# POIR1010

## Australian Politics in Global Context

Session 1, Online-flexible 2023

*Macquarie School of Social Sciences*

# Contents

**Disclaimer**

# General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
In this unit, we introduce Australian politics through the lens of debates about globalisation and in so doing, we examine key Australian political institutions, ideologies and contemporary issues. We explore the ways in which they have been effected by, and have also filtered the effects of, accelerated globalisation. We ask: What is globalisation 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 (the Constitution, the High Court, Federalism, and Parliament), and are they democratic? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the main political ideologies? What are the key contemporary issues in Australia's political life (reconciliation, immigration, the war on terror, political information management), and is globalisation a sufficient or even a necessary explanation for understanding them?

## 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 in verbal and written form 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

**Late penalty text**

*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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Quiz | 20% | No | Friday, 17 March, 11.55pm |
| Major Essay | 40% | No | Friday, 21 April, 11.55pm |
| Final Exam | 30% | No | Sunday, 4 June, 11.55pm |
| Online participation | 10% | No | Weeks 2-13 |

## Quiz

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 16 hours
Due: **Friday, 17 March, 11.55pm**

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 [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 32 hours
Due: **Friday, 21 April, 11.55pm**
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

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- 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

# Final Exam

Assessment Type [1]: Examination
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 24 hours
Due: **Sunday, 4 June, 11.55pm**
Weighting: **30%**

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

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

## Online participation

Assessment Type [1]: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 13 hours
Due: **Weeks 2-13**
Weighting: **10%**

The emphasis in online participation will be on group discussions and 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 in verbal and written form the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them

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[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 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-

forgranted 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 Stewart Jackson et. al., (2022) *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. The book can be purchased in physical or electronic form, which is slightly cheaper. Alternatively, 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 WESITES**

Macquarie University 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.goc.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

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

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

# Unit Schedule

| Week One | Feb 22 | (a) Introduction: Australian Politics, Globalization and Covid-19<br><br>(b) Democracy, Inequality and Indigenous Australians | Introduction plus "closing the gap" (between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Week Two | March 1 | (a) Australian Federalism<br><br>(b) Reforming Federalism: How and Why? | What is federalism, and is it a better than more politically centralized systems? |
| Week Three | March 8 | (a) The Legislature: Whose Laws? Social Class and Political<br><br>(b) Lobbying | What is federalism, and is it a better than more politically centralized systems? |
| Week Four | March 15 | (a) The modern Executive<br><br>(b) 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? |
| Week Five | March 22 | (a) The Australian Constitution and High Court<br><br>(b) The Dismissal | Was the dismissal of the Whitlam government constitutional? |
| Week Six | March 29 | (a) The Bureaucracy and the Public Service<br><br>(b) The Policy Process | To what extent to public service bureaucrats shape public policy in Australia? |

| Week Seven | April 5 | (a) The Australian Electoral System<br><br>(b) The 2022 Federal Election: A Case Study | What were the key reasons for Labor's election victory in 2022? |
|---|---|---|---|
| Week Eight | April 26 | (a) The Australian Labor Party<br><br>(b) 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? |
| Week Nine | May 3 | (a) Minor Parties and the Party System<br><br>(b) The Greens and One Nation | Why have minor parties gained a greater share of the vote over recent election cycles? |
| Week Ten | May 10 | (a) Political Leadership<br><br>(b) Gender and Leadership | Has the quality of political leadership in Australia deteriorated in recent years, as some claim?<br><br>Why do women continue to be disproportionately underrepresented in positions of political leadership? |
| Week Eleven | May 17 | (a) The Media and Democracy<br><br>(b) Social Media and Democracy | IN what ways has social media transformed modern politics, and is this generally a positive or negative development? |
| Week Twelve | May 24 | (a) Civic Participation and Engagement<br><br>(b) Environmental Catastrophe in the Age of Denial | In what ways is politics both the problem and the solution to the environmental crisis? |
| Week Thirteen | May 31 | (a) Reform or Revolution?<br><br>(b) Conclusions and Final Thoughts | Does Australia need a social revolution, and what would this entail? |

# Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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). 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) 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.