



POIR901

Research Methods in Politics and International Relations

S1 External 2016

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Senior Lecturer

Ian Tregenza

ian.tregenza@mq.edu.au

Contact via 9850 8808

W6A429

TBA

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MPPP or MIntRel or MPICTMIntSecSt or MPICT or MIntSecStud or GradDipIntSecStud or MIntPubDip or MIntCommMIntRel or MIntBusMIntRel or MTransInterMIntRel

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines general aspects of academic research including purpose/aims, questions and 'problems', organisation and design, the philosophy of science and associated debates, as well as specific methods and materials applied to pursue a research project including archives, interviews, surveys, quantitative, and discourse analysis.

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:

an understanding of aims and philosophical considerations underpinning academic research

knowledge of some different methods/methodologies in Politics and International Relations and related assumptions

practical experience in designing a research proposal

knowledge of concepts and terminologies applied in politics and International Relations

research

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Quantitative Methods task	20%	April 4
Research project proposal	40%	Week 12
Presentations	10%	Continuous
end of semester test	30%	Week 13

Quantitative Methods task

Due: **April 4**

Weighting: **20%**

Translation of statistical information into explanatory text. Length 1000 words. Instructions to be supplied in week 3.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- an understanding of aims and philosophical considerations underpinning academic research
- knowledge of some different methods/methodologies in Politics and International Relations and related assumptions

Research project proposal

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **40%**

This assessment task presumes that all enrolled students are intending to progress on to undertake a major research project or are currently doing so. The task entails writing up a detailed, professional research proposal of 6 to 8 pages. Write concisely and with clarity. The individual items include:

- The identification of a problem and/or a central research question that the project will pursue
- Aims (what the project strives to discover/establish/refute) contextualized against a background
- The method/s to be used and justification why it/they are appropriate
- Organization of the project (e.g. what will be done where, chapter outline, etc)
- Review of relevant literature and identification of a lacuna that your project will fill – originality aspect

-Logistical and/or budgetary issues (e.g. travel requirements, special equipment, translation costs)

-A schedule/plan

-A bibliography of works cited

On successful completion you will be able to:

- an understanding of aims and philosophical considerations underpinning academic research
- knowledge of some different methods/methodologies in Politics and International Relations and related assumptions
- practical experience in designing a research proposal
- knowledge of concepts and terminologies applied in politics and International Relations research

Presentations

Due: **Continuous**

Weighting: **10%**

Each **internal student** will be expected to give a presentation of the weekly readings and lead the class discussion. Topics will be allocated in the first tutorial (in week 1). In place of this **external students** are to choose one of the non-textbook readings from the unit schedule and write a 700-800 word critical summary. Due: Friday June 3.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- knowledge of concepts and terminologies applied in politics and International Relations research

end of semester test

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **30%**

A test of themes and material across the entire unit. The format may incorporate short answers, micro-essays or multiple choice responses and will be conducted in the seminar time. External students will have a take home exam to be sent in week 13.

Further details to be announced.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- an understanding of aims and philosophical considerations underpinning academic research

- knowledge of some different methods/methodologies in Politics and International Relations and related assumptions
- knowledge of concepts and terminologies applied in politics and International Relations research

Delivery and Resources

Lectures will be delivered employing power point and other technology (including audio via Echo) as required. Power point slides will be placed on the unit iLearn site thereafter. Lectures are on Monday 3-4pm in W5C301 followed by the seminar in W5C302 4-6pm.

The textbook for the unit is Gerry Stoker and David Marsh (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science* (Palgrave, 2010, 3rd edition). Copies are available in the co-op bookshop. We will use this text most weeks and other readings will be made available through e-reserve.

Unit Schedule

Lectures and seminars begin on 29 February.

A unit schedule with weekly topics and readings will be made available on ilearn.

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

New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016 http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html. For more information visit http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and

decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- an understanding of aims and philosophical considerations underpinning academic research
- practical experience in designing a research proposal

Assessment tasks

- Research project proposal
- end of semester test

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- an understanding of aims and philosophical considerations underpinning academic research
- knowledge of some different methods/methodologies in Politics and International Relations and related assumptions
- practical experience in designing a research proposal
- knowledge of concepts and terminologies applied in politics and International Relations research

Assessment tasks

- Quantitative Methods task
- Research project proposal
- Presentations
- end of semester test

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- an understanding of aims and philosophical considerations underpinning academic research
- knowledge of some different methods/methodologies in Politics and International Relations and related assumptions
- practical experience in designing a research proposal
- knowledge of concepts and terminologies applied in politics and International Relations research

Assessment tasks

- Quantitative Methods task
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- Presentations
- end of semester test

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- an understanding of aims and philosophical considerations underpinning academic research
- knowledge of some different methods/methodologies in Politics and International Relations and related assumptions
- practical experience in designing a research proposal

Assessment tasks

- Research project proposal
- end of semester test

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- an understanding of aims and philosophical considerations underpinning academic research
- knowledge of some different methods/methodologies in Politics and International Relations and related assumptions
- practical experience in designing a research proposal
- knowledge of concepts and terminologies applied in politics and International Relations research

Assessment tasks

- Quantitative Methods task
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- Presentations
- end of semester test

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- an understanding of aims and philosophical considerations underpinning academic research

Assessment tasks

- Research project proposal
- end of semester test

Main text and other information

Main Text (available in the Co-op bookshop):

David Marsh and Gerry Stoker (eds.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science* (Palgrave, 2010. 3rd edition)

Other readings will be placed on e-reserve.