# POL 108

## Introduction to Global Politics

S1 External 2013

*Modern History, Politics and International Relations*

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Noah Bassil
noah.bassil@mq.edu.au
Contact via noah.bassil@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
As dramatic events such the uprisings in the Arab world and the 'Occupy' movement unfold, there is every possibility that we are entering into a new era. In this context, old ways of examining international politics may need rethinking. This unit begins this process by introducing students to the key issues, institutions, ideas and structures that are at the forefront of the changes reshaping the world we live in. Topics range from those focused on the historical and contemporary setting of global politics to what is the global and who determines how global politics is understood. Knowledge, power, interests, centre-periphery, resistance and reaction are all key subjects that will be discussed at length in this program of study with an aim to give students the foundations for understanding global politics and the tools necessary for undertaking a major in Politics and International Relations.

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
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Developing the capacity for critical analysis and thinking.
- Encouraging research skills that enable students to provide evidence to support their claims.
- Developing the skill to write clearly, cogently and with care.
- Encouraging students to become engaged with the key issues and challenges that are...
currently facing the world.  
Encouraging students to see themselves as agents of positive change. 
Develop an introductory understanding of the key concepts, theories, methods, and issues specific to one of the major sub-disciplines of International Relations. 
Develop the ability to identify the defining debates and arguments in the field of Global Political Economy.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Research Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Essay is due Monday May 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class Writing Test</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>March 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Exam period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Major Research Essay

Due: Essay is due Monday May 20
Weighting: 50%

Essay of maximum 2000 words. As part of this assessment task, students are expected to submit an essay plan and annotated bibliography in class in Week 7. The essay and annotated bibliography are worth 10% and the essay counts for the other 40%.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Developing the capacity for critical analysis and thinking.
- Encouraging research skills that enable students to provide evidence to support their claims.
- Developing the skill to write clearly, cogently and with care.
- Encouraging students to become engaged with the key issues and challenges that are currently facing the world.
- Encouraging students to see themselves as agents of positive change.

In-class Writing Test

Due: March 19
Weighting: 10%

In the first lecture of Week 4 you will be given a comprehension exercise and be asked to write a short paper. The task is one of explaining what the main point of the reading is and in doing so
also reference correctly. Marks will be awarded for both elements of the exercise, i.e., the substance and style of your answer and also the accuracy of your referencing.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Developing the skill to write clearly, cogently and with care.

Class Participation
Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **10%**

Students will come to class having done the readings and listened to the lectures so as to be prepared to participate in class discussions. Marks are only awarded to those who demonstrate an awareness of the course materials by actively participating in tutorials.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Developing the capacity for critical analysis and thinking.
- Encouraging research skills that enable students to provide evidence to support their claims.
- Encouraging students to become engaged with the key issues and challenges that are currently facing the world.
- Encouraging students to see themselves as agents of positive change.

Exam
Due: **Exam period**
Weighting: **30%**

The exam will be two hours in length. No books will be allowed. All Questions must be answered. The exam will be arranged as follows:

- **Section A**: 10 Questions (1 mark each)
- **Section B**: 10 Questions (3 marks each)
- **Section C**: 5 Questions (5 marks each)
- **Section D**: 1 Essay Question (35 marks)

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Encouraging research skills that enable students to provide evidence to support their claims.
- Developing the skill to write clearly, cogently and with care.
Delivery and Resources

2X 1 HR LECTURE
1X1HR LECTURE

REQUIRED READING

Textbook:

All other readings will be available from *ilearn*.

Unit Schedule

| Week 1         | Lecture 1: Welcome and Course Information |
|               | Lecture 2: No Lecture                      |
| Week 2        | Lecture 1: What’s in a Name: International, Global or World Politics. |
|               | Lecture 2: Theory in IR                    |
| Week 3        | Lecture 1: Theory in IR                    |
|               | Lecture 2: Essay Writing and Referencing with Practical Examples |
| Week 4        | Lecture 1: In class test                   |
|               | Lecture 2: Empire and World Politics before International Relations |
|               | Lecture 2: International Relations as an American Social Science |
| Week 6        | Lecture 1: International Relations from the Peripheries: Contesting Anglo-American IR |
|               | Lecture 2: Essay Writing and Research skills |
| Week 7        | Lecture 1: Order before Justice or Justice before Order in World Politics |
|               | Lecture 2: Security and Insecurity: international, global or human security frameworks |
| Week 8        | Lecture 1: Introducing International/Global Political Economy (IPE/GPE) |
|               | Lecture 2: Poverty, Privilege and Power in International Relations |
| Week 9        | Lecture 1: International Institutions: governance or neo-colonialism? |
|               | Lecture 2: Democracy and the Contemporary World Order: correspondence or conflict |
## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- **Special Consideration Policy** [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html)

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

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**Week 10**

No Lectures or Tutorials

**Week 11**

Lecture 1: Trends in contemporary global politics: the emergence of global social movements
Lecture 2: Resistance and Revolutions: from Tahrir Square to the Occupy Movement

**Week 12**

Lecture 1: Beyond IR: does the world we now live in need a new scholarly project?
Lecture 2: What can we do to change the world?

**Week 13**

Lecture 1: Exam tips and Teaching Evaluations
Lecture 2: No Lecture
Student Enquiry Service
Details of these services can be accessed at http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/.

Equity Support
Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service 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/.

When using the university's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. 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**

- Encouraging research skills that enable students to provide evidence to support their claims.
- Encouraging students to see themselves as agents of positive change.
- Develop an introductory understanding of the key concepts, theories, methods, and issues specific to one of the major sub-disciplines of International Relations.
- Develop the ability to identify the defining debates and arguments in the field of Global Political Economy.

**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**

- Developing the capacity for critical analysis and thinking.
- Developing the skill to write clearly, cogently and with care.
- Encouraging students to see themselves as agents of positive change.

**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**

- Encouraging research skills that enable students to provide evidence to support their claims.
- Encouraging students to see themselves as agents of positive change.

**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 outcomes**

- Developing the capacity for critical analysis and thinking.
- Developing the skill to write clearly, cogently and with care.
- Encouraging students to see themselves as agents of positive change.

**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 outcome**

- Developing the skill to write clearly, cogently and with care.
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 outcome**

- Encouraging students to become engaged with the key issues and challenges that are currently facing the world.

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**

- Encouraging students to become engaged with the key issues and challenges that are currently facing the world.

Capable 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 outcomes**

- Developing the capacity for critical analysis and thinking.
- Encouraging research skills that enable students to provide evidence to support their claims.
- Encouraging students to become engaged with the key issues and challenges that are currently facing the world.
- Encouraging students to see themselves as agents of positive change.
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:

**Learning outcomes**

- Developing the capacity for critical analysis and thinking.
- Encouraging research skills that enable students to provide evidence to support their claims.
- Develop the ability to identify the defining debates and arguments in the field of Global Political Economy.

**Changes since First Published**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>17/12/2013</td>
<td>I have added two new learning outcomes and mapped them to the relevant graduate capabilities. I found the lack of reference to disciplinary knowledge a major deficit in the learning objectives as they were stated.</td>
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