



POIR8570

International Law in Global Politics

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Umut Ozguc umut.ozguc@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Admission to MIntRel or MSecStrategicStud or MCrim or MIntell or MCyberSecAnalysis or MCTerrorism or MPPP or MPASR or GradCertPPP or PGDiplIntRel or GradDiplIntRel or MIntPubDip.
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description International law is a critical area in International Relations theory and practice. This unit explores the connections between these fields. It introduces the principles, foundations and evolution of international law and applies these to global challenges in the 21st century. Students will analyse a range of issues such as the use of force, humanitarian international law, international human rights law, refugee protection, genocide and crimes against humanity, and the law of the sea. Overall, the unit provides students with critical knowledge of international law and its role in contemporary debates around global governance and international politics.

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: Reflect upon and analyse the ethical, political and cultural context which informs and influences the operation of international law and institutions.

ULO2: Understand and critically evaluate the theoretical approaches to international law and international relations within the IR discipline and to reflect upon the role of power on the formation and effective operation of international law.

ULO3: Formulate and defend policy recommendations on important issues regarding

international law and institutions.

ULO4: Apply skills required to conduct independent research and analysis.

ULO5: Understand fundamental rules and concepts on international law

ULO6: Demonstrate critical and creative thinking including identifying and organising relevant information to formulate persuasive, coherent and credible arguments

General Assessment Information

See [Learn](#) for details.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Portfolio Reflections	10%	No	01/06/2025
Research Essay	50%	No	11/04/2025
Policy report	40%	No	02/06/2025

Portfolio Reflections

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 26 hours

Due: **01/06/2025**

Weighting: **10%**

Portfolio Reflections

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Reflect upon and analyse the ethical, political and cultural context which informs and influences the operation of international law and institutions.
- Understand and critically evaluate the theoretical approaches to international law and international relations within the IR discipline and to reflect upon the role of power on the formation and effective operation of international law.
- Understand fundamental rules and concepts on international law
- Demonstrate critical and creative thinking including identifying and organising relevant information to formulate persuasive, coherent and credible arguments

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 48 hours

Due: **11/04/2025**

Weighting: **50%**

2500 word research essay

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Reflect upon and analyse the ethical, political and cultural context which informs and influences the operation of international law and institutions.
- Understand and critically evaluate the theoretical approaches to international law and international relations within the IR discipline and to reflect upon the role of power on the formation and effective operation of international law.
- Formulate and defend policy recommendations on important issues regarding international law and institutions.
- Apply skills required to conduct independent research and analysis.
- Understand fundamental rules and concepts on international law
- Demonstrate critical and creative thinking including identifying and organising relevant information to formulate persuasive, coherent and credible arguments

Policy report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **02/06/2025**

Weighting: **40%**

2000 word report on a contemporary policy issue

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Reflect upon and analyse the ethical, political and cultural context which informs and influences the operation of international law and institutions.
- Understand and critically evaluate the theoretical approaches to international law and international relations within the IR discipline and to reflect upon the role of power on the

formation and effective operation of international law.

- Formulate and defend policy recommendations on important issues regarding international law and institutions.
- Apply skills required to conduct independent research and analysis.
- Understand fundamental rules and concepts on international law
- Demonstrate critical and creative thinking including identifying and organising relevant information to formulate persuasive, coherent and credible arguments

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

Required Readings

There is no set textbook in this unit. All required readings are set as 'required readings' on Leganto and Ilearn.

Technologies Used

This unit has an online presence in ilearn. Students will require reliable internet access and a computer.

Lectures and Tutorials are on campus.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.s.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.s.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 connect.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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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 2025.06 of the [Handbook](#)