POIR905

Foundations in Politics, International Relations and Public Policy

S2 External 2017

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

Contents

Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Steve Wood steve.wood@mq.edu.au
Credit points 4
Prerequisites Admission to GradCertIntRel or GradCertPP
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit explores some key concepts in Politics and International Relations. It enables a broad understanding of these contested concepts, which have decisively influenced political and human development through history to the present.

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:

Demonstrate a critical knowledge of influential political concepts

Ability to Integrate political, philosophical, legal, social and economic reasoning

Comprehend how ideational, cultural and personal factors can interact to influence national and/or world affairs

Effectively communicate understanding of connections between concepts, and between concepts and practices

Capacity to research and compose an advanced-level scholarly essay

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Essay	50%	No	26 October, 4pm

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Test	50%	No	30 October (in week of)

Essay

Due: **26 October, 4pm**
Weighting: **50%**

Research essay of 2500 words = 50%

Choose one of the questions listed below. It is advisable to work on this from the start of semester. Don't leave it until near the due date. Research effort and ability is part of the evaluation. **Do not change the wording of the questions or invent new questions.** Due date: 26 October, 4pm.

Essay Questions

1) Is the state the predominant political form? If it is, how long will it be so? If not, what is?

2) What causes political violence?

3) How is international politics different to politics in one country?

4) What gives a political actor legitimacy?

5) What is the most powerful force in politics?

6) Is a global political culture or system possible – why or why not?

7) Is the world becoming more or less 'democratic'?

8) Can security be guaranteed or at least greatly enhanced? How?

9) What is public policy and who decides what will be implemented?

10) Which theory of International Relations is most convincing and why?

11) What is globalization?

12) Which contemporary public policy issue is most important and why?

13) Are justice and freedom compatible? Are they the same thing?

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- Capacity to research and compose an advanced-level scholarly essay

Test

Due: **30 October (in week of)**
Weighting: **50%**

Test based on material drawn from the topics and literature through the unit.

Students have 3 hours and 10 minutes to respond to questions and submit the test document

If drawing on other material, please reference properly, including use of quote marks. Do not base all of all your answers on the work of others (i.e. by paraphrasing or direct quoting). Try to include your own observations where possible.

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Delivery and Resources

In person lectures also audio recorded

Unit Schedule

See the 'detailed unit guide' on the iLearn site

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:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration

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) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops

- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and 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.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate a critical knowledge of influential political concepts
- Ability to Integrate political, philosophical, legal, social and economic reasoning
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- Capacity to research and compose an advanced-level scholarly essay

Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Test

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience,

of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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- Ability to Integrate political, philosophical, legal, social and economic reasoning
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Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Test

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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- Effectively communicate understanding of connections between concepts, and between concepts and practices
- Capacity to research and compose an advanced-level scholarly essay

Assessment task

- Test

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Test

unit description

This unit explores some key themes and concepts in Politics, International Relations and Public Policy. It enables a broad understanding of these, which have decisively influenced human development through history to the present. The unit is not especially difficult, however, it is at Masters coursework level and presumes that students have completed an undergraduate degree and are able to compose pieces of academic writing at a reasonable standard. Convenor: Steve Wood   steve.wood@mq.edu.au

The unit is mandated by the AQF/ASQC. Due to its small enrolment numbers it is only offered in external student mode. Because the Faculty is moving to another (interim) building, and there is uncertainty about required technology, no specific times when audio lectures will first be available on the unit iLearn can presently be given. However, audio lectures, hopefully with screen capture of slides, will be available some time in each week in accordance with the schedule below. It may be from late on each Monday afternoon.

Weekly readings are available on the unit iLearn site. Initiative to locate others is welcomed.

A unit discussion board will be available for students to engage with each week's indicative questions. The discussion board is not for asking questions about unit organization or assessment.