POL 107
Thinking Politically
D2 2012

Modern History, Politics and International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Ian Tregenza
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Credit points
3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
We often think politically without being aware of it. When we say that some people in our society have not been treated justly or when we condemn violence and injustice in other societies, we are making political judgments and using political concepts. How does our sense of fairness or our compassion in cases such as these relate to our political judgments? This unit explores key political concepts such as justice, equality, democracy and the rule of law as well as the role of morality in political judgment. We also consider the concept of ideology and examine particular ideologies including: liberalism, nationalism, conservatism and fundamentalism. Among the selected readings for this unit are the classics of political thought such as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli and Hobbes.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
1. The ability to analyse and express your judgement about a range of political phenomena in oral and written form;
2. Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts;
3. Think more critically and systematically about politics, the relationship between political ideas and political action, and differentiate between types of political theory;
4. Give an account of some central political ideologies, their origins and their historical development.
Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical reading assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Friday August 24, 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Tuesday October 9, 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Final Exam Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critical reading assignment

Due: **Friday August 24, 5pm**  
Weighting: **20%**

Critical summary of a reading

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- The ability to analyse and express your judgement about a range of political phenomena in oral and written form;
- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts;
- Think more critically and systematically about politics, the relationship between political ideas and political action, and differentiate between types of political theory;

Essay

Due: **Tuesday October 9, 5pm**  
Weighting: **30%**

1500-2000 words

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- The ability to analyse and express your judgement about a range of political phenomena in oral and written form;
- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts;
- Think more critically and systematically about politics, the relationship between political ideas and political action, and differentiate between types of political theory;

Exam

Due: **Final Exam Period**  
Weighting: **40%**
2 hour exam

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• The ability to analyse and express your judgement about a range of political phenomena in oral and written form;
• Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts;
• Think more critically and systematically about politics, the relationship between political ideas and political action, and differentiate between types of political theory;
• Give an account of some central political ideologies, their origins and their historical development.

Class Participation

Due: Ongoing
Weighting: 10%

Class participation for internal students and online participation for external students.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Think more critically and systematically about politics, the relationship between political ideas and political action, and differentiate between types of political theory;
• Give an account of some central political ideologies, their origins and their historical development.

Delivery and Resources

Delivery:

Day and External

This unit will use:

ilearn and echo recordings for lectures. You will need access to a computer and internet.

Times and Locations for Lectures and Tutorials:

Lecture: Monday 4-6pm, E7BT4.

Tutorials: consult the MQ timetables website: http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au

Required and Recommended resources:

The required readings for this unit are Bruce Haddock, A History of Political Thought (Polity, 2008) and a book of readings. Both are available from the co-op bookshop.

The following classic texts will also be used in this unit: Plato, The Republic, Aristotle, The Politics, Machiavelli, The Prince, Thomas More, Utopia, Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan. You do not have to buy any or all of these though you will need to use one or more for your essays. The co-
Feedback:

Feedback and unit evaluation

The Faculty of Arts values student feedback and seeks to continually improve its teaching. At present, the Faculty collects student feedback in two ways:

1. Anonymous evaluation surveys which are disseminated at the completion of each unit.
2. Student feedback meetings which are held twice a year in the Faculty of Arts. These meetings are advertised on campus and all students are encouraged to attend.

Based on feedback obtained from past students, this unit has been adapted in the following ways:

Some alteration of unit content. Alterations to online delivery.

Unit Schedule

Week 1. Theory and politics

Week 2. The Greek Polis; The Sophists and Socrates; Philosophy, Rhetoric and Politics.

Week 3. Plato on Politics as an Art.


Week 5. Thomas More - Utopia

Week 6. Machiavelli on Power, Virtue and Politics

Week 7. Thomas Hobbes, the English Civil War, and the New Civil Science

Week 8. Reading Week.

Week 9 The Concept of Ideology and Nationalism

Week 10. Liberalism

Week 11. Against Ideology? Conservatism

Week 12. Fundamentalism

Week 13. The Contemporary Scene – the end or the resurgence of ideology? Unit summary and revision.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students
should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs) of Policy Central.

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/).

**UniWISE provides:**

- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops [http://www.mq.edu.au/learning_skills/](http://www.mq.edu.au/learning_skills/)
- Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions.
- The Learning Help Desk is located in the Library foyer (level 2).
- Online and on-campus orientation events run by Mentors@Macquarie.

**Student Enquiry Service**

Details of these services can be accessed at [http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/](http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/).

**Equity Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Support Unit](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**IT Help**

If you wish to receive IT help, we would be glad to assist you at [http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/](http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/).

When using the university's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/acceptable_use/policy.html). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students and it outlines what can be done.

**Graduate Capabilities**

**Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills**

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific
knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- The ability to analyse and express your judgement about a range of political phenomena in oral and written form;
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- Think more critically and systematically about politics, the relationship between political ideas and political action, and differentiate between types of political theory;
- Give an account of some central political ideologies, their origins and their historical development.

**Assessment tasks**

- Critical reading assignment
- Essay
- Exam
- Class Participation

**Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- The ability to analyse and express your judgement about a range of political phenomena in oral and written form;
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**Assessment tasks**

- Critical reading assignment
- Essay
Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- The ability to analyse and express your judgement about a range of political phenomena in oral and written form;
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**Assessment tasks**

- Critical reading assignment
- Essay

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts;

**Assessment task**

- Essay

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded,
sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts;
- Give an account of some central political ideologies, their origins and their historical development.

**Commitment to Continuous Learning**

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment tasks**

- Essay
- Class Participation

**Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Read and critically interpret some classic and contemporary political texts;
- Think more critically and systematically about politics, the relationship between political ideas and political action, and differentiate between types of political theory;
- Give an account of some central political ideologies, their origins and their historical development.

**Assessment tasks**

- Critical reading assignment
- Essay
Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

• Give an account of some central political ideologies, their origins and their historical development.

Assessment task

• Class Participation

Capabilities of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

• Give an account of some central political ideologies, their origins and their historical development.

Assessment tasks

• Critical reading assignment
• Essay
• Exam
• Class Participation

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20/07/2012</td>
<td>Technical Team has corrected bug regarding the numbering of Learning Outcomes.</td>
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