



PICX8060

Geopolitics and Geostrategy

Session 1, Online-flexible 2023

Department of Security Studies and Criminology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convener

Dalbir Ahlawat

dalbir.ahlawat@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

Room 544, Level 5, 25 B Wally's Walk

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MPICT or MCP ICT or GradDipPICT or GradDipCPICT or PGCertPICT or MPICTMIntSecSt or MCP ICTMIntSecSt or MIntSecStud or GradDipIntSecStud or GradCertIntell or MCTerrorism or M CyberSec or GradDipSecStudCr or GradCertSecStudCr or MIntell or MSecStrategicStud or MCrim or MSecStrategicStudMCrim or MSecStrategicStudMIntell or MSecStrategicStudM CyberSec or MSecStrategicStudMCTerrorism or MIntellMCrim or MIntellM CyberSec or MIntellMCTerrorism or M CyberSecMCTerrorism or M CyberSecMCrim or MCTerrorismMCrim or Master of Cyber Security Analysis or (10cps at 6000 level or 10cps 8000 level)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The international security order is in a period of rapid transformation. This unit examines the major global geopolitical trends, including in the Indo-Pacific, the greater Middle East, Europe, as well as Latin America and Africa. It also analyses the influence of those dynamics on the geostrategies of key countries. Aside from exposing students to the concept of geopolitics as an analytical instrument, the unit will deal with a series of case studies, including the evolving US-Sino rivalry; the Sino-India great power game; the geopolitics of Southeast Asia; the rise of Iran, and the emerging roles of Saudi Arabia and Turkey; the question of the re-emergence of Russia and Germany as great powers; and the United Kingdom in times of Brexit. The unit will provide students with in-depth understanding about the key contemporary global geostrategic dynamics and the implications for regional and international stability.

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: apply in-depth understanding about geopolitical analysis, geopolitical theories and geostrategy in multiple contexts. You will be across the various methods and approaches to geopolitical and geostrategic analysis.

ULO2: understand the difference between classical and critical geopolitics. You will be able to apply different methods for analysing geopolitics and to critically assess geopolitical questions through different analytical lenses.

ULO3: apply in-depth understanding about the historical evolution of modern geopolitics. Students will be equipped with the knowledge of historical case studies of geopolitically important changes before and after the Cold War, and the implications for scholarly understandings of geopolitical study.

ULO4: apply geopolitical analysis and integrated knowledge to assess the significance of current trends in this area and the related implications for scholarship and the policy world. Students will also be able to recognise recurrent geopolitical patterns throughout history.

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| Research Essay | 60% | No | End of Week 11 |
| Quiz | 20% | No | End of Weeks 3-12 |
| Active Participation | 20% | No | End of Weeks 2-11 or in the classroom |

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 46 hours

Due: **End of Week 11**

Weighting: **60%**

Students will prepare a 3,000 word research essay which will develop their ability to conduct independent research, apply critical thinking skills and foundational knowledge acquired during the seminar, and write in a clear, concise and academically rigorous manner.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply in-depth understanding about geopolitical analysis, geopolitical theories and geostrategy in multiple contexts. You will be across the various methods and approaches to geopolitical and geostrategic analysis.
- understand the difference between classical and critical geopolitics. You will be able to apply different methods for analysing geopolitics and to critically assess geopolitical questions through different analytical lenses.
- apply in-depth understanding about the historical evolution of modern geopolitics. Students will be equipped with the knowledge of historical case studies of geopolitically important changes before and after the Cold War, and the implications for scholarly understandings of geopolitical study.
- apply geopolitical analysis and integrated knowledge to assess the significance of current trends in this area and the related implications for scholarship and the policy world. Students will also be able to recognise recurrent geopolitical patterns throughout history.

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **End of Weeks 3-12**

Weighting: **20%**

This assessment requires students to attempt weekly online multiple choice quizzes. Participation in the quizzes demonstrates continuous constructive engagement to develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply in-depth understanding about geopolitical analysis, geopolitical theories and geostrategy in multiple contexts. You will be across the various methods and approaches to geopolitical and geostrategic analysis.
- understand the difference between classical and critical geopolitics. You will be able to apply different methods for analysing geopolitics and to critically assess geopolitical questions through different analytical lenses.
- apply in-depth understanding about the historical evolution of modern geopolitics. Students will be equipped with the knowledge of historical case studies of geopolitically

important changes before and after the Cold War, and the implications for scholarly understandings of geopolitical study.

- apply geopolitical analysis and integrated knowledge to assess the significance of current trends in this area and the related implications for scholarship and the policy world. Students will also be able to recognise recurrent geopolitical patterns throughout history.

Active Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **End of Weeks 2-11 or in the classroom**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will be expected to actively engage in the weekly iLearn discussion forums.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply in-depth understanding about geopolitical analysis, geopolitical theories and geostrategy in multiple contexts. You will be across the various methods and approaches to geopolitical and geostrategic analysis.
- understand the difference between classical and critical geopolitics. You will be able to apply different methods for analysing geopolitics and to critically assess geopolitical questions through different analytical lenses.
- apply in-depth understanding about the historical evolution of modern geopolitics. Students will be equipped with the knowledge of historical case studies of geopolitically important changes before and after the Cold War, and the implications for scholarly understandings of geopolitical study.
- apply geopolitical analysis and integrated knowledge to assess the significance of current trends in this area and the related implications for scholarship and the policy world. Students will also be able to recognise recurrent geopolitical patterns throughout history.

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

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- You should spend an average of 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes listening to lectures prior to seminar or tutorial, reading weekly required materials as detailed in iLearn, participating in iLearn discussion forums and preparing assessments.
- Internal students are expected to attend all seminar or tutorial sessions, and external students are expected to make significant contributions to on-line activities.
- In most cases students are required to attempt and submit all major assessment tasks in order to pass the unit.

REQUIRED READINGS

- The citations for all the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site, and at Macquarie University's library site. Electronic copies of required readings may be accessed through the library or will be made available by other means.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

- Computer and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement.
- This unit has an online presence. Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>
- Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient.
- Information about IT used at Macquarie University is available at http://students.mq.edu.au/it_services/

SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS

- All text-based assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site.
- Assessment tasks must be submitted as a MS word document by the due date.
- Most assessment tasks will be subject to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the

submission process.

- The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Special Consideration Policy. Extensions will not be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through Special Consideration: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS

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.

WORD LIMITS FOR ASSESSMENT TASKS

- Stated word limits include footnotes and footnoted references, but not bibliography, or title page.
- Word limits can generally deviate by 10% either over or under the stated figure.
- If the number of words deviates from the limit by more than 10%, then penalties will apply. These penalties are 5% of the awarded mark for every 100 words deviation from the word limit. If a paper is 300 words over, for instance, it will lose $3 \times 5\% = 15\%$ of the total mark awarded for the assignment. This percentage is taken off the total mark, i.e. if a paper was graded at a credit (65%) and was 300 words over, it would be reduced by 15 marks to a pass (50%).
- The application of this penalty is at the discretion of the course convener.

REASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SEMESTER

- Macquarie University operates a Grade Appeal Policy in cases where students feel their work was graded inappropriately: <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>
- In accordance with the Grade Appeal Policy, individual works are not subject to regrading.

STAFF AVAILABILITY

- Department staff will endeavour to answer student enquiries in a timely manner. However, emails or iLearn messages will not usually be answered over the weekend or public holiday period.
- Students are encouraged to read the Unit Guide and look at instructions posted on the iLearn site before sending email requests to staff.

Unit Schedule

| Week | Topic |
|---------|---|
| Week 1 | Introduction: Geopolitics and geostrategy |
| Week 2 | Theoretical approaches to understand the geopolitics and geostrategy |
| Week 3 | Cold War: Geopolitical and geostrategic perspectives |
| Week 4 | Post-Cold War: Shifting geopolitical and geostrategic dynamics |
| Week 5 | Geopolitics of the United States: Indo-Pacific region |
| Week 6 | Geopolitics of China: The BRI and beyond |
| Week 7 | Geopolitics of Russia: Heartland Eurassia |
| Week 8 | Geopolitics of Australia: Indian and Pacific Oceans |
| Week 9 | Geopolitics of Afghanistan: Graceyard of empires |
| Week 10 | Geopolitics of India: Indian Ocean and beyond |
| Week 11 | Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific Region: Quadrilateral Security Dialogue |
| Week 12 | Geopolitics of natural resources and climate security |
| Week 13 | Review and conclusions |

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 Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

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 from Previous Offering

Week 7 topic: Geography of Peace or Conflict?: US-China Rivalry in the Indo-Pacific replaced with

Geopolitics of Russia: Heartland Eurasia.