



# POIR8420

## Understanding World Politics: Methodological and Theoretical Approaches

Session 1, Online-flexible 2025

*School of International Studies*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Govand Azeez

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MIntRel or MPPP or MPASR or GradCertPPP or PGDipIntRel or GradDipIntRel or MIntPubDip

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides students with a grounding in the key methodological and theoretical approaches relevant to the study of global politics and the world system. The unit begins with the breakdown of the key methodological, epistemological and ontological camps in global politics and theory. It then explores the historical emergence of traditional approaches such as realism, liberalism and Marxism and their outlines their competing perspectives and associated research methodologies. The unit concludes by considering more recent approaches, including feminism, critical theory, constructivism, postcolonialism, postmodernism and green theory. Students will gain an understanding of the critical intersections between theory and methods in the context of world 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:** Demonstrate an understanding of the aims and philosophical considerations underpinning thought in the political sphere

**ULO2:** Utilise different methods and methodologies relevant to global politics

**ULO3:** Critically evaluate complex International Relations theories and situate them within their broader context

**ULO4:** Analyse and critically assess scholarly texts in International Relations

**ULO5:** Integrate theories and methods to address contemporary challenges in global politics

## General Assessment Information

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
<a href="#">Major research essay</a>	50%	No	2025-06-09
<a href="#">Mid-semester test</a>	50%	No	2025-04-29

### Major research essay

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 70 hours

Due: **2025-06-09**

Weighting: **50%**

Essay drawing together theories and methods to assess a problem in world politics

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the aims and philosophical considerations underpinning thought in the political sphere
- Utilise different methods and methodologies relevant to global politics
- Critically evaluate complex International Relations theories and situate them within their broader context
- Analyse and critically assess scholarly texts in International Relations
- Integrate theories and methods to address contemporary challenges in global politics

### Mid-semester test

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 22 hours

Due: **2025-04-29**

Weighting: **50%**

Test on unit content

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the aims and philosophical considerations underpinning thought in the political sphere
- Utilise different methods and methodologies relevant to global politics
- Critically evaluate complex International Relations theories and situate them within their broader context

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 Format:

- 2-hour weekly lecture
- Online students will participate in organised forums. The questions will be given out each week after the lecture.

### Course Structure:

The lectures follow a systematic chronological progression from classical to contemporary thought, exploring how political, economic, and social systems have evolved and influenced each other throughout history. From Plato to NATO, each session builds upon previous discussions to create a comprehensive understanding of these interconnected systems.

### Important Notes

- Regular attendance at both lectures and tutorials is essential for successful completion of course requirements
- All course materials and resources are available on iLearn

## Unit Schedule

Lecture_1	Lecture, Tuesday	09:00	2h	12SW 229 Tutorial Room
Tutorial_1	Tutorial, Tuesday	11:00	1h	12SW 226 Tutorial Room

## 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 [connect.mq.edu.au](https://connect.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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/](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 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)