



POIR8410

Understanding World Politics: Theoretical Approaches

Session 1, Online-flexible 2023

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Govand Azeez govand.azeez@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Admission to MIntRel or MPPP or MPASR or GradCertPPP or PGDiplIntRel or GradDiplIntRel or MIntPubDip
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit provides students with a grounding in the principle theoretical approaches to the study of international relations and world order. Beginning with a focus on the historical emergence of traditional approaches such as realism, liberalism and Marxism and their competing perspectives on the causes of war and the conditions for peace, the unit goes on to consider more recent approaches, including gender approaches, critical theory, constructivism, postcolonialism, postmodernism and green theory.

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: Analyse and critically assess complex International Relations theories and place them within the broader context of the study of International Relations.

ULO2: Analyse and critically assess scholarly texts in International Relations theories and identify particular solutions to the problems raised in traditional and contemporary International Relations theories

ULO3: Analyse, generate and transmit solutions to a variety of current problems in International Relations using International Relations theories

ULO4: Transmit the knowledge and ideas generated by International Relations theories

to others

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
<u>In class short test or online quiz</u>	30%	No	Each Week
<u>Research essay</u>	40%	No	Week 5
<u>Article review</u>	15%	No	Week 10
<u>In class presentation or online posting</u>	15%	No	Week 12

In class short test or online quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Each Week**

Weighting: **30%**

A short in-class closed book test requiring short essay answers to set questions. An online quiz, available for a short time , constructed as an online closed book quiz, requiring short essay answers to set questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and critically assess complex International Relations theories and place them within the broader context of the study of of International Relations.
- Analyse and critically assess scholarly texts in International Relations theories and identify particular solutions to the problems raised in traditional and contemporary International Relations theories

Research essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **Week 5**

Weighting: **40%**

An essay based on original research of scholarly articles and scholarly monographs which are not part of the required readings for the unit.

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- Analyse and critically assess scholarly texts in International Relations theories and identify particular solutions to the problems raised in traditional and contemporary International Relations theories
- Analyse, generate and transmit solutions to a variety of current problems in International Relations using International Relations theories
- Transmit the knowledge and ideas generated by International Relations theories to others

Article review

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Week 10**

Weighting: **15%**

A short paper reviewing one or more items from required readings

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In class presentation or online posting

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **15%**

Internal (on-campus) students: a short oral presentation in class on a chosen weekly topic.
Online students will post short essay answers to set questions each week.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Transmit the knowledge and ideas generated by International Relations theories to others

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

Teaching Methods/Mode of Delivery

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be two hour lecture and one hour tutorial every week.

For access to materials and resources, please refer to ilearn.

External classes will be asynchronous.

Prerequisites and Preparation

Students taking this unit inevitably come from a wide range of academic backgrounds. Some students will already have been introduced to the study of IR, and IR theory, at the undergraduate level. For others, this unit will be their first experience of the subject, or of the more general field of political studies, of which IR is a part. For those with little or no previous background in the study of politics and IR, it is essential that you do some extra reading and preparation for the unit. Even if you have done some politics and IR before, you will benefit from some revision.

Textbooks and Sources: The core text for POIR8410 is: *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, edited by Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, Steve Smith, Oxford University Press. Each chapter is written by a leading theorist who is working on the theory which she or he is writing about. The texts are thus coming from the actual theorists-practitioners.

Unit Schedule

Lecture Two Hours: Tuesday (11.00 to 1.00)

Tutorial One Hour: Tuesday (1.00-2.00)

Online students will be based on recorded lectures and online/iLearn contents.

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.