



POIR8090

Advanced Introduction to Policy

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2021

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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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 activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face 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

Francesco Stolfi

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MPSP or MPH or MILGPP or MIC or MSusDev or MPlan

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit focuses on how policy is made and who makes it. Taking an international perspective, the unit introduces students to the policy process, the state and societal actors that cooperate (and fight) over policy and to the context in which they operate. Students will engage in peer learning, discuss cases studies as well as write on policy issues using the materials and concepts presented in the unit. The topics covered indicatively include: The policy process; policy paradigms, networks, monopolies, cycles, and policy diffusion; the regulatory state; state autonomy and state capture; the reciprocal influence between state and society, with a focus on relationship between social capital and democratic governance; clientelism, its determinants, and its implications for policy-making; the decline of trust in public institutions in advanced democracies.

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, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in issues such inequality, labour market liberalisation, the institutional convergence or divergence of capitalist systems, and the mutual relationship between society and political institutions.

ULO2: Engage in independent research showing the ability to build on international scholarship and international examples to address a public policy problem.

ULO3: Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.

ULO4: Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.

ULO5: Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual).

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.

Assignment Submission All written assignments must be submitted using the “Turnitin Assignments” facility on the iLearn website. This facility includes software which scans the uploaded assignments for plagiarism. Follow the instructions on the screen carefully. Your assignment should be uploaded before midnight on the due date. **In all cases**, you should ensure that you keep a copy of the assignment.

Return of marked work Marked assignments will be returned via the same facility on iLearn. When marks are released, you will need to go back in to the assignment submission box, and open your uploaded assignment. When you click on the “GradeMark” button, you will be able to see the marker’s comments on your work. You can save or print the essay with the comments.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Peer learning exercise	20%	No	Week 8 and Week 12
Quiz	20%	No	Weekly
Essay	50%	No	June 6
Participation	10%	No	Weekly

Peer learning exercise

Assessment Type ¹: Non-academic writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Week 8 and Week 12**

Weighting: **20%**

Provide informed and constructive feedback on fellow students' draft essay

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in issues such as inequality, labour market liberalisation, the institutional convergence or divergence of capitalist systems, and the mutual relationship between society and political institutions.
- Engage in independent research showing the ability to build on international scholarship and international examples to address a public policy problem.
- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

Weekly quizzes on the mandatory readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 65 hours

Due: **June 6**

Weighting: **50%**

The essay provides students with the opportunity to explore a topic of interest in depth. Students should develop a considered answer to a specific question based on reading a range of sources.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in issues such as inequality, labour market liberalisation, the institutional convergence or divergence of capitalist systems, and the mutual relationship between society and political institutions.

- Engage in independent research showing the ability to build on international scholarship and international examples to address a public policy problem.
- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.
- Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual).

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Informed and constructive participation in online discussions and activities

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in issues such as inequality, labour market liberalisation, the institutional convergence or divergence of capitalist systems, and the mutual relationship between society and political institutions.
- Engage in independent research showing the ability to build on international scholarship and international examples to address a public policy problem.
- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.

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

Classes

Weekly classes involve a 1 hour lecture and a 2 hour seminar.

Reading

There are a range of journal articles and chapters that are required reading. These will be listed on iLearn and available via Leganto.

Technology used and required

All enrolled students have access to the POIR2070 website via iLearn. iLearn will provide access to lectures (powerpoint presentations for download and recordings through the University's Echo lecture recording facility) as well as readings, links and forum discussions. Regular access to iLearn is required in order to complete the unit.

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.