POIR611
Australian Politics in Global Context
S1 Day 2016
Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to GradCertPP or GradCertIntRel

Corequisites

Co-badge status
POIR 611

Unit description
This unit provides an introduction to Australian politics, and examines the key political institutions, ideas and interests which are important in contemporary Australia. The unit considers the state of Australia’s democracy, reflecting critically on the role of key institutions such as the Constitution, the High Court, Parliament, and Federalism. It explores the role of political parties in politics and policy, and considers the strengths and weaknesses of the dominant political ideologies in contemporary Australian debates. The unit also explores the way in which Australian institutions and actors have been affected by globalisation, and examines a range of topical case studies in contemporary politics and policy.

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. A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
2. A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
3. Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
4. Development of a analytical vocabulary for better appreciating some of the more pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In class quizzes X 8 (5% each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Various, unannounced dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main essay</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Monday, 9/05/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>All year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In class quizzes X 8 (5% each)

Due: Various, unannounced dates
Weighting: 40%

The quizzes will be conducted in lecture times, and will consist of five short answer questions. The dates of the quizzes will not be announced in advance, and hence internal students must attend all lectures. An absence from a quiz will mean a zero for that piece of assessment.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them

Main essay

Due: Monday, 9/05/2016
Weighting: 45%

The main essay will be 2000 words +/- 10%, with essay topics to be distributed in week two of the unit. Late submissions without an extension will be penalised 1 mark out of 40, for each late day. Essays without an extension beyond two weeks late will not be accepted.
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
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**Tutorial participation**

Due: **All year**

Weighting: **15%**

These marks are for "participating" not merely attending. That is, in tutorials you should regularly contribute your opinions and ideas to group discussions. Students who miss more than 3 tutorials will not receive any of the 15 marks.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
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**Delivery and Resources**

**Australian Politics in Global Context**

Welcome to POL 101, Australian Politics in Global Context. Australian politics has undergone rapid change over the past three 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, and in the neo-liberal restructuring of key Australian institutions, with an attendant growth of inequality.
In this course, we introduce Australian politics 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 have been affected, and have also filtered the effects of, accelerated globalization. Amongst 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?

In trying to answer these questions, we will provide a number of weekly 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.

To do well in this unit it is imperative that students attend all lectures and all tutorials. While recordings of the lecture will be made available on ilearn, it is my experience that internal students who do not come to lectures also neglect to listen to the lectures online. So please do attend, and also participate in tutorial discussions. You will enjoy the unit much more if you do.

Useful General Texts and Background Reading on Australian Politics


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’s Politics subject site:
http://www.lib.mq.edu/resources/subject/politics

The Commonwealth parliamentary Library:

The National Library of Australia:

Elections data base website at the University of Western Australia:
http://elections.uwa.edu.au

NSW government website:

Australian Bureau of Statistics:
Unit guide POIR611 Australian Politics in Global Context

http://www.abs.goc.au/

ABC Online:
http://www.abc.net.au

Australian Policy Online:

Australian Review of Public Affairs:
http://australianreview.net

Online Opinion
http://www.onlineopinion.com.au

New Matilda Magazine
www.newmatilda.com/home/default/.asp

The Whitlam Institute
http://www.whitlam.org/about

The Australia Institute
www.tai.org.au/

The Centre for Independent Studies

The Green Left Weekly
## Unit Schedule

### Lecture and Tutorial Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture Dates</th>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
<th>Tutorial Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>March 4, A</td>
<td>Introduction: Australian Politics and Globalization</td>
<td>No Tutorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 4, B</td>
<td>Democracy and Inequality in Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>March 11, A</td>
<td>The Australian Constitution</td>
<td>Was the Dismissal Constitutional? Whose class interests were served?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 11, B</td>
<td>The Constitution and the &quot;Dismissal&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>March 18, A</td>
<td>Australian Federalism</td>
<td>Federalism versus Centralism?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 18, B</td>
<td>Reforming Federalism: How and Why?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Easter Friday, no lecture</td>
<td>Easter Friday, no tutorials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>April 1, A</td>
<td>The Legislature</td>
<td>Can laws and decisions be bought?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 1, B</td>
<td>Whose Laws? Social Class and Political Lobbying</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>April 8, A</td>
<td>The modern Executive</td>
<td>Cabinet confidentiality. Whose Secrets?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 8, B</td>
<td>The modern Executive, Secrecy and Refugees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>April 29, A</td>
<td>The High Court</td>
<td>Mabo, Wik and the High Court.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 29, B</td>
<td>The High Court and Aboriginal Land Rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Social Democracy and the ALP: Flickering Light on the Hill Finally Extinguished?</td>
<td>The High Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/56191/unit_guide/print](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/56191/unit_guide/print)
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 of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct.
Graduate Capabilities

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

• A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
• A working knowledge of the key features of Australia’s main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
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Assessment tasks

• In class quizzes X 8 (5% each)
• Main essay
• Tutorial 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

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Assessment tasks

• Main essay
• Tutorial participation
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:

**Assessment task**
- Main essay

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**
- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene

**Assessment tasks**
- In class quizzes X 8 (5% each)
- Main essay
- Tutorial 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**

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
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**Assessment tasks**

- Main essay
- Tutorial participation

**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**

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene
- Development of a analytical vocabulary for better appreciating some of the more pressing contemporary issues in Australian politics

**Assessment tasks**

- Main essay
- Tutorial participation

**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**

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene

**Assessment task**

- Tutorial participation

**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 outcomes**

- A sound understanding of the foundations of the Australian political system and its relationship to its global context
- A working knowledge of the key features of Australia's main political institutions and the debates and controversies that surround them
- Familiarity with the main political ideologies and parties that are influential in the Australia political scene

**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 task

- Main essay