



# POIX1010

## Australian Politics in Global Context

Session 1, Online-flexible 2022

*Macquarie School of Social Sciences*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and Lecturer

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Arts Building B, Room 247

Tuesday 9-12

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In this unit, we critically assess Australian politics from the perspective of political and economic history, through the lens of social power and financial interests, and drilling down into contemporary debates about economic crisis, globalisation, nationalism, environmental catastrophe and war. With this approach in mind, we examine key Australian political institutions, ideologies, and issues. What is the nature of Australia's key political institutions (the Constitution, the High Court, Federalism, Government and Parliament), and are they democratic and just? Could we live without them? What are some of the radical critiques of these institutions and the interests they serve? What is 'Australia', after all - a unified nation of peoples with shared identities and interests, or a construct that serves wealth and power by masking deep social fractures, or something else again? All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see [www.open.edu.au](http://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:** Articulate a sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context

**ULO2:** Communicate the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them

**ULO3:** Demonstrate familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene

**ULO4:** Use a sophisticated analytical vocabulary for better appreciating the most pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

## 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
<a href="#">Quiz</a>	20%	No	Friday 18/3/22
<a href="#">Major Essay</a>	40%	No	Friday, 22/4/22
<a href="#">Final Exam (online)</a>	30%	No	8-12/06/22
<a href="#">Online Class Participation</a>	10%	No	Weeks 1-13

### Quiz

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 16 hours

Due: **Friday 18/3/22**

Weighting: **20%**

There will be one online quiz in week 4 of the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate a sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context

### Major Essay

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 32 hours

Due: **Friday, 22/4/22**

Weighting: **40%**

This is a 1500-word essay +/- 10%, with topics drawn from across the unit, which allows students to explore a research topic in depth

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate a sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- Communicate the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Demonstrate familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene

## Final Exam (online)

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 25 hours

Due: **8-12/06/22**

Weighting: **30%**

The final, two-hour online exam will require students to write three short essays, drawn from topics across the entire unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate a sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- Communicate the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Demonstrate familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
- Use a sophisticated analytical vocabulary for better appreciating the most pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

## Online Class Participation

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 13 hours

Due: **Weeks 1-13**

Weighting: **10%**

The emphasis will be on students engaging with both the week's topics and other students' contributions to exploring contemporary issues in Australian politics. Students will be assessed on the quality of their contributions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Use a sophisticated analytical vocabulary for better appreciating the most pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 POIR/POIX 1010, Australian Politics in Global Context. Australian politics has undergone rapid change over the past four decades. The relative stability of the post-war era has given way to a political and social landscape of accelerated transformation. Previously taken-for-granted values are challenged, once stable institutions are destabilised, and the very idea of an Australian political community (what it is, who it encompasses, and the future directions it should take) is the subject of fierce controversy. These political tremors have been expressed most acutely in the rise of and subsequent challenges to multiculturalism, and in the neo-liberal restructuring of key Australian institutions, with an attendant growth of inequality. The recent covid-crisis has starkly revealed the depth of these inequalities, as different sectors of the population - indigenous/non-indigenous, women/men, migrants/non-migrants, working class/wealthy - have been effected very differently, despite all of the talk of being "all in this together."

In this course, we introduce Australian politics through the lens of debates about globalization and its consequences for state capacities, sovereignty and decision-making. In so doing, we examine key political institutions, ideologies and contemporary issues. We explore the ways in which they been affected by, and have also filtered the effects of, accelerated globalization.

Among other questions, we ask: what is globalization and how, if at all, has it blurred the boundaries between 'domestic' and 'foreign' policy issues; what is the nature of Australia's key political institutions, and do they ensure a high degree of democratic participation and accountability in a global era; what are the strengths and weaknesses of the main political ideas that inform public debate in this country, and how are they expressed in political struggle between the main parties?

To answer these questions, the main readings will be from the textbook by Kefford, G. et. al., (2018) *Australian Politics in the Twenty-First Century: Old Institutions, New Challenges* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). As the Co-op bookshop has gone into receivership, the book can be purchased directly from Cambridge Online, where students will receive a 20% discount, or from a myriad of other online sites, with Booktopia usually having plenty of stock. Students should order the book immediately so that they can start reading as soon as possible. In addition there will be supplementary readings that will be available on ilearn. To get the best out of this unit it is essential that students read, think carefully about what they are reading, and come to tutorials prepared to discuss the readings.

## **USEFUL JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES**

*Arena; Australian Journal of Political Science; Australian Journal of Politics and History; Australian Journal of Political Economy; Australian Journal of Public Administration; Australian Journal of Social Issues; [Australian]Journal of Sociology; AQ Journal of Contemporary Analysis; Griffith Review; Journal of Political Ideologies; The Monthly; Australian Politics, Society and Culture; Thesis Eleven*

## **USEFUL WEBSITES**

Macquarie University's Politics subject site: <http://www.lib.mq.edu/resources/subject/politics>

The Commonwealth parliamentary Library: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/index.htm>

The National Library of Australia: <http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/gov/>

Elections data base website at the University of Western Australia: <http://elections.uwa.edu.au>

NSW government website: <http://www.nsw.gov.au/government.asp>

Australian Bureau of Statistics: <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

ABC Online: <http://www.abc.net.au>

Australian Policy Online: <http://www.apo.org.au/index.shtml>

Australian Review of Public Affairs: <http://australianreview.net>

Online Opinion <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au>

New Matilda Magazine [www.newmatilda.com/home/default.asp](http://www.newmatilda.com/home/default.asp)

The Whitlam Institute <http://www.whitlam.org/about>

The Australia Institute: <https://australiainstitute.org.au>

## Unit Schedule

1	Feb 21 A Feb 24 B	Introduction: Australian Politics, Globalization and Covid-19  Democracy, Inequality and Indigenous Australians	Introduction plus "closing the gap" (between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians)
2	Feb 28 A March 2, B	Australian Federalism  Reforming Federalism: How and Why?	What is federalism, and is it a better than more politically centralized systems?
3	March 7, A March 9. B	The Legislature  Whose Laws? Social Class and Political Lobbying	The Legislature (House of Representatives and the Senate) makes laws in the name of all Australians, but are those laws in the interests of all Australians? Can laws be bought?
4	March 14, A March 16, B	The modern Executive  The modern Executive, Secrecy and Refugees	What is the purpose of Cabinet confidentiality? Is secrecy inherent to our system of government, and how does it clash with the principle of accountability?
5	March 21, A March 23, B	The Australian Constitution and High Court  The Dismissal	Was the dismissal of the Whitlam government constitutional?
6	March 28 A March 30, B	The Bureaucracy and Public Service  The Policy Process	To what extent to public service bureaucrats shape public policy in Australia?
7	April 4, A April 6, B	The Australian Electoral System  The 2019 Election: A Case Study	What were the key reasons for the Coalitions election victory in 2019?
8	April 25, A April 27, B	The Australian Labor Party (Because it is Anzac Day and the University will be closed, this lecture will be recorded and put on ilearn)  The Liberal Party of Australia	Have the ALP and the LPA converged politically in recent decades? If they have, what are the areas of convergence?

9	May 2, A May, 4, B	Minor Parties and the Party System The Greens and One Nation	Why have minor parties gained a greater share of the total vote over recent election cycles?
10	May 9, A May 11, B	Political Leadership Gender and Leadership	Has the quality of political leadership in Australia deteriorated in recent years, as some claim? Why do women continue to be disproportionately underrepresented in positions of political leadership?
11	May 16, A May 18, B	The Media and Democracy Social Media and Politics	How does the media affect political outcomes? Is the media, or at least some sections of it, politically neutral?
12	May 23 May 25	Citizen Participation and Engagement Environmental Catastrophe in the Age of Denial	The planet is undergoing catastrophic, human-induced climate change, yet some of our politicians deny this? Why?
13	May 30 June 1	Revolution versus reform Conclusion, and final exam preparation	Do we need a political revolution in Australia?

## 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study

- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

## Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](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.