



POIX2010

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

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 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

Convenor and Lecturer

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Contact via 9850 4096

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Wednesday 9-11

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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

*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
Quizzes	20%	No	23.59 on 11/08/2021; 1/09/2021; 6/10/2021; 27/10/2021
Essay	45%	No	23.59, 29/09/2021
Participation	10%	No	Ongoing
Take-home exam	25%	No	23.59, 10/11/2021

Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **23.59 on 11/08/2021; 1/09/2021; 6/10/2021; 27/10/2021**

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

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **23.59, 29/09/2021**

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

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

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

Take-home exam

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **23.59, 10/11/2021**

Weighting: **25%**

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

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 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

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

Welcome to Australian Politics: Race, Nation, Class and Gender. Australia has often been imagined as a nation where egalitarianism and a "fair-go" have shielded the general population from the inequalities and injustices faced in many other countries. This is a myth that is still pedaled in our politics and public discourse, but one that does not stand up to even the mildest of scrutiny. This unit will interrogate this myth through the lens of race and nation, and class and gender. We will explore the ways in which these categories have been constructed historically and how they manifest themselves in contemporary Australian politics.

There is no set text for the unit. Instead, key weekly readings will be posted on ilearn, as well as any supplementary readings. In addition, the week's recorded lectures and power point slides can be found on ilearn, as will a variety of other resources. To do well in the unit it is essential that students engage with the lectures and the readings, as well as with each other on the discussion board. Here students should aim to make a contribution each week, of 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

Week	Date, Week beginning	Lecture	Tutorial	Assessment
1	July 26	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)	None
2	August 2	'Race' and the politics of reconciliation	'Race' and Reconciliation	None
3	August 9	The History Wars: Australian Multiculturalism in Question	History Wars, Multiculturalism	Quiz 11/8/2021
4	August 16	Immigration, Border Protection and Securitization	Immigration, Borders and Exclusion	None
5	August 23	Australian Nationalism: Whose National Identity?	The Politics of Nationalism	None
6	August 30	Citizenship and the Politics of Fear + Religion in Australian Politics	Fear, Religion and Citizenship	Quiz 1/09/2021

7	September 6	Class, Affluenza and the Environment	Capitalism, Consumption, and Environmental Politics	None
8	September 27	The Changing Face of Work and Industrial Relations	The Politics of Workplace Change and Industrial Relations	Essay, 29/09/2021
9	October 4	Mutual Obligation and the Welfare State + the Marketisation of Education	Welfare and Education	Quiz 6/10/2021
10	October 11	Feminism, Gender and Power	Gender inequality and women in politics	None
11	October 18	Exam Preparation	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.	None
12	October 25	Babies, the Family and Same-Sex Relationships in Australia	Babies, the Family and Same-Sex Relationships in Australia	Quiz 27/10/2021
13	November 1	Concluding Remarks	No tutorial	Online Exam 10/11/2021

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.