



POIX2010

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

Session 2, Online-flexible 2022

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor and Lecturer

Vince Scappatura

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Room B254, Level 2, 25B Wally's Walk

By appointment

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

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

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

*This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). **Late submission of time sensitive tasks** (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) **will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.***

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation	10%	No	Ongoing
Online test	20%	No	17/08/22; 7/09/22; 12/10/22; 2/11/22
Essay	40%	No	3/10/22
Take-home exam	30%	No	6/11/22

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

Online test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours
Due: **17/08/22; 7/09/22; 12/10/22; 2/11/22**
Weighting: **20%**

Online test 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: **3/10/22**
Weighting: **40%**

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

Take-home exam

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **6/11/22**

Weighting: **30%**

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 in the weekly online discussion forums.

Unit Schedule

Week	Date, Week beginning	Lecture	Tutorial	Assessment
1	July 25	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	None
2	August 1	'Race' and the politics of reconciliation	'Race' and Reconciliation	None
3	August 8	The History Wars: Australian Multiculturalism in Question	History Wars, Multiculturalism	None
4	August 15	Immigration, Border Protection and Securitization	Immigration, Borders and Exclusion	Quiz 17/08/22
5	August 22	Australian Nationalism: Whose National Identity?	The Politics of Nationalism	None
6	August 29	Citizenship and the Politics of Fear + Religion in Australian Politics	Fear, Religion and Citizenship	None
7	September 5	Class, Affluenza and the Environment	Capitalism, Consumption, and Environmental Politics	Quiz 07/09/22
8	September 26	The Changing Face of Work and Industrial Relations	The Politics of Workplace Change and Industrial Relations	None
9	October 3	Mutual Obligation and the Welfare State + the Marketisation of Education	Welfare and Education	Essay 3/10/2021

10	October 10	Feminism, Gender and Power	Gender inequality and women in politics	Quiz 12/10/22
11	October 17	Exam Preparation	How to best prepare for the final online exam.	None
12	October 24	Babies, the Family and Same-Sex Relationships in Australia	Babies, the Family and Same-Sex Relationships in Australia	None
13	October 31	Concluding Remarks	Conclusions	Quiz 02/11/22 Online Exam 6/11/22

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 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.