



POIR2060

Modern Political Thought

Session 2, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2021

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update

The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of [units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities](#).

Visit the [MQ COVID-19 information page](#) for more detail.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

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

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 Submission Penalty

Unless a **Special Consideration** request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – 10 marks out of 100 credit will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted seven days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Literature review	20%	No	23:59 27/08/2021
Essay	40%	No	23:59 22/10/2021
Class and online test	40%	No	23:59 5/11/2021

Literature review

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **23:59 27/08/2021**

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: 30 hours

Due: **23:59 22/10/2021**

Weighting: **40%**

2500 word essay based on set questions

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

Class and online test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **23:59 5/11/2021**

Weighting: **40%**

2 hour class test in the final lecture of the unit. External students to complete 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

Readings will be available through ilearn

Unit Schedule

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 \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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.