they have been affected by, and have also filtered the effects of, accelerated globalization. Amongst other questions, we ask: what is globalization and how, if at all, has it blurred the boundaries between 'domestic' and 'foreign' policy issues; what is the nature of Australia's key political institutions, and do they ensure a high degree of democratic participation and accountability in a global era; what are the strengths and weaknesses of the main political ideas that inform public debate in this country, and how are they expressed in political struggle between the main parties?

In trying to answer these questions, we will follow readings from the prescribed text book quite closely. Hence it is essential for all students to purchase a copy from the university bookshop:

Narelle Miragliotta, Wayne Errington and Nicholas Barry (2013) *The Australian Political System in Action (2nd edn.)* South Melbourne: Oxford University Press.

To do well in this unit it is imperative that students listen to all lectures and contribute to group discussions on iLearn. You will enjoy the unit much more if you do. Beyond the prescribed text, I will also be recommending additional supplementary readings as we go. Students will also find the following resources useful:

Useful General Texts and Background Reading on Australian Politics

Aulich, C. & Wettenhall, R. (eds.) (2005) *Howard's Second and Third Term Governments*. Sydney: UNSW Press.

Frankel, B. (2004) *Zombies, Lilliputians and Sadists: The Power of the Living Dead and the Future of Australia*. Fremantle: Curtin University Press.

Hirst, J. (2002) *Australia's Democracy: A Short History*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin.

Irving, H. (2004) *Five Things to Know About the Constitution*. Melbourne: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 92-107.

Maddox, G. (2005) *Australian Democracy in Theory and Practice, 5th edn.* Melbourne: Longman.

Parkin, A., Summers, J. & Woodward, D. (eds.) (2006) *Government, Politics, Power and Policy in Australia 8th edn.* Frenchs Forest, NSW: Pearson Education Australia.

Singleton, G. (ed.) (2000) *The Howard Government: Australian Commonwealth Administration 1996-1998*. Sydney: UNSW Press.

Singleton, G., Aitkin, D., Jinks, B. & Warhurst, J. (2006) *Australian Political Institutions, 8th edn.* Melbourne: Longman.

Smith, R. (2001) *Australian Political Culture*. Melbourne: Longman.

Vromen, A. & Gelber, K. (2005) *Powerscape: Contemporary Australian Political Practice*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin.

Young, S. (2004) *The Persuaders: Inside the Hidden Machine of Political Advertising*. Melbourne: Pluto Press Australia.

USEFUL JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES

Arena

Australian Journal of Political Science

Australian Journal of Politics and History

Australian Journal of Political Economy

Australian Journal of Public Administration

Australian Journal of Social Issues

[Australian]Journal of Sociology

AQ: Journal of Contemporary Analysis

Griffith Review

Journal of Political Ideologies

The Monthly: Australian Politics, Society and Culture

Thesis Eleven

USEFUL WEBSITES

Macquarie University's Politics subject site:

<http://www.lib.mq.edu/resources/subject/politics>

The Commonwealth parliamentary Library:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/index.htm>

The National Library of Australia:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/gov/>

Elections data base website at the University of Western Australia:

<http://elections.uwa.edu.au>

NSW government website:

<http://www.nsw.gov.au/government.asp>

Australian Bureau of Statistics:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/>

ABC Online:

<http://www.abc.net.au>

Australian Policy Online:

<http://www.apo.org.au/index.shtml>

Australian Review of Public Affairs:

<http://australianreview.net>

Online Opinion

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au>

New Matilda Magazine

www.newmatilda.com/home/default.asp

The Whitlam Institute

<http://www.whitlam.org/about>

The Australia Institute

www.tai.org.au/

The Centre for Independent Studies

<http://cis.org.au/>

The Green Left Weekly

<http://www.greenleft.org.au/>

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture Dates	Lecture Topics	Tutorial Topics
1	Feb 24 Feb 26	Introduction: Australian Politics and Globalization Democracy and Inequality in Australia	No Tutorial
2	March 3 March 5	The Australian Constitution The Constitution and the "Dismissal"	Was the Dismissal Constitutional?
3	March 10 March 12	Australian Federalism Reforming Federalism: How and Why?	Federalism versus Centralism?

4	March 17 March 19	The Legislature Whose Laws? Social Class and Political Lobbying	Can laws and decisions be bought?
5	March 24 March 26	The Executive, Secrecy and Refugees In Class Test (must attend)	The Executive and Australia's refugee policy
6	March 31 April 2	The Public Service The Public Service and Economic Rationalism	Who does the Public Service serve?
7	April 21 April 23	The High Court The High Court and Aboriginal Land Rights	Mabo, Wik and the High Court
8	April 28 April 30	The Electoral System No Place for Amateurs: The Professionalization of Australian Politics	Professionalization and "dumbing down" in Australian Politics
9	May 5 May 7	Reading/Writing Week, no lecture Reading/Writing Week, no lecture	Tutors available for consultation on essays, due on 8 May
10	May 12 May 14	The Australian Labor Party (History) The Australian Labor Party (Today)	Is the ALP still a labour/workers party?
11	May 19 May 21	The Liberal Party (History) The Liberal Party (Today)	Is the modern Liberal Party a "liberal" party?
12	May 26 May 28	The Greens and the Environment Radical Political Movements	Can the environment flourish in a capitalist world?
13	June 2 June 4	Australia, US, Asia: Along the Domestic/Foreign Divide Conclusion and preparation for exam (must attend)	Globalization and Australian Politics

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy
- Explain the role of key political institutions and actors in shaping and protecting democracy in the Australian context
- Understand and critically evaluate the relationship between political ideologies and public policy in Australian society
- Identify and articulate a range of views within a contemporary policy debate, in verbal and written format
- Research a policy problem related to the Australian political system or contemporary Australian society and formulate appropriate and persuasive policy recommendations

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Research a policy problem related to the Australian political system or contemporary Australian society and formulate appropriate and persuasive policy recommendations

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Research a policy problem related to the Australian political system or contemporary Australian society and formulate appropriate and persuasive policy recommendations

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy
- Explain the role of key political institutions and actors in shaping and protecting democracy in the Australian context
- Understand and critically evaluate the relationship between political ideologies and public policy in Australian society
- Identify and articulate a range of views within a contemporary policy debate, in verbal and written format
- Research a policy problem related to the Australian political system or contemporary Australian society and formulate appropriate and persuasive policy recommendations

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy
- Explain the role of key political institutions and actors in shaping and protecting democracy in the Australian context

- Understand and critically evaluate the relationship between political ideologies and public policy in Australian society
- Identify and articulate a range of views within a contemporary policy debate, in verbal and written format
- Research a policy problem related to the Australian political system or contemporary Australian society and formulate appropriate and persuasive policy recommendations

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy
- Explain the role of key political institutions and actors in shaping and protecting democracy in the Australian context
- Understand and critically evaluate the relationship between political ideologies and public policy in Australian society
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- Research a policy problem related to the Australian political system or contemporary Australian society and formulate appropriate and persuasive policy recommendations

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy
- Explain the role of key political institutions and actors in shaping and protecting

democracy in the Australian context

- Understand and critically evaluate the relationship between political ideologies and public policy in Australian society
- Identify and articulate a range of views within a contemporary policy debate, in verbal and written format
- Research a policy problem related to the Australian political system or contemporary Australian society and formulate appropriate and persuasive policy recommendations

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy
- Explain the role of key political institutions and actors in shaping and protecting democracy in the Australian context
- Understand and critically evaluate the relationship between political ideologies and public policy in Australian society
- Identify and articulate a range of views within a contemporary policy debate, in verbal and written format
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Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Critically analyse contemporary Australian politics and identify the institutions, ideas and interests which are most influential in shaping public policy

- Explain the role of key political institutions and actors in shaping and protecting democracy in the Australian context
- Understand and critically evaluate the relationship between political ideologies and public policy in Australian society
- Identify and articulate a range of views within a contemporary policy debate, in verbal and written format
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Changes since First Published

Date	Description
19/02/2015	The unit outcomes have been changed from the previous guide, as have the assessments, because the students are doing this version of the unit as part of a post-graduate certificate rather than as first year students