PICT8060
Geopolitics and Geostrategy

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, 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 MPlCT or MCPiCT or GradDipPiCT or PGCertPiCT or MPlCTMIntSecSt or MCPiCTMIntSecSt or MIntSecStud or GradDiplMIntSecStud or GradCertIntell or MCTerrorism or MCyberSec or GradDipSecStudCr or GradCertSecStudCr or MIntell or MSecStrategicStud or MCrIm or MSecStrategicStudMCrIm or MSecStrategicStudMIntell or MSecStrategicStudMCyberSec or MSecStrategicStudMCTerrorism or MIntellMCyberSec or MIntellMCTerrorism or MCyberSecMCTerrorism or MCrIm or MCTerrorismMCrIm or Master of Cyber Security Analysis or (Admission to BSecStudMCTerrorism or BSecStudMCrIm or BSecStudMCyberSecAnalysis or BSecStudMIntell or BSecStudMSecStrategicStud) and (50 cp at 2000 level))

**Corequisites**

**Co-badged status**  
PICX8060

**Unit description**  
The international security order is in a period of rapid transformation. This unit examines the major global geopolitical trends, including in the Indo-Pacific, the greater Middle East, Europe, as well as Latin America and Africa. It also analyses the influence of those dynamics on the geostrategies of key countries. Aside from exposing students to the concept of geopolitics as an analytical instrument, the unit will deal with a series of case studies, including the evolving US-Sino rivalry; the Sino-India great power game; the geopolitics of Southeast Asia; the rise of Iran, and the emerging roles of Saudi Arabia and Turkey; the question of the re-emergence of Russia and Germany as great powers; and the United Kingdom in times of Brexit. The unit will provide students with in-depth understanding about the key contemporary global geostrategic dynamics and the implications for regional and international stability.
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](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates)

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1**: apply in-depth understanding about geopolitical analysis, geopolitical theories and geostrategy in multiple contexts. You will be across the various methods and approaches to geopolitical and geostrategic analysis.

**ULO2**: understand the difference between classical and critical geopolitics. You will be able to apply different methods for analysing geopolitics and to critically assess geopolitical questions through different analytical lenses.

**ULO3**: apply in-depth understanding about the historical evolution of modern geopolitics. Students will be equipped with the knowledge of historical case studies of geopolitically important changes before and after the Cold War, and the implications for scholarly understandings of geopolitical study.

**ULO4**: apply geopolitical analysis and integrated knowledge to assess the significance of current trends in this area and the related implications for scholarship and the policy world. Students will also be able to recognise recurrent geopolitical patterns throughout history.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>End of Weeks 3 to 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>End of Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Participation (On-campus)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Internal in classroom/External end of Weeks 2 to 11</td>
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**Quiz**

Assessment Type**: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task**: 15 hours

Due: **End of Weeks 3 to 12**

Weighting: **20%**
This assessment requires students to attempt weekly online multiple choice quizzes. Participation in the quizzes demonstrates continuous constructive engagement to develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- apply in-depth understanding about geopolitical analysis, geopolitical theories and geostrategy in multiple contexts. You will be across the various methods and approaches to geopolitical and geostrategic analysis.
- understand the difference between classical and critical geopolitics. You will be able to apply different methods for analysing geopolitics and to critically assess geopolitical questions through different analytical lenses.
- apply in-depth understanding about the historical evolution of modern geopolitics. Students will be equipped with the knowledge of historical case studies of geopolitically important changes before and after the Cold War, and the implications for scholarly understandings of geopolitical study.
- apply geopolitical analysis and integrated knowledge to assess the significance of current trends in this area and the related implications for scholarship and the policy world. Students will also be able to recognise recurrent geopolitical patterns throughout history.

Research Essay
Assessment Type: Essay
Indicative Time on Task: 46 hours
Due: End of Week 11
Weighting: 60%

Students will prepare a 3,000 word research essay which will develop their ability to conduct independent research, apply critical thinking skills and foundational knowledge acquired during the seminar, and write in a clear, concise and academically rigorous manner.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- understand the difference between classical and critical geopolitics. You will be able to
apply different methods for analysing geopolitics and to critically assess geopolitical questions through different analytical lenses.

- apply in-depth understanding about the historical evolution of modern geopolitics. Students will be equipped with the knowledge of historical case studies of geopolitically important changes before and after the Cold War, and the implications for scholarly understandings of geopolitical study.
- apply geopolitical analysis and integrated knowledge to assess the significance of current trends in this area and the related implications for scholarship and the policy world. Students will also be able to recognise recurrent geopolitical patterns throughout history.

Active Participation (On-campus)

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 15 hours
Due: Internal in classroom/External end of Weeks 2 to 11
Weighting: 20%

On-campus students will be expected to actively engage in the weekly discussions and debates within their seminars (on campus students) or on the iLearn discussion forums (fully online students).

On successful completion you will be able to:
- apply in-depth understanding about geopolitical analysis, geopolitical theories and geostrategy in multiple contexts. You will be across the various methods and approaches to geopolitical and geostrategic analysis.
- understand the difference between classical and critical geopolitics. You will be able to apply different methods for analysing geopolitics and to critically assess geopolitical questions through different analytical lenses.
- apply in-depth understanding about the historical evolution of modern geopolitics. Students will be equipped with the knowledge of historical case studies of geopolitically important changes before and after the Cold War, and the implications for scholarly understandings of geopolitical study.
- apply geopolitical analysis and integrated knowledge to assess the significance of current trends in this area and the related implications for scholarship and the policy world. Students will also be able to recognise recurrent geopolitical patterns throughout history.
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.

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**

**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/](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/](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 x 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

• 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
• 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.

Changes from Previous Offering
Week 9 topic on Afghanistan is replaced with the Israel and Hamas Conflict. This is changed to reflect the current geo-strategic challenge in the Middle East.

Unit information based on version 2024.01 of the Handbook