



# POIX1010

## Australian Politics in Global Context

Session 1, Online-flexible 2025

*School of International Studies*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor and Lecturer

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ARTS Building B, Level 3

Wednesday 9-11

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In this unit, we critically assess Australian politics from the perspective of political and economic history, through the lens of social power and financial interests, and drilling down into contemporary debates about economic crisis, globalisation, nationalism, environmental catastrophe and war. With this approach in mind, we examine key Australian political institutions, ideologies, and issues. What is the nature of Australia's key political institutions (the Constitution, the High Court, Federalism, Government and Parliament), and are they democratic and just? Could we live without them? What are some of the radical critiques of these institutions and the interests they serve? What is 'Australia', after all - a unified nation of peoples with shared identities and interests, or a construct that serves wealth and power by masking deep social fractures, or something else again? All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see [www.open.edu.au](http://www.open.edu.au)

## 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:** Articulate a sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context

**ULO2:** Communicate the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them

**ULO3:** Demonstrate familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene

**ULO4:** Use a sophisticated analytical vocabulary for better appreciating the most pressing contemporary issues in Australian 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
Quiz	20%	No	17/03/2025
Portfolio-Based Assessment for Online Discussions	30%	No	21/04/2025
Major Essay	50%	No	08/06/2025

### Quiz

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 16 hours

Due: **17/03/2025**

Weighting: **20%**

This is a short, online multiple choice quiz that will test students' knowledge of the first three weeks of unit content.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Articulate a sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- Communicate the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Demonstrate familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
- Use a sophisticated analytical vocabulary for better appreciating the most pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

## Portfolio-Based Assessment for Online Discussions

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 24 hours

Due: **21/04/2025**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will select what is in their opinion their three best contributions to the online discussion board, along with a brief rationale for why they think these are the best.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Communicate the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Demonstrate familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
- Use a sophisticated analytical vocabulary for better appreciating the most pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

## Major Essay

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 45 hours

Due: **08/06/2025**

Weighting: **50%**

This is a 1800-word essay +/- 10%, with topics drawn from across the unit, which allows students to explore a research topic in depth

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Demonstrate familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
- Use a sophisticated analytical vocabulary for better appreciating the most pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

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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

Welcome to POIR/POIX 1010, Australian Politics in Global Context. Australian politics has undergone rapid change over the past four decades. The relative stability of the post-war era has given way to a political and social landscape of accelerated transformation. Previously taken-for-granted values are challenged, once stable institutions are destabilised, and the very idea of an Australian political community (what it is, who it encompasses, and the future directions it should take) is the subject of fierce controversy. These political tremors have been expressed most acutely in the rise of and subsequent challenges to multiculturalism, the intense controversies around an indigenous voice to Parliament, and in the neo-liberal restructuring of key Australian institutions, with an attendant growth of inequality. The covid-crisis starkly revealed the depth of these inequalities, as different sectors of the population - indigenous/non-indigenous, women/men, migrants/non-migrants, working class/employers - have been effected very differently, despite all of the talk of being "all in this together."

In this unit, we introduce these divisions and Australian politics more generally, through the lens of debates about globalization and its consequences for state capacities, sovereignty and decision-making. In so doing, we examine key political institutions, ideologies and contemporary issues. We explore the ways in which they been affected by, and have also filtered the effects of,

accelerated globalization. Among other questions, we ask: what is globalization and how, if at all, has it blurred the boundaries between 'domestic' and 'foreign' policy issues; what is the nature of Australia's key political institutions, and do they ensure a high degree of democratic participation and accountability in a global era; what are the strengths and weaknesses of the main political ideas that inform public debate in this country, and how are they expressed in political struggle between the main parties?

To answer these questions, the main readings will be from the textbook by Stewart Jackson et. al., (2022) *Australian Politics in the Twenty-First Century: Old Institutions, New Challenges* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). The book can be purchased directly from Cambridge Online. The book can be purchased in physical or electronic form, which is slightly cheaper. Alternatively, the book can be purchased from the various online platforms that sell books. As there are only limited copies available in the library, students should order the book immediately so that they can start reading as soon as possible. In addition, there will be supplementary readings that will be available on ilearn. To get the best out of this unit it is essential that students read, think carefully about what they are reading, and come to tutorials prepared to discuss the readings.

USEFUL JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES *Arena*; *Australian Journal of Political Science*; *Australian Journal of Politics and History*; *Australian Journal of Political Economy*; *Australian Journal of Public Administration*; *Australian Journal of Social Issues*; [Australian] *Journal of Sociology*; *AQ Journal of Contemporary Analysis*; *Griffith Review*; *Journal of Political Ideologies*; *The Monthly*; *Australian Politics, Society and Culture*; *Thesis Eleven*.

USEFUL WEBSITES Macquarie University Politics Subject Site: <http://www.lib.mq.edu/resources/subject/politics> The Commonwealth parliamentary Library: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/index.htm> The National Library of Australia: <http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/gov> / Elections data base website at the University of Western Australia: <http://elections.uwa.edu.au> NSW government website: <http://www.nsw.gov.au/government.asp> Australian Bureau of Statistics: <http://www.abs.gov.au/> ABC Online: <http://www.abc.net.au> Australian Policy Online: <http://www.apo.org.au/index.shtml>

## Unit Schedule

Week One	Feb 25	(a) Introduction: Australian Politics, Globalization and Covid-19  (b) Democracy, Inequality and Indigenous Australians	Introduction, neoliberalism and globalization, plus the Voice and "closing the gap" (between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians)
Week Two	March 4	(a) Australian Federalism (b) Reforming Federalism: How and Why?	What is federalism, and is it better than more politically centralized systems?
Week Three	March 11	(a) The Legislature: Whose Laws?  (b) Lobbying	How does the federal Legislature make laws, and who do they make them for?

Week Four	March 18	(a) The modern Executive (b) The modern Executive, Secrecy and Refugees	What is the purpose of Cabinet confidentiality? Is secrecy inherent to our system of government, and how does it clash with the principle of accountability?
Week Five	March 25	(a) The Australian Constitution and High Court (b) The Whitlam dismissal	Was the dismissal of the Whitlam government constitutional? If it was, what does this imply about Australia's constitution?
Week Six	April 1	(a) The bureaucracy and the public service (b) The policy process	To what extent do public service bureaucrats shape public policy in Australia?
Week Seven	April 8	(a) The Australian Electoral System (b) The 2022 Federal Election: A Case Study	What were the key reasons for Labor's election victory in 2022? How does the 2025 election landscape differ from 2022?
Week Eight	April 29	(a) The Australian Labor Party (b) The Liberal Party of Australia	Have the ALP and the LPA converged politically in recent decades? If they have, what are the areas of convergence?
Week Nine	May 6	(a) Minor Parties and the Party System (b) The Greens and One Nation	Why have minor parties gained a greater share of the vote over recent election cycles?
Week Ten	May 13	(a) Political Leadership (b) Gender and Leadership	Has the quality of political leadership in Australia deteriorated in recent years, as some claim? Why do women continue to be disproportionately underrepresented in positions of political leadership?
Week Eleven	May 20	(a) The Media and Democracy (b) Social Media and Democracy	In what ways has social media transformed modern politics, and is this generally a positive or negative development?
Week Twelve	May 27	(a) Civic Participation and Engagement (b) Environmental Catastrophe in the Age of Denial	In what ways is politics both the problem and the solution to the environmental crisis?
Week Thirteen	June 3	(a) The Australia-US Alliance (b) Conclusions and Final Thoughts	Does the AUKUS Pact help or hinder Australia's security?

## 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/>



## 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/](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.

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Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)