POIX2060

Modern Political Thought

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

Contents

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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
Ian Tregenza
ian.tregenza@mq.edu.au

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
What are the limits of the legitimate use of force by political authorities? How should the power of government be limited? When is a government or political regime legitimate? These and related questions have been the subject of a continuous debate in political theory since the sixteenth century. This unit examines the various theories of human rights and of social contract as well as theories which reject the liberal/democratic approach to the question of legitimacy. Among the authors to be read are Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, Burke, Marx, Rawls, Schmitt, and Foucault.

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: Identify arguments for and against the need to consent to the exercise of political power.

ULO2: Understand key concepts which are deployed in the debate on political legitimacy

ULO3: Apply concepts to the analysis of political phenomena

ULO4: Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment 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
Literature Review number 2	20%	No	Week 5
Essay	40%	No	Week 10
Test	40%	No	Week 13

Literature Review number 2

Assessment Type [1]: Literature review
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **Week 5**
Weighting: **20%**

Short paper based on one or more of the unit readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify arguments for and against the need to consent to the exercise of political power.
- Understand key concepts which are deployed in the debate on political legitimacy
- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts

Essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40 hours
Due: **Week 10**
Weighting: **40%**

2500 word essay

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify arguments for and against the need to consent to the exercise of political power.

- Understand key concepts which are deployed in the debate on political legitimacy

- Apply concepts to the analysis of political phenomena

- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts

Test

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40 hours
Due: **Week 13**
Weighting: **40%**

2 hour online test to be completed via ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify arguments for and against the need to consent to the exercise of political power.

- Understand key concepts which are deployed in the debate on political legitimacy

- Apply concepts to the analysis of political phenomena

- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts

[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

Unit Readings will be available through Leganto on the ilearn site.

Unit Schedule

Weekly Topics:

Week 1. Introduction. Power, Legitimacy and the Modern State

Week 2. Before the Modern State: Machiavelli on Power

Week 3. Constructing Leviathan: Thomas Hobbes

Week 4. Constraining Leviathan: John Locke

Week 5. Social Contract versus Tradition: Rousseau and Burke

Week 6. Liberty and Representative Government: J.S. Mill

Week 7. Fairness and an Overlapping Consensus: John Rawls

Week 8. Reading Week.

Week 9. Against the Liberal State 1: Karl Marx

Week 10. Against the Liberal State 2: Carl Schmitt

Week 11. Contesting Patriarchal Legitimacy: Feminism

Week 12. Overturning Sovereign Power: Michel Foucault

Week 13. Class Test

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). 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). 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).

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.