



# POL 399

## Political Thought in Action

S1 External 2017

*Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Aleksandar Pavkovic

[aleksandar.pavkovic@mq.edu.au](mailto:aleksandar.pavkovic@mq.edu.au)

Contact via 0415178559

W6A433

Tuesdays 1-2 pm or by appointment

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

3cp from POL units at 300 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is required for all students undertaking a politics major. The unit builds on the diversity of earlier units in politics and international relations by placing emphasis on the ability to form reasoned arguments to present findings to a critical audience. All students will be required to show capacity in making both written and oral arguments that address selected themes in the study of politics. Students entering the unit are required to develop a substantial piece of written work under the supervision of a member of the politics staff.

## 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:

Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester

Effectively communicate understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, written form

Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions

Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to the chosen topic

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#"><u>Research Proposal</u></a>	10%	No	March 21 at 5 pm.
<a href="#"><u>Proposal Presentation</u></a>	10%	No	March 22 and April 5
<a href="#"><u>Work in Progress report</u></a>	20%	No	May 3, 10, 17
<a href="#"><u>Research essay</u></a>	60%	No	May 31, at 5pm.

### Research Proposal

Due: **March 21 at 5 pm.**

Weighting: **10%**

800 words project proposal (including title). The following aspects are essential:

- specific research question
- justification of the research question
- Identification of approach chosen, possible problems you anticipate and how you might go about solving them in the timeframe given to finalise your research essay;
- Presentation of at least four individual sources which appear key to your research. I do not mean “academic articles and books” here, rather “[insert author]’s approach/analysis in [insert title] is particularly significant because... [insert your reasons]
- Correct expression and style.

Your chosen topic can be drawn from a unit you have studied before and may represent your continuing concern with issues that you feel you did not address to a satisfactory conclusion in that unit; but your essay must be new and original and cannot reproduce work done before. Significant penalties up to and including failure in the unit will result from the resubmission of previous work.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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### Proposal Presentation

Due: **March 22 and April 5**

Weighting: **10%**

This assessment trains your oral communication skills. Firstly, and this is worth 10% of the final mark, you will do a five minute, timed presentation of your research proposal. It is strongly recommended to have a support (either a maximum of three power point slides or a one-page handout). The presentation should state your research question, present your approach, and either explain how one to two of the sources mentioned in the research proposal are important for your research, or focus on how you might tackle potential issues in the development of your project. Secondly, you will be asked to meaningfully comment on other students' presentations. This is worth 5% of the final mark.

**External students** are to upload their proposals on to the external student group in the ilearn site (only accessible to externals). You are then to comment on other students' proposals. Your mark (10%) will be based on the feedback you give to the other students.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Effectively communicate understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, written form
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions

## Work in Progress report

Due: **May 3, 10, 17**

Weighting: **20%**

A ten minute presentation of your work to this point (which should be close to completion), and a 1000 word written report. You should first give a brief synopsis of the topic. Then you should answer questions such as the following: how has your understanding of the topic developed? Has your view of the topic changed as you have read more of the literature or reviewed survey results? If so, has this forced you to change direction? Have you encountered problems during the course of the research and if so, how have you tackled them? What are some of the implications of your research?

Though you need to summarise the argument of your essay, the main purpose of the exercise is for you to reflect on your own learning through the unit. In other words if you simply summarise your essay you will not receive a very strong mark.

The mark will be based on both the written report (10%) and the oral presentation (10%).

**External students** will be marked on their written report only.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions

## Research essay

Due: **May 31, at 5pm.**

Weighting: **60%**

A 3,500 - 4,000 word essay. You are required to develop an original research question, and to work on your essay topic with your supervisor: two meetings with this supervisor, or two substantial email exchanges for external students, are recommended from start to submission.

**The essay must be typed, use 12 point font and double-spaced.** One hard copy should be deposited in the allocated Politics Box in the reception area, level 1 (Ground floor), W6A. Students must submit one hard copy of the essay and one copy through **turnitin**. External students should submit one copy as an electronic attachment to an email sent to the Unit Convenor (who will acknowledge receipt) and one via **turnitin**.

You will be assessed on your ability to develop a logical, consistent and complex argument and a strong critical analysis demonstrating your sound knowledge of the chosen topic; to use relevant sources, and properly reference these sources; to ensure that the essay is well-structured; and to use correct English expression and style. See the detailed marking rubrics for this assignment on ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester
- Effectively communicate understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, written form
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to the chosen topic

## Delivery and Resources

### DELIVERY

This unit has no lectures but only occasional seminars. The main task of the unit is the preparation of the research essay.

#### Internal students

The seminar for this unit is on Wednesday 3-5 pm in W5A 105.

#### External students

There are no on-campus sessions for external students.

### ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

**Internal students** - submit hard copy of '**Research Proposal**' and '**Work in Progress Proposal**' into the POL399 box ground floor W6A.

**External students** - submit copies of '**Research Proposal**' and '**Work in Progress Proposal**' via email as an attachment to: [aleksandar.pavkovic@mq.edu.au](mailto:aleksandar.pavkovic@mq.edu.au).

**All students:** For the **major research essay** this unit uses an anti-plagiarism software package called turnitin. This software compares student assignments or tests with other student papers and internet sources as well as a comprehensive database of academic periodicals, journals and books, and alerts the marker to any form of plagiarism. All students must submit **the research essay** through turnitin by the due date and time; instructions are supplied on ilearn.

**Internal students:** Research proposal and Work in Progress proposal marked can be collected from W6A 440.

**External students:** Feedback on the two proposals will be returned via email.

## Unit Schedule

Week	Topic	Assessment submission
1 March 1	Introduction to Unit. Identification of research areas	
2 March 8	Using the library; Data base sessions	
3 March 15	Formulating a proposal.	
4 March 22	Research proposal due March 21, 5pm Proposal presentation - 1	
5 March 29	No meeting	
6 April 5	Proposal Presentations - 2	
Mid-Semester Break		
Public Holiday		
8 May 3	Work in Progress - 1	
9 May 10	Work in Progress - 2	
10 May 17	Work in Progress - 3	
11 May 24	No Meeting	
12 May 31	No Meeting <b>Research essay due Monday, May 30, 5pm</b>	

13 June 7

Discussion: what have we learned

## 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)

Assessment Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.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 (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html)

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

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

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester
- Effectively communicate understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, written form
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to the chosen topic

#### Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Proposal Presentation
- Work in Progress report
- Research essay

### 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 outcomes**

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions

## **Assessment tasks**

- Research Proposal
- Proposal Presentation
- Work in Progress report
- Research essay

## **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 outcomes**

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions

## **Assessment tasks**

- Research Proposal
- Proposal Presentation
- Work in Progress report
- Research essay

## **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

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester
- Effectively communicate understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, written form
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to the chosen topic

## Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Proposal Presentation
- Work in Progress report
- Research essay

## 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

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester
- Effectively communicate understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, written form
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to the chosen topic

## Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Proposal Presentation
- Work in Progress report
- Research essay

## 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**

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester
- Effectively communicate understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, written form
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to the chosen topic

### **Assessment tasks**

- Research Proposal
- Proposal Presentation
- Work in Progress report
- Research essay

## **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**

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to the chosen topic

### **Assessment tasks**

- Research Proposal
- Proposal Presentation
- Work in Progress report
- Research essay

## **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**

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions

### **Assessment tasks**

- Proposal Presentation
- Work in Progress report

## **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**

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in workshop discussions

### **Assessment tasks**

- Proposal Presentation
- Work in Progress report