



POIX2010

Contemporary Issues in Australian Politics: Race, Nation, Class and Gender

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	3
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	6
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	6
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	7

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and Lecturer

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Friday 10-12

Conor Keane

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above OR (10cp in HIST or MHIS or POL or POIR or MHIX or POIX units)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

As Australia progresses through the second decade of the 21st century, it confronts a number of persistent questions: Has it lived up to its reputation as an egalitarian country whose unofficial motto is 'fair go'? How have class relations been impacted on - if at all - by the economic boom of the past two decades? Are Australian women and men really equal in the context of the rise and fall of the Women's Liberation Movement and the emergence of so-called 'raunch feminism'? What are the prospects for closing the gap between the country's indigenous people and its more recent arrivals? Taking as its central themes, race, nation, class and gender, the unit is structured in the following way: weeks 2-4 deal with race and nation; weeks 5-8 with class politics; weeks 9-12 with gender and sexuality; week 13 concludes the unit by examining the health of the Australian body politic in light of the foregoing discussions about its divided state. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

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:

ULO1: To have the ability to peer below the surface feature of Australian politics and its discourse to identify the underlying inequalities at play

ULO2: Demonstrate a critical understanding of the limited, contingent, and transient nature of Australian political institutions, and to be able to articulate these effectively, in verbal and written format

ULO3: Understand and identify linkages between, for example, class and race and Australian nationhood

ULO4: Critically analyse Australian politics and assess the degree to which it reinforces and normalises inequality

ULO5: Demonstrate capacity to assess the extent that the media and new economic technologies impact – if at all – on the reproduction of existing social relations

ULO6: Demonstrate critical understanding of the interplay between discourse, ideology, structures and agency in shaping the makeup of Australian society in terms of race, nation, class and gender

General Assessment Information

Late Submission Penalty: “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 more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.”

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Take-home exam	25%	No	6-8 November
Participation	10%	No	All Year
Essay	45%	No	25 September
Quizzes	20%	No	Weeks 3, 6, 9, 12

Take-home exam

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **6-8 November**

Weighting: **25%**

Take-home exam - details and timing described on ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the limited, contingent, and transient nature of Australian political institutions, and to be able to articulate these effectively, in verbal and written format
- Understand and identify linkages between, for example, class and race and Australian nationhood
- Critically analyse Australian politics and assess the degree to which it reinforces and normalises inequality
- Demonstrate critical understanding of the interplay between discourse, ideology, structures and agency in shaping the makeup of Australian society in terms of race, nation, class and gender

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **All Year**

Weighting: **10%**

Participation in online discussion

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To have the ability to peer below the surface feature of Australian politics and its discourse to identify the underlying inequalities at play
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the limited, contingent, and transient nature of Australian political institutions, and to be able to articulate these effectively, in verbal and written format
- Critically analyse Australian politics and assess the degree to which it reinforces and normalises inequality

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **25 September**

Weighting: **45%**

2500 word research essay - details provided on ilearn

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To have the ability to peer below the surface feature of Australian politics and its discourse to identify the underlying inequalities at play
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the limited, contingent, and transient nature of Australian political institutions, and to be able to articulate these effectively, in verbal and written format
- Understand and identify linkages between, for example, class and race and Australian nationhood
- Critically analyse Australian politics and assess the degree to which it reinforces and normalises inequality
- Demonstrate capacity to assess the extent that the media and new economic technologies impact – if at all – on the reproduction of existing social relations
- Demonstrate critical understanding of the interplay between discourse, ideology, structures and agency in shaping the makeup of Australian society in terms of race, nation, class and gender

Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Weeks 3, 6, 9, 12**

Weighting: **20%**

Quizzes based on reading and lecture content.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To have the ability to peer below the surface feature of Australian politics and its discourse to identify the underlying inequalities at play
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the limited, contingent, and transient nature of Australian political institutions, and to be able to articulate these effectively, in verbal and written format
- Understand and identify linkages between, for example, class and race and Australian nationhood

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Resources: There is no set-text for this unit. Instead, key weekly readings will be posted on ilearn as will any supplementary readings. The week's recorded lecture and the power point slides can also be found on ilearn.

Delivery: For lecture times (which will be recorded and available to download) and tutorial times (for internal students) please consult the MQ Timetable website:

<http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>. Due to the Covid-19 Crisis, internal and external student participation is based on discussion board contributions on ilearn. Students should aim to make a contribution each week, or up to 300 words. This includes responses to questions listed by the unit convenor and discussion with fellow external students. Students are expected to contribute and participate each week on the discussion board as they would in an on-campus tutorial.

Unit Schedule

	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Tutorial/Online Discussion</u>
Week 1	Introduction: Politics and Social Division in the Age of Covid-19	The political relevance of race, nation, class and gender in an era of global pandemic (but no need to contribute to the discussion board for this first week)
Week 2	'Race' and the politics of reconciliation	'Race' and Reconciliation
Week 3	The History Wars: Australian Multiculturalism in Question	History Wars, Multiculturalism
Week 4	Immigration, Border Protection and Securitization	Immigration, Borders and Exclusion
Week 5	Australian Nationalism: Whose National Identity?	The Politics of Nationalism

Week 6	Citizenship and the Politics of Fear + Religion in Australian Politics	Fear, Religion and Citizenship I
Week 7	Class, Affluenza and the Environment	Capitalism, Consumption, and Environmental Politics
Week 8	The Changing Face of Work and Industrial Relations	The Politics of Workplace Change and Industrial Relations
Week 9	Mutual Obligation and the Welfare State + the Marketisation of Education	Welfare and Education
Week 10	Feminism, Gender and Power	Gender inequality and women in politics
Week 11	Preparing for the final exam. I will give a shorter than usual talk on how to best prepare for the online exam that will be at the end of week 13.	
Week 12	Babies, the Family and Same-Sex Relationships in Australia	Babies, the Family and Same-Sex Relationships in Australia
Week 13	Concluding Remarks	No tutorial

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.)

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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://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 published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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.