



PICT955

Simulation in Counter Terrorism

S2 External 2018

Department of Security Studies and Criminology

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General Information

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MCTerrorism and (24cp at 800 level or above including PICT812)

Corequisites

PICT837

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides students with an opportunity to apply the knowledge they have gain throughout their program of study to a real world crisis. By participating in a dynamic simulation, students will be required to solve problems and find solutions to real world challenges. Students will be assigned to an executive team that includes students with different skill sets and knowledge. These executive teams may include strategists, intelligence analysts, criminologists, counter terrorism experts, and cyber security analysts. Students enrolled in Simulation in Counter Terrorism will perform the role of the counter terrorism expert. Their mission will be to formulate solutions by employing the academic, research, analysis and workplace skills they acquired throughout their program. In particular, they will be required to use their knowledge of social media analysis to provide detailed assessments of the evolving situation/scenario. They will also be responsible for the counter terrorism sections of ministerial briefing papers that each group will have to provide as part of their assessment tasks. The student will be required to make policy recommendations based on his assessment of the situation.

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:

1. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.
2. Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.
3. Apply social network analysis to complex and evolving real-world situations.
4. Communicate disciplinary knowledge to professional audiences through the counter-terrorism sections of the briefing papers.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Quiz 1.	10%	No	Week 3
Simulation Week 4	10%	No	Week 4
Simulation Week 7	10%	No	Week 7
Quiz 2.	10%	No	Week 7
Ministerial Brief/Memo	30%	No	Week 12
Simulation	30%	Yes	Week 13 (Saturday and Sunday)

Quiz 1.

Due: **Week 3**

Weighting: **10%**

Covering Subject Matter in Weeks 2 & 3.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.

Simulation Week 4

Due: **Week 4**

Weighting: **10%**

Internal: In-class simulation during the weekly two-hour seminar.

External: Online simulation on Ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.

Simulation Week 7

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **10%**

Internal: In-class simulation during the weekly two-hour seminar.

External: Online simulation on Ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 2. Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.

Quiz 2.

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **10%**

Covering Subject Matter in Weeks 5 & 6.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 2. Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.

Ministerial Brief/Memo

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **30%**

Group assignment.

Working as part of a team tasked with writing a ministerial brief/memo on a security and criminology-related scenario, write a 'Terrorist threat assessment' and contribute to the executive summary and recommendations in that assessment.

Individual contribution (20%): Terrorist Threat Assessment. Using the skills acquired in PICT837, you will write a 2,000 word policy memo that will be included in the ministerial brief.

Group grade (10%): The Ministerial Brief/Memo will include an executive summary (1,000 words) and policy recommendations (1,000 words) that are written collaboratively by your team.

Please refer to Ilearn for details.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 3. Apply social network analysis to complex and evolving real-world situations.
- 4. Communicate disciplinary knowledge to professional audiences through the counter-terrorism sections of the briefing papers.

Simulation

Due: **Week 13 (Saturday and Sunday)**

Weighting: **30%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Group assignment.

Hurdle Assessment.

Internal:

In Week 13, each student team will be presented with a war gaming scenario. Each team will be required to provide policy recommendations to the control group (convenors) as the situation unfolds over a number of simulation moves or turns.

Individual (10%): At the end of each day, students will be required to write a short (300 words) reflection on decisions they have made during the day and the decision-making process employed by their team.

Group grade (15%): Determined by the level of 'active participation' in the simulation, as well as the relevance, level of critical assessment, sophistication and robustness of the arguments presented to support each team's policy recommendations.

Peer grading (5%): At the end of the simulation, students will grade the performance of other members of their team.

External:

In Week 12, each student team will be presented with a war gaming scenario. Each team will be required to provide policy recommendations to the control group (convenors) as the situation unfolds over a number of simulation moves or turns.

The simulation will be run over a two week period during Weeks 12 and 13, with a set-time turn structure.

Individual (10%): At the end of each week, students will be required to write a short (300 words) reflection on decisions they have made during the day and the decision-making process employed by their team.

Group grade (15%): Determined by the level of 'active participation' in the simulation, as well as the relevance, level of critical assessment, sophistication and robustness of the arguments presented to support each team's policy recommendations.

Peer grading (5%): At the end of the simulation, students will grade the performance of other members of their team.

Please refer to iLearn for additional details.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.
- 2. Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.
- 3. Apply social network analysis to complex and evolving real-world situations.
- 4. Communicate disciplinary knowledge to professional audiences through the counter-terrorism sections of the briefing papers.

Delivery and Resources

DELIVERY AND RESOURCES

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- You should spend an average of 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes listening to lectures prior to seminar or tutorial, reading weekly required materials as detailed in iLearn, participating in iLearn discussion forums and preparing assessments.
- Internal students are expected to attend all seminar or tutorial sessions, and external students are expected to make significant contributions to on-line activities.
- In most cases students are required to attempt and submit all major assessment tasks in order to pass the unit.

REQUIRED READINGS

- The citations for all the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site, and at Macquarie University's library site. Electronic copies of required readings may be accessed through the library or will be made available by other means.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

- Computer and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement.
- This unit has an online presence. Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>
- Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient.
- Information about IT used at Macquarie University is available at http://students.mq.edu.au/it_services/

SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS

- All text-based assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site.
- Assessment tasks must be submitted as a MS word document by the due date.
- Most assessment tasks will be subject to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the submission process.
- The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Special Consideration Policy. Extensions will not be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through Special Consideration: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) **a penalty for lateness will apply** – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) **no assignment will be accepted seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline**. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

WORD LIMITS FOR ASSESSMENT TASKS

- Stated word limits include footnotes and footnoted references, but not bibliography, or title page.
- Word limits can generally deviate by 10% either over or under the stated figure.
- If the number of words exceeds the limit by more than 10%, then penalties will apply. These penalties are 5% of the awarded mark for every 100 words over the word limit. If a

paper is 300 words over, for instance, it will lose $3 \times 5\% = 15\%$ of the total mark awarded for the assignment. This percentage is taken off the total mark, i.e. if a paper was graded at a credit (65%) and was 300 words over, it would be reduced by 15 marks to a pass (50%).

- The application of this penalty is at the discretion of the course convener.

REASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SEMESTER

- Macquarie University operates a Grade Appeal Policy in cases where students feel their work was graded inappropriately: <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>
- In accordance with the Grade Appeal Policy, individual works are not subject to regrading.

STAFF AVAILABILITY

- Department staff will endeavour to answer student enquiries in a timely manner. However, emails or iLearn messages will not usually be answered over the weekend or public holiday period.
- Students are encouraged to read the Unit Guide and look at instructions posted on the iLearn site before sending email requests to staff.

Unit Schedule

Week 1. Introduction.

Week 2. Simulations and Wargames: an Overview.

Week 3. Simulations, Wargames and Counterfactuals.

Week 4. Mini-simulation I.

Week 5. Decision-making and leadership.

Week 6. Decision biases and blind spots.

Week 7. Mini-simulation II.

Week 13 (Saturday and Sunday). Simulation.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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

1. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.
2. Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.
3. Apply social network analysis to complex and evolving real-world situations.
4. Communicate disciplinary knowledge to professional audiences through the counter-terrorism sections of the briefing papers.

Assessment tasks

- Quiz 1.
- Simulation Week 4
- Simulation Week 7
- Quiz 2.

- Ministerial Brief/Memo
- Simulation

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

- 3. Apply social network analysis to complex and evolving real-world situations.
- 4. Communicate disciplinary knowledge to professional audiences through the counter-terrorism sections of the briefing papers.

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

- 1. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.
- 2. Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.
- 3. Apply social network analysis to complex and evolving real-world situations.

Assessment tasks

- Quiz 1.
- Simulation Week 4
- Simulation Week 7
- Quiz 2.
- Ministerial Brief/Memo
- Simulation

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

- 1. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.
- 2. Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.
- 3. Apply social network analysis to complex and evolving real-world situations.

Assessment tasks

- Quiz 1.
- Simulation Week 4
- Simulation Week 7
- Quiz 2.
- Ministerial Brief/Memo
- Simulation

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

- 1. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.
- 2. Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.
- 4. Communicate disciplinary knowledge to professional audiences through the counter-terrorism sections of the briefing papers.

Assessment tasks

- Quiz 1.
- Simulation Week 4
- Simulation Week 7

- Quiz 2.
- Ministerial Brief/Memo
- Simulation

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

- 1. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.
- 2. Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.

Assessment tasks

- Quiz 1.
- Simulation Week 4
- Simulation Week 7
- Quiz 2.
- Ministerial Brief/Memo
- Simulation

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
19/07/2018	Erratum: the first simulation was mistakenly placed in week 3 instead of week 4