



SOCX8080

Making Public Policy in a Globalised World

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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>	6
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	6
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	7

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit convenor

Sara Fuller

sara.fuller@mq.edu.au

Lecturer

Simran Keshwani

simran.keshwani@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MPSP or MPASR or GradCertPASR or GradDipPASR (OUA)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines a range of issues relevant to the understanding of how policies are made in increasingly entwined national and international contexts, considering international and domestic institutions and actors. The unit will be taught as a series of modules covering topics such as migration flows, climate change, populism, national and global inequalities, austerity, liberalisation, international policy actors and institutions, contexts and modes of governance, policy-making in non-democracies and democratization processes, political economy of welfare states, varieties of capitalism.

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: Identify and critically analyse current theories of governance and apply them to several political systems around the world.

ULO2: Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in issues such as populism, immigration, austerity, democratization.

ULO3: Engage in independent research showing the ability to build on international scholarship and international examples to address a public policy problem.

ULO4: Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.

ULO5: Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.

ULO6: Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual).

General Assessment Information

Assignment requirements and submission

Detailed requirements and marking rubrics for each assessment are available from the iLearn site. All written assignments should be submitted online to Turnitin via the relevant links provided in iLearn.

Assessment extensions and late penalties

Circumstances that affect your ability to complete assignments by the deadline must be discussed with the convenor (Sara) prior to the due date. Extensions will be granted only in unforeseen or exceptional circumstances according to the University [Special Consideration policy](#). Students must apply for extensions online via [Service Connect](#) and provide appropriate supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate).

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-time 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 feedback

All feedback for assignments will be made available online.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Essay	50%	No	23/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Quiz	25%	No	Ongoing	Individual	No	Open

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Participation</u>	25%	No	Ongoing	Individual	No	Open

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **23/10/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

The essay, provides students with the opportunity to explore a topic of interest in depth. Students should develop a considered answer to a specific question based on reading a wide range of sources.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and critically analyse current theories of governance and apply them to several political systems around the world.
- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in issues such as populism, immigration, austerity, democratization.
- Engage in independent research showing the ability to build on international scholarship and international examples to address a public policy problem.
- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.
- Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual).

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Quizzes on the mandatory readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Informed and constructive participation in online discussions and activities

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and critically analyse current theories of governance and apply them to several political systems around the world.
- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in issues such as populism, immigration, austerity, democratization.
- Show competent knowledge of the theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem.
- Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual).

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

Classes

In-person offering

Each week, there is a pre-recorded lecture covering key concepts. There is a weekly 2 hour seminar on Thursdays 3-5pm in 1 Central Courtyard, Room 104. Students should listen to the pre-recorded lecture and review the resources *prior* to attending seminars.

Online offering

Each week, there is a pre-recorded lecture covering key concepts. The weekly 2 hour seminar will be recorded for online students.

Reading

There are a range of journal articles and chapters that are required reading. These will be listed on iLearn and available via Leganto.

Technology used and required

All enrolled students have access to the SOCI8080/SOCX8080 website via iLearn. iLearn will provide access to lectures (powerpoint presentations for download and recordings through the University's Echo lecture recording facility) as well as readings, links and forum discussions. Regular access to iLearn is required in order to complete the unit.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic	Assessment
Week 1	No lecture or workshop	
MODULE 1 INSTITUTIONS		
Week 2	Introduction	
Week 3	Institutions	Quiz 1
Week 4	Liberalization	Quiz 2
MODULE 2 VARIETIES OF CAPITALISM		
Week 5	Varieties of Capitalism	Quiz 3
Week 6	Global Varieties of Capitalism	Quiz 4
Week 7	Varieties of Capitalism, Electoral Institutions, Inequality	Quiz 5
Week 8	Insiders v. Outsiders: The Dualization and Liberalization of Labour Markets	Quiz 6
Mid semester break 21st September-2nd October		
Week 9	Evolution- Convergence and Divergence	Quiz 7
MODULE 3 SOCIAL CAPITAL		

Week 10	Social Capital	Quiz 8
Week 11	Social Capital and the State 1	Quiz 9/Essay due Friday 23rd October
Week 12	Social Capital and the State 2	Quiz 10
Week 13	Political trust and its decline	Quiz 11

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 2026.04 of the **Handbook**