



POIR2060

Modern Political Thought

Session 2, Online-flexible 2023

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Ian Tregenza

ian.tregenza@mq.edu.au

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

What are the limits of the legitimate use of force by political authorities? How should the power of government be limited? When is a government or political regime legitimate? These and related questions have been the subject of a continuous debate in political theory since the sixteenth century. This unit examines the various theories of human rights and of social contract as well as theories which reject the liberal/democratic approach to the question of legitimacy. Among the authors to be read are Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, Burke, Marx, Rawls, Schmitt, and Foucault.

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: Identify arguments for and against the need to consent to the exercise of political power.

ULO2: Understand key concepts which are deployed in the debate on political legitimacy

ULO3: Apply concepts to the analysis of political phenomena

ULO4: Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Literature review	20%	No	18/08/23
Essay	40%	No	06/10/23
Final test online	40%	No	Week 13

Literature review

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **18/08/23**

Weighting: **20%**

Short paper based on one or more of the unit readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify arguments for and against the need to consent to the exercise of political power.
- Understand key concepts which are deployed in the debate on political legitimacy
- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **06/10/23**

Weighting: **40%**

2500 word essay based on set questions

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify arguments for and against the need to consent to the exercise of political power.
- Understand key concepts which are deployed in the debate on political legitimacy
- Apply concepts to the analysis of political phenomena
- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts

Final test online

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

Two hour online test in final week of semester

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify arguments for and against the need to consent to the exercise of political power.
- Understand key concepts which are deployed in the debate on political legitimacy
- Apply concepts to the analysis of political phenomena
- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts

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

Lectures: 2-4pm Mondays. 14SCO T5.

Lectures will be recorded and available on ilearn.

Tutorials:

Monday 4-5pm, 01CC 111.

Monday 5-6, 01CC 111.

Weekly readings available through ilearn.

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.***

Unit Schedule

Weekly Topics:

Week 1. Introduction. Power, Legitimacy and the Modern State

Week 2. Before the Modern State: Machiavelli on Power

Week 3. Constructing Leviathan: Thomas Hobbes

Week 4. Constraining Leviathan: John Locke

Week 5. Ancient versus Modern Liberty: Rousseau and Constant

Week 6. Liberty and Representative Government: J.S. Mill

Week 7. Fairness and an Overlapping Consensus: John Rawls

Week 8. Reading Week.

Week 9. Against the Liberal State 1: Karl Marx

Week 10. Against the Liberal State 2: Carl Schmitt

Week 11. Defending Politics in the Age of Totalitarianism: Hannah Arendt

Week 12. Overturning Sovereign Power: Michel Foucault

Week 13. Class Test

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.