POIR8090

Advanced Introduction to Policy

Session 1, Online-flexible 2024

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
20cp at the 8000 level or above; or admission to MPSP or MPASR or GradCertPASR or
GradDipPASR or MPlan or MSusDev

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit focuses on how policy is made and who makes it. Taking an international
perspective, the unit introduces students to the policy process, the state and societal actors
that cooperate (and fight) over policy and to the context in which they operate. Students will
engage in peer learning, discuss cases studies as well as write on policy issues using the
materials and concepts presented in the unit. The topics covered indicatively include: The
policy process; policy paradigms, networks, monopolies, cycles, and policy diffusion; the
regulatory state; state autonomy and state capture; the reciprocal influence between state and
society, with a focus on relationship between social capital and democratic governance;
clientelism, its determinants, and its implications for policy-making; the decline of trust in
public institutions in advanced democracies.

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, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies
involved in issues such inequality, labour market liberalisation, the institutional
convergence or divergence of capitalist systems, and the mutual relationship between
society and political institutions.

ULO2: Engage in independent research showing the ability to build on international

scholarship and international examples to address a public policy problem.

ULO3: Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.

ULO4: Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.

ULO5: Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual).

General Assessment Information

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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Presentation	20%	No	11/04/24; 2PM
Essay	40%	No	02/06/24; 11:59PM
Participation	20%	No	02/06/24; 11:59PM
Quiz	20%	No	02/06/24; 11:59PM

Presentation

Assessment Type [1]: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **11/04/24; 2PM**
Weighting: **20%**

A presentation based on a specific topic from the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in issues such inequality, labour market liberalisation, the institutional convergence or divergence of capitalist systems, and the mutual relationship between society and political institutions.
- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.
- Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual).

Essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 55 hours
Due: **02/06/24; 11:59PM**
Weighting: **40%**

The essay provides students with the opportunity to explore a topic of interest in depth. Students should develop a considered answer to a specific question based on reading a range of sources.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in issues such inequality, labour market liberalisation, the institutional convergence or divergence of capitalist systems, and the mutual relationship between society and political institutions.
- Engage in independent research showing the ability to build on international scholarship and international examples to address a public policy problem.
- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.

- Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual).

Participation

Assessment Type [1]: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **02/06/24; 11:59PM**
Weighting: **20%**

Informed and constructive participation in discussions and activities

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in issues such inequality, labour market liberalisation, the institutional convergence or divergence of capitalist systems, and the mutual relationship between society and political institutions.
- Engage in independent research showing the ability to build on international scholarship and international examples to address a public policy problem.
- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.

Quiz

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **02/06/24; 11:59PM**
Weighting: **20%**

Weekly quizzes on the mandatory readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.

[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

Classes

Weekly classes involve a 1 hour lecture and a 2 hour seminar.

Reading

There are a range of journal articles and chapters that are required reading. These will be listed on iLearn and available via Leganto.

Technology used and required

All enrolled students have access to the POIR8090 website via iLearn. iLearn will provide access to lectures (powerpoint presentations for download and recordings through the University's Echo lecture recording facility) as well as readings, links and forum discussions. Regular access to iLearn is required in order to complete the unit.

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.e

du.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 an d maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://stu dents.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.

Unit information based on version 2024.01 of the Handbook