POIR8410

Understanding World Politics: Theoretical Approaches

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

Contents

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MIntRel or PGDipIntRel or GradDipIntRel or MIntCommMIntRel or
MIntBusMIntRel or MSecStrategicStudMCrim or MSecStrategicStudMIntell or
MSecStrategicStudMCyberSec or MSecStrategicStudMCTerrorism or MIntellMCrim or
MIntellMCyberSec or MIntellMCTerrorism or MCTerrorismMCrim or MIntRelMIntTrdeComLaw
or MTransInterMIntRel or MConfInt or GradCertIntRel or MPPP or MPPPMIntRel or
GradCertPP or GradDipPP or MSecStrategicStud or MCrim or MIntell or MCTerrorism or
MIntPubDip or MDevStud or MPASRMDevStud or MPPPMDevStud

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit provides students with a grounding in the principle theoretical approaches to the
study of international relations and world order. Beginning with a focus on the historical
emergence of traditional approaches such as realism, liberalism and Marxism and their
competing perspectives on the causes of war and the conditions for peace, the unit goes on to
consider more recent approaches, including gender approaches, critical theory,
constructivism, postcolonialism, postmodernism and green theory.

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:** Analyse and critically assess complex International Relations theories and place
> them within the broader context of the study of of International Relations.
>
> **ULO2:** Analyse and critically assess scholarly texts in International Relations theories
> and identify particular solutions to the problems raised in traditional and contemporary

International Relations theories

ULO3: Analyse, generate and transmit solutions to a variety of current problems in International Relations using International Relations theories

ULO4: Transmit the knowledge and ideas generated by International Relations theories to others

Assessment Tasks

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult iLearn for revised unit information.

Find out more about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and potential impacts on staff and students

General Assessment Information

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.

Note also that the convenor does not grant an extension to any assessment based on special considerations (for example, illness). All requests for extension need to go through the Special Consideration procedure (see Special Consideration Policy under Policies and Procedures below).

More information about each assessment task is available on the iLearn page.

Delivery and Resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

Teaching Methods/Mode of Delivery

There will be two hour lecture and one hour tutorial every week. Students will present in the tutorial hour.

Prerequisites and Preparation

Students taking this unit inevitably come from a wide range of academic backgrounds. Some students will already have been introduced to the study of IR, and IR theory, at the undergraduate level. For others, this unit will be their first experience of the subject, or of the more general field of political studies, of which IR is a part. For those with little or no previous background in the study of politics and IR, it is essential that you do some extra reading and preparation for the unit. Even if you have done some politics and IR before, you will benefit from some revision.

Textbooks and Sources: The core text for IRPG841 is: *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity,* edited by Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki ,Steve Smith, Oxford University Press. Each chapter is written by a leading theorist who is working on the theory which she or he is writing about. The texts are thus coming from the actual theorists-practitioners.

It should be available to be purchased at the co-op book store. Most of the required readings for each week's topic will come from the textbook. The required reading for week 12 "Foreign Policy analysis" comes from Chapter 10, I*ntroduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches* by Robert Jackson and Georg Sørensen, Oxford University Press, Fifth edition. This should be available online through Leganto system.

There will be also additional readings which are optional. Some of them, including videos, were provided by the previous convenor Dr Keane.

In a few lecture sessions, the slides from the previous convenor of this unit, Dr Conor Keane are also available. These slides provide interesting illustrations - which I left in the context of his own lecture slides.

Unit Schedule

> **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**
>
> The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult iLearn for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

The list of topics of each lecture will be available on the iLearn page.

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.