PICT8950
Strategic Simulation
Session 1, In person-scheduled-infrequent, North Ryde 2024
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 By email
Room 319, Level 3, 25 B Wally's Walk
By appointment

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
(Admission to MPICT or GradDipPICT or MPICTMIntSecSt or MIntSecStud or GradDipIntSecStud or MCIPICT or MCIPICTMISS or GradDipCPICT or GradCertCPICT) and (40cp in PICT units at 8000 level or above including (PICT8050 or PICT850) or (PICT8012 or PICT812))

Corequisites
PICT8951, PICT8952, PICT8953, PICT8954, PICT8955

Unit description
This unit provides students with an opportunity to apply the knowledge they have gain throughout their program of study to a real world crisis. By participating in a dynamic simulation, students will be required to solve problems and find solutions to real world challenges. Students will be assigned to an executive team that includes students with different skill sets and knowledge. These executive teams may include strategists, intelligence analysts, criminologists, counter terrorism experts, and cyber security analysts. Depending on their specialization, students will take one of these roles. Their mission will be to formulate solutions by employing the academic, research and analytical skills they acquired throughout their program. The student will be required to make policy recommendations based on his assessment of the situation.

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: Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.

ULO2: Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.

ULO3: Evaluate advanced simulation disciplinary knowledge and then apply this knowledge to complex and evolving real-world scenarios.

ULO4: Effectively communicate disciplinary knowledge to professional audiences by creating high-quality briefing papers and presentations.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simulation</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 12 Saturdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Brief.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>End of Week 8</td>
</tr>
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**Simulation**

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation  
Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours  
Due: **Week 12 Saturdays**

Weighting: 50%

In the course of the main simulation, each student team will be presented with an evolving security scenario. At the end of each turn,

- each student will submit a short video presentation that assesses the security situation and provides policy recommendations.
- each team will submit a presentation that assesses the security situation and provides policy recommendations.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of simulation & role playing as an educational and professional tool.
- Understand decision-making, bargaining situations and group dynamics in a political-strategic context.
- Evaluate advanced simulation disciplinary knowledge and then apply this knowledge to complex and evolving real-world scenarios.
Effectively communicate disciplinary knowledge to professional audiences by creating high-quality briefing papers and presentations.

Policy Brief.
Assessment Type 1: Professional writing
Indicative Time on Task 2: 46 hours
Due: End of Week 8
Weighting: 50%

Students will write a policy brief focusing on a crisis scenario.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Evaluate advanced simulation disciplinary knowledge and then apply this knowledge to complex and evolving real-world scenarios.
• Effectively communicate disciplinary knowledge to professional audiences by creating high-quality briefing papers and presentations.

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

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](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.

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
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

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 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

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/164982/unit_guide/print
- 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/](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.

Unit information based on version 2024.03 of the Handbook