



# POIR611

## Australian Politics in Global Context

S1 External 2016

*Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and Lecturer

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Convenor and Lecturer

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TBA

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to GradCertPP or GradCertIntRel

Corequisites

Co-badged status

POIR 611

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:

A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context

A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them

Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australian political scene

Development of an analytical vocabulary for better appreciating some of the more pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<a href="#"><u>First Essay</u></a>	20%	Friday, 1 April
<a href="#"><u>Main essay</u></a>	40%	Friday, 6 May
<a href="#"><u>Discussion board participation</u></a>	10%	All year
<a href="#"><u>Open book, at home exam</u></a>	30%	Monday, 13/06/2016

### First Essay

Due: **Friday, 1 April**

Weighting: **20%**

This first essay will be based on topics covered in the first four weeks of the unit. These topics will be posted on iLearn in the first week of semester. Students should submit their essay in electronic form to [lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au](mailto:lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au), by 5.00 pm on Friday, 1 April. The file should be labelled with your family name, essay one, and your name must also be on the essay as it will be printed out.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them

## Main essay

Due: **Friday, 6 May**

Weighting: **40%**

The main essay will be 2000 words +/- 10%, with essay topics to be put on ilearn in week two of the unit. Late submissions without an extension will be penalised 1 mark out of 40, for each late day. Essays without an extension beyond two weeks late will not be accepted. Students should submit their essay in electronic form to [lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au](mailto:lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au), by the close of 5.00 pm on Friday, 6 May. The file should be labelled with your family name, essay two, and your name must also be on the essay as it will be printed out.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
- Development of an analytical vocabulary for better appreciating some of the more pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

## Discussion board participation

Due: **All year**

Weighting: **10%**

These marks are for "participating" on the ilearn discussion board. Students should make regular, weekly contributions. Grades will be assigned based on the regularity and quality of your contributions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
- Development of an analytical vocabulary for better appreciating some of the more pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

## Open book, at home exam

Due: **Monday, 13/06/2016**

Weighting: **30%**

This open book, at home exam will consist of 3 short, 800 word essays, with usual referencing conventions applying (i.e., provide references). The topics will be placed on ilearn on Friday, 10 June at midday, and students will be required to submit their completed work by 5.00 pm on Monday, 13 June. Students should submit their work in electronic form to [lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au](mailto:lloyd.cox@mq.edu.au). All three essay should be on one file, which should be labelled with your family name, final exam, and your name must also be on the essays.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context

## 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 provide a number of weekly readings that will be available on ilearn. To get the best out of this unit it is essential that students read, think carefully about what they are reading, and discuss their thoughts on the ilearn discussion board.

To do well in this unit it is imperative that students listen to all lectures and make regular contributions to the discussion board. You will enjoy the unit much more if you do.

## 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, 5<sup>th</sup> edn*. Melbourne: Longman.

Parkin, A., Summers, J. & Woodward, D. (eds.) (2006) *Government, Politics, Power and Policy in Australia 8<sup>th</sup> 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, 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.newmatilda.com/home/default/.asp)

The Whitlam Institute

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

The Australia Institute

[www.tai.org.au/](http://www.tai.org.au/)

The Centre for Independent Studies

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

The Green Left Weekly

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

## Unit Schedule

### Lecture and Tutorial Outline

Week	Lecture Dates	Lecture Topics	Tutorial Topics
1	March 4, A March 4, B	Introduction: Australian Politics and Globalization Democracy and Inequality in Australia	No Tutorial
2	March 11, A March 11, B	The Australian Constitution The Constitution and the "Dismissal"	Was the Dismissal Constitutional? Whose class interests were served?



3	March 18, A March 18, B	Australian Federalism Reforming Federalism: How and Why?	Federalism versus Centralism?
4	March 25	Easter Friday, no lecture	Easter Friday, no tutorials
5	April 1, A April 1, B	The Legislature Whose Laws? Social Class and Political Lobbying	Can laws and decisions be bought?
6	April 8, A April 8, B	The modern Executive The modern Executive, Secrecy and Refugees	Cabinet confidentiality. Whose Secrets?
7	April 29, A April 29, B	The High Court The High Court and Aboriginal Land Rights	Mabo, Wik and the High Court.
8	April 28 April 30	Social Democracy and the ALP: Flickering Light on the Hill Finally Extinguished?	The High Court
9	May 5 May 7	The Coalition: Liberalism or Class Rule?	Social Democracy and the ALP: Flickering Light on the Hill Finally Extinguished?
10	May 12 May 14	Relevancy Deprivation Syndrome? Minor Parties and Independents	The Coalition: Liberalism or Class Rule?
11	May 19 May 21	Radicals and Resistance: Left Right Out? Religion and Politics in Australia	Relevancy Deprivation Syndrome? Minor Parties and Independents
12	May 26 May 28	Neo-liberalism, Business Power, and Economic Crisis Down Under: Sun, Sand, Surf, and Stockjobbers	Radicals and Resistance: Left Right Out? Religion and Politics in Australia
13	June 2 June 4	Living in the End Times: The Age of 'Natural Disasters' and Environmental Catastrophe	Neo-liberalism, Business Power, and Economic Crisis Down Under: Sun, Sand, Surf, and Stockjobbers

## 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](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](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/](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](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](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/](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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](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

### 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

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
- Development of an analytical vocabulary for better appreciating some of the more pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

### Assessment tasks

- First Essay
- Main essay
- Discussion board participation
- Open book, at home exam

## 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

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene

### Assessment tasks

- First Essay
- Main essay
- Discussion board participation
- Open book, at home exam

## 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

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene

- Development of a analytical vocabulary for better appreciating some of the more pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

## **Assessment tasks**

- First Essay
- Main essay
- Discussion board participation
- Open book, at home exam

## **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**

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
- Development of a analytical vocabulary for better appreciating some of the more pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

## **Assessment tasks**

- First Essay
- Main essay
- Discussion board participation
- Open book, at home exam

## **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

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
- Development of an analytical vocabulary for better appreciating some of the more pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

## Assessment tasks

- First Essay
- Main essay
- Discussion board participation
- Open book, at home exam

## 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

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene

## Assessment tasks

- First Essay
- Main essay
- Discussion board participation

## 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

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene

### Assessment tasks

- First Essay
- Main essay
- Discussion board participation