



POIX2030

Theories of World Politics

Session 1, Online-flexible 2022

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor/lecturer

Jonathan Symons

jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

Room 252, Level 2, 25B Wally's Walk

Thursday 10am-11am

Tutor

Karim Pourhamzavi

karim.pourhamzavi@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above OR (10cp in POL or POIR or POIX units)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to the major theories of international relations, key debates that have shaped the discipline and interconnections between theory and the actual practice of international politics. International relations was founded as a distinct discipline shortly after the First World War, with the explicit goal of identifying the causes of war and peace. While war and great power conflict remain central concerns, the discipline has grappled with new challenges as de-colonisation and globalisation have created a densely interconnected global system of sovereign states. Students will engage with key themes including power, great power rivalry, nationalism, national interest, critical approaches, justice and cooperation under anarchy. 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: Collect information from self-selected sources to complete a prescribed research task.

ULO3: Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.

ULO2: Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.

ULO4: Demonstrate capacity to apply the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of international relations.

ULO5: Discuss theories of world politics in depth with peers.

General Assessment Information

Special Consideration & Late 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. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests, etc.

<https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Quizzes based on weekly readings</u>	20%	No	Sunday 23:00 prior to class: Weeks 2,3,4,5,6,7,9,11&12
<u>Research essay and presentation</u>	55%	No	23:00 20/05/2022 (Friday)
<u>Online discussion</u>	25%	No	a) Weekly b) Tues 23:00 in allocated week.

Quizzes based on weekly readings

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Sunday 23:00 prior to class: Weeks 2,3,4,5,6,7,9,11&12**

Weighting: **20%**

Quizzes based on weekly readings – dates and details provided on ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.
- Demonstrate capacity to apply the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of international relations.

Research essay and presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **23:00 20/05/2022 (Friday)**

Weighting: **55%**

Research essay requiring independent research. Essay questions and marking criteria will be provided on ilearn. Completion of task will require in-class or online presentation summarising essay's argument.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Collect information from self-selected sources to complete a prescribed research task.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.
- Discuss theories of world politics in depth with peers.

Online discussion

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **a) Weekly b) Tues 23:00 in allocated week.**

Weighting: **25%**

Students will be assessed a) on their participation in the weekly discussion forums on ilearn (10%) and b) on their written submission responding to on one week's tutorial activity (15%). Details on ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.
- Discuss theories of world politics in depth with peers.

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

Delivery

Lectures: the lecture is scheduled for Monday 12-2pm in 23 Wally's Walk T1 Theatre (classrooms may change, so check the timetable) and all students are welcome to attend. The lecture will be recorded and available for viewing later by external and OUA students via ilearn/echo360.

External/ OUA students are expected to participate in the ilearn discussion board each week by answering at least one of the posted questions each week (and engaging with other students at times). 10% of your grade is based on the quality and frequency of participation. Your participation in the weekly discussion must occur within 7 days of the lecture for that week.

Required resources:

There is one required text for this unit:

Lawson, Stephanie. (2015). *Theories of International Relations: Contending Approaches to World Politics*. Polity Press: Cambridge.

Access to this text will be necessary in order to complete the reading quizzes. Although the library will have a copy of this text (including online access), I recommend that you purchase a copy ahead of semester if possible. All other unit readings will all be available on ilearn or e-reserve.

Unit Schedule

Week 1 - Monday 21 Feb

Introduction: Can theory help us to understand world politics? Whose interests does theory serve? In what context and for what purpose was the discipline of International Relations established? What are the implications of these origins?

Week 2 - Monday 28 Feb

Classical realism (and its critics). First week of weekly reading quizzes - available on iLearn and must be completed by 11pm Sunday evening (27th Feb) which is the night **before** the lecture. Note that the reading quiz only refers to the required readings and NOT the lecture content so you do not need to listen to the lecture prior to completing the quiz.

Week 3 - Monday 7 March

Liberal theories of world politics

- Weekly iLearn quiz due by 11pm Sunday prior to class (i.e. the week 3 quiz is due by Sunday 6 March).
- Graded tutorial activity #1 (Students leading class this week must submit notes to turnitin by 11pm Tuesday).

NB: You should also nominate which essay question you will address this week via the iLearn discussion forum. You are welcome to switch to another question if you change your mind.

Week 4 - Monday 14 March

Structural theory and its critics: Neo-Realism, Neo-Liberal Institutionalism and Neo-classical Realism

- Weekly reading quiz on iLearn due by 11pm Sunday evening before class.

Week 5 - Monday 21 March

Constructivism & the role of ideas in world politics.

- Weekly reading quiz on iLearn due by 11pm Sunday evening before class.
- Graded tutorial activity #2 (Students leading class this week must submit notes to turnitin by 11pm Tuesday).

Week 6 - Monday 28th March

Marxism and World Systems Theory - Guest lecture (Karim Pourhamzavi)

- Weekly reading quiz on iLearn due by 11pm Sunday evening before class.
- Graded tutorial activity #3 (Students leading class this week must submit notes to turnitin by 11pm Tuesday).

Week 7 - Monday 4 April

Feminist theories of world politics

- Weekly reading quiz on iLearn due by 11pm Sunday evening before class.

MID SEMESTER BREAK: 11 to 25 April 2022

Note no lecture or tutorials in Week 8 owing to the public holiday.

Week 9 - 2 May

Postcolonial and Decolonial Theories.

- Graded tutorial activity #4 (Students leading class this week must submit notes to turnitin by 11pm Tuesday).

Week 10 - Monday 9 May

Middle powers and foreign policy analysis.

- Weekly iLearn quiz due by 11pm Sunday prior to class.
- Graded tutorial activity #5 (Students leading class this week must submit notes to turnitin by 11pm Tuesday).

Week 11 - Monday 16 May

Green Theory. No reading quiz.

****Essay Due Friday 20 May****

Week 12 - Monday 23 May

Normative International Theory

- Weekly iLearn quiz due by 11pm evening before tutorial (Tuesday 11pm).
- Graded tutorial activity #6 (Students leading class this week must submit notes to turnitin by 11pm Tuesday).

Week 13 - Monday 30 May

Conclusion - IR's contribution to contemporary challenges.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.s.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.s.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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact 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/.

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
14/02/2022	typo corrected
11/02/2022	Dates corrected to approved faculty format.