POIX2580

Political Violence

Session 2, Online-flexible 2025

School of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Ian Tregenza ian.tregenza@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites 40cp at 1000 level or above OR (10cp in POL or POIR or POIX units)
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description Aristotle described the human as a 'zoon politikon' (political animal). That is, humans are creatures that live in a polis and engage in politics. Humans also have a history of violence, through all ages and across all cultures. This unit explores intersections of these two expressions of human activity, politics and violence. It incorporates theoretical and philosophical perspectives and empirical analyses, including on war, terrorism, authoritarianism and totalitarianism, genocide and ethnic cleansing, insurgencies and revolutions, protest and assassinations.

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: Acquire knowledge and understanding about varieties of political violence, including relevant concepts, actors, theoretical perspectives, processes and contexts.

ULO2: Develop abilities to conduct independent research and deploy appropriate sources in a scholarly way.

ULO3: Build capacity to apply critical evaluation and debating skills, and enhance presentation in written forms.

ULO4: Develop a more extensive knowledge of particular sub-themes.

ULO5: Understand the importance of organisation and time management of workloads,

and student responsibilities in this area.

General Assessment Information

Submission of Assessments

1. All essays and take-home exams must be submitted using the "Turnitin Assignments" facility on the POIR2580 iLearn website. This facility includes software that scans the uploaded assessments for plagiarism. Follow the instructions on the screen carefully. Your assessment should be uploaded before the due time on the due date. In all cases you should keep a copy of your assessment.

2. All assessments submitted via Turnitin will be returned via the same facility on iLearn. When the marks are released, you will need to go back into the Assignment submission box, and open your uploaded assessment. When you click on the "GradeMark" button, you will be able to see the mark and the comments. **There will be no comments for the exam responses.**

3. The submission of written work for the Tutorial Presentations will be addressed by the Unit Convener.

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	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Presentation (online)	20%	No	Weekly		No	
Research Essay	45%	No	10/10/2025		No	
Take home exam	35%	No	Week 13		No	

Presentation (online)

Assessment Type [1]: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **20%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

Presentation (online)

Students to send these to the teacher, along with the presentation materials (slides, accompanying text, etc).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding about varieties of political violence, including relevant concepts, actors, theoretical perspectives, processes and contexts.
- Develop abilities to conduct independent research and deploy appropriate sources in a scholarly way.
- Build capacity to apply critical evaluation and debating skills, and enhance presentation in written forms.
- Develop a more extensive knowledge of particular sub-themes.
- Understand the importance of organisation and time management of workloads, and student responsibilities in this area.

Research Essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 50 hours
Due: **10/10/2025**
Weighting: **45%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

Research Essay

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding about varieties of political violence, including relevant concepts, actors, theoretical perspectives, processes and contexts.
- Develop abilities to conduct independent research and deploy appropriate sources in a

scholarly way.
- Build capacity to apply critical evaluation and debating skills, and enhance presentation in written forms.
- Develop a more extensive knowledge of particular sub-themes.
- Understand the importance of organisation and time management of workloads, and student responsibilities in this area.

Take home exam

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **Week 13**
Weighting: **35%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

Take home exam covering key concepts and topics.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Acquire knowledge and understanding about varieties of political violence, including relevant concepts, actors, theoretical perspectives, processes and contexts.
- Build capacity to apply critical evaluation and debating skills, and enhance presentation in written forms.
- Develop a more extensive knowledge of particular sub-themes.

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[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
- Academic Success 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.

[3] An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the Service Connect Portal.

Delivery and Resources

Teaching:

1 x 2hr lecture Thursdays 11am-1pm. 23WW T1 Lecture Theatre

Lecture slides and audio can be accessed on Echo360 via the POIR2580 iLearn site.

Thursday 2-3pm Tutorial, 23 WW Room 105

Thursday 3-4pm Tutorial, 23 WW Room 105

Thursday 4-5pm Tutorial, 23 WW Room 105

Ilearn discussion site for OUA and external students.

Readings:

Various Journal articles and book chapters will be set as readings for each tutorial. These will be listed on the POIR2580 iLearn website.

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 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/

Academic Success

Academic Success 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 2025.03 of the Handbook