POL 108
Introduction to Global Politics
S1 Day 2016
Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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**General Information**

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|---------------------------------|------------------|
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| Credit points                  | 3 |
| Prerequisites                  | |
| Corequisites                   | |
| Co-badged status               | POIR615 PLT120 |

**Unit description**

International developments such as the uprisings in the Arab world, the rise of China and climate change demonstrate that we live in a fast-changing world. This unit equips students with a deeper understanding of the structural forces that shape the world we live in by introducing them to the key issues, institutions, ideas and actors involved in global politics. The first section of the unit outlines the historical context and fundamental institutions of contemporary global politics. The second section covers key contemporary issues including great power rivalry, security challenges, globalization, climate change, refugees and global inequality. The unit gives students the foundations necessary for undertaking a major in International Relations or Politics.

**Important Academic Dates**

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates](https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates)

**Learning Outcomes**

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

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>varied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Plan</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 6 beginning 4 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Research Essay</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Essay is due Monday 23 May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Class Participation**

Due: **Ongoing**  
Weighting: **10%**

Each week you will have consulted the relevant information on i-learn before reading the selected readings and attending or listening to the lectures prior to your weekly tutorial. Students who prepare for the tutorials by doing the readings and engaging the lecture material always get most benefit from the unit.

Participation marks are only awarded to those who demonstrate an awareness of the course materials by actively participating in tutorials. Attending does not constitute participation.

External Students will participate in weekly on-line discussions. The contributions that external students make should be ongoing. Students who post contributions more than 2 weeks late will be penalised and contributions 3 weeks late will not be marked. If as an external student you require some flexibility, then please negotiate this with the tutor or course convenor in advance.

This Assessment Task relates to the following 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.
- 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 Politics.

Case Study

Due: varied
Weighting: 30%

You will choose or be assigned a topic that you will research and write an 1000 word essay or report on. You will asked to look for a contemporary issue and analyse it from the perspective of the topic you are assigned such as security or development or multilateralism, etc. You will also be assigned a particular angle from which to analyse it and present in a paper outlining your position to the group on-line.

You will be marked out of 30 with 15 marks for the formal paper and 15 marks for your involvement in the on-line discussions. More information about this assessment task will be available in the first week of the semester. The exercise may lead to some in-class discussion from time to time, but principally this is an on-line assessment exercise which aims to test your capacity to communicate in an informed and scholarly manner via the web.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- 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 Politics.

Essay Plan

Due: Week 6 beginning 4 April
Weighting: 15%

This assessment is intended to inform and prepare you for the submission of the major essay. In this task, you select the topic for their major essay and then set about doing the preliminary research and planning for the essay. in doing so, you are asked to provide an annotated bibliography with three entries of key works you will use in their major essay. Also, you will submit an essay plan. Extensive instructions on both the format and detail of the annotated bibliography and essay plan will be provided in lectures and tutorials.
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- 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 see themselves as agents of positive change.

**Major Research Essay**

**Due:** Essay is due Monday 23 May  
**Weighting:** 45%

Essay of maximum 2500 words. Questions will be made available on ilearn.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- 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.

**Delivery and Resources**

**Lectures:**

Tuesday 3-4pm in W6D also known as the Lotus Theatre  
And  
Thursday 3-4 in W6D (Lotus Theatre)

**Tutorials:** 1hr as designated Tuesdays or Thursdays

**Textbook:**


All other readings are available through the Library and ilearn.

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Lecture 1: Welcome and Course Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 2: An introduction to theories of Global Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Theory and History of International Relations (1648-1918)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Knowledge/Power: International Relations as an American Social Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Essay Writing and Research skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Lecture 1: The global politics of the rise of China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Neoliberalism, the GFC and Global Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>No Lectures or Tutorials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Democracy and the Contemporary Global Order: correspondence or conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Beyond IR: does the world we now live in need a new scholarly project?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Teaching Evaluations and concluding comments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning and Teaching Activities

Tutorials
Groups Classes

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:


Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html]


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: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/]

**Results**

Results shown in iLearn, 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 [ask.mq.edu.au]

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/]

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/57388/unit_guide/print
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 become engaged with the key issues and challenges that are currently facing the world.
- Encouraging students to see themselves as agents of positive change.

**Assessment tasks**

- Class Participation
- Case Study
- Essay Plan
- Major Research Essay
Learning and teaching activities

• Groups Classes

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

• 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 see themselves as agents of positive change.

Assessment tasks

• Class Participation
• Case Study
• Essay Plan
• Major Research Essay

Learning and teaching activities

• Groups Classes

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.
• 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.

**Assessment tasks**

- Class Participation
- Case Study

**Learning and teaching activities**

- Groups Classes

**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**

- Developing the capacity for critical analysis and thinking.
- 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 Politics.

**Assessment tasks**

- Class Participation
- Case Study
- Essay Plan
- Major Research Essay

**Learning and teaching activities**

- Groups Classes
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 systematically 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.
- 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.
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**Assessment tasks**

- Class Participation
- Case Study
- Essay Plan
- Major Research Essay

**Learning and teaching activities**

- Groups Classes

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.
Assessment tasks

• Case Study
• Major Research Essay

Learning and teaching activities

• Groups Classes

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

• 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.

Assessment task

• Class Participation

Learning and teaching activity

• Groups Classes

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

• 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.
Assessment task

• Class Participation

Learning and teaching activity

• Groups Classes

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.
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• Develop an introductory understanding of the key concepts, theories, methods, and issues specific to one of the major sub-disciplines of International Relations.
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Assessment tasks

• Class Participation
• Case Study
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Learning and teaching activities

• Groups Classes

Changes from Previous Offering

No changes from last year except the case study has been moved from in-class to entirely online.
## Changes since First Published

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19/02/2016</td>
<td>2 very minor but important changes. 1. One of the assessment due dates was incorrect. 2. I added details of the textbook.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>