



IRPG851

International Relations Special Project B

S2 External 2016

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Lavina Lee

lavina.lee@mq.edu.au

Contact via lavina.lee@mq.edu.au or 02 9850 8872

W6A 431

Thursday 10-11 am

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

16cp in IRPG units and GPA of 3.5 (out of 4.0) and permission of Executive Dean of Faculty

Corequisites

IRPG850

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit, together with IRPG850, requires the completion of a dissertation of approximately 15,000 words. The research topic is chosen by the student but must be approved by the convenor as suitable for an MIR dissertation and for which supervision is available. The unit cannot be undertaken until at least four units in the MIR program have been completed, and entry is conditional on the achievement of a High Credit or Distinction average in these units. Applications for enrolment are made through the MIR office and are assessed individually.

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:

Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character

Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument

Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing

General Assessment Information

Note that this unit is 'twinned' with IRPG 850 and that the two units, valued at 4cp each, are taken in sequence across a two-semester period, giving an equivalence to IRPG846 (8cp). The twinned units are suitable for those unable to take the 8cp unit within a single semester.

Successful completion of the first of the units in the sequence (whether IRPG850 or IRPG851) results in a "K" for "Continuing" grade, and the final assessment comes with the completion of the second unit.

The assessment criteria and learning outcomes shown in this source are identical to those for IRPG846 but must be read as applying within the context of the explanation here of the linked units.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Dissertation	100%	15 November 2016
Supervision	0%	weeks 1-13
Participation	0%	not applicable

Dissertation

Due: **15 November 2016**

Weighting: **100%**

A thesis of approximately 15 000 words (excluding footnotes) showing a capacity to frame an important question in international relations, to produce an extended answer to this question based on sound evidence and argumentation, and demonstrating an ability to cast a relevant research strategy to achieve a timely outcome. Dissertations submitted with a word count greater 10% over the word limit will be subject to a grade penalty.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
- Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing

Supervision

Due: **weeks 1-13**

Weighting: **0%**

Participation as needed in meetings with supervisor(s) whether in person, by phone or online. No specific marks are allocated but this is required for final completion and grading.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
- Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing

Participation

Due: **not applicable**

Weighting: **0%**

Candidates may be required to attend seminars or other events related to their research if agreed with the supervisor as necessary; the idea is to extend the research experience in suitable cases.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character

Delivery and Resources

The Department will assist with the choice of supervisor at an early stage, before semester begins in most cases, and candidates will be advised of any special requirements relating to their thesis.

The final thesis must be submitted online on the unit's ilearn site using the turnitin link provided there by 5pm on the due date.

Unit Schedule

A series of meetings will be agreed between supervisor and candidate and attendance at work in progress seminars and possibly other occasions for learning may also be agreed.

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.a>

[u/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html](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.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism has become an increasing problem in universities. The convenor of this course finds plagiarism in all its forms offensive and will pursue any plagiarism committed by students in this course and will apply appropriate penalties. Plagiarism is essentially a form of cheating, which provides those students with an unfair advantage to the rest of the student body, and devalues the MIR degree. The Department and the Faculty take plagiarism very seriously, with penalties escalating from mark deductions, zero grades for particular assignments, zero grades for the course as a whole, and in serious cases, expulsion from the degree and the university.

Both the research essay and final examination paper will be automatically screened through Turnitin (anti-plagiarism software).

Extensions

Any student seeking an extension of time to submit their research paper must, except in extraordinary circumstances, submit to the Convenor (or have submitted on their behalf) a request in writing and supportive documentary evidence prior to the due date. Extensions will not be given other than in exceptional cases of illness. In such cases, a certificate signed by a medical practitioner must be submitted as supportive documentary evidence.

In extraordinary circumstances where a written request for an extension cannot be submitted, an application for an extension can be sought verbally. However, in such cases, any extension granted will be subject to the student subsequently submitting such documentary evidence as is deemed appropriate by the Convenor. If an extension is sought due to the death of a family member, proof must be provided in the form of a death certificate.

Extensions beyond one week are subject to special consideration. The policy for this is detailed under Policy and Procedures under 'Disruption to Studies Policy'.

Whilst we do understand that many or most students support themselves through paid

employment, extensions cannot be granted on this basis alone. Students must manage their time and workloads accordingly. Essay topics will be given to students by the second week of semester leaving ample time for essay preparation. Meeting deadlines for assignments is an important skill, and is expected in most jobs. Accordingly, the penalties for late submission are high.

Penalties for Late Submission

Any research paper that is submitted after the due date and without having obtained an extension will be penalised at a rate of 3% per day. For example:

- a 9% penalty will be applied to an assignment that is 3 days late. If the paper receives an original mark of 70/100, after a 9% penalty is applied, the final mark for the essay would be 64/100

Any paper that is submitted 10 days after the due date will not be marked and the student submitting such a paper will be deemed not to have completed and submitted the paper.

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

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
- Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing

Assessment tasks

- Dissertation
- Supervision
- Participation

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 outcome

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character

Assessment task

- Dissertation

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

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument

Assessment task

- Dissertation

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

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
- Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing

Assessment task

- Dissertation

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

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument

Assessment tasks

- Dissertation
- Supervision
- Participation

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 outcomes

- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
- Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing

Assessment tasks

- Dissertation
- Supervision
- Participation

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
01/08/2016	There is one student in this course. Their supervisor had told them that the final dissertation is due on 15 November, but did not inform me. So that the student is not disadvantaged I have changed the due date for the dissertation to 15 November.