



POIX1080

Introduction to Global Politics

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of International Studies

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Globalisation has had dramatic implications for the structure and conduct of global politics, now defined by the multiplication of actors and networks. Contemporary crises can no longer be contained within state borders and global problems such as climate change, poverty, health insecurities, and violent conflicts call for global solutions. This unit equips students with the tools to understand the forces that shape the world we live in by introducing them to the key issues, institutions, ideas, and actors involved in global politics. It first outlines the historical context, key theories and concepts, and fundamental institutions of contemporary global politics. Students will then explore important contemporary global issues and crises. Overall, the unit provides students with foundational knowledge about the complexity of global politics, problems and solutions. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see 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: Understand and evaluate the role of historical events and the meanings that have been attributed to them in world politics.

ULO2: Apply and develop further independent research skills required to discover relevant evidence to support academic arguments.

ULO3: Understand and apply the academic skills required to write cogently and to structure arguments in a logical order.

ULO4: Critically engage with and analyse the key issues and challenges that are the current focus of world politics.

ULO5: Understand, explain and apply the key concepts, theories, methods, and issues relevant to the study of International Relations at an introductory level.

ULO6: Identify and understand the defining debates in the field of Global Politics.

General Assessment Information

See Unit Learn site for all information.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Quiz	10%	No	24/08/2026	Individual	No	Open
Research Essay	40%	No	14/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Policy Brief	50%	No	05/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **24/08/2026**

Weighting: **10%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Quiz (Multiple Choice)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and evaluate the role of historical events and the meanings that have been attributed to them in world politics.
- Critically engage with and analyse the key issues and challenges that are the current focus of world politics.
- Understand, explain and apply the key concepts, theories, methods, and issues relevant to the study of International Relations at an introductory level.
- Identify and understand the defining debates in the field of Global Politics.

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **14/09/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Short essay. 1400 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and evaluate the role of historical events and the meanings that have been attributed to them in world politics.
- Apply and develop further independent research skills required to discover relevant evidence to support academic arguments.
- Understand and apply the academic skills required to write cogently and to structure arguments in a logical order.
- Critically engage with and analyse the key issues and challenges that are the current focus of world politics.
- Understand, explain and apply the key concepts, theories, methods, and issues relevant to the study of International Relations at an introductory level.
- Identify and understand the defining debates in the field of Global Politics.

Policy Brief

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 55 hours

Due: **05/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Policy Brief.1800 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and evaluate the role of historical events and the meanings that have been attributed to them in world politics.
- Apply and develop further independent research skills required to discover relevant evidence to support academic arguments.
- Understand and apply the academic skills required to write cogently and to structure arguments in a logical order.
- Critically engage with and analyse the key issues and challenges that are the current

focus of world politics.

- Identify and understand the defining debates in the field of Global Politics.

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

See Unit Ilearn site for all information.

Unit Schedule

Part 1: Introductions

Week 1
Reorganisation of world politics? How (and why) do we study global politics? Crises or

Week 2
century Globalisation or Global Apartheid? A snapshot of the 21st

Part 2: History of the Present

Week 3 The birth of (nation) state: *Is state a good invention*

Week 4
or cooperation? International history of the 20th Century: A century of wars

Part 3: Theoretical Questions

Week 5
Liberalism Traditional theories of global politics: Realism and

Week 6 Sociology of global politics: Constructivist approaches &

Essay Writing Tips

Part 4: Changing nature of conflicts

Week 7
new wars? From R2P to New Humanitarianism: *How to save lives in*

Week 8 New Wars and Questions on Agency: *How do women and children experience violent conflicts?*

Week 9 'Killer Robots' and Private Military Contractors: *Do we need a new definition of war?*

Part 5: Changing scales of global politics

Week 10: Human Security at local, nation and global levels: *Why do we need a new definition of security?*

Week 11: From Sinking States to More-than-human World: *How can we rethink global responsibility for a dying planet?* & **Policy Brief Writing Tips**

Week 12: The changing nature of borders and refugee 'crisis': *Why do states close their borders?*

Week 13: Conclusions: Rethinking global politics in the world of turbulence

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 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.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)