



POIR980

International Relations Practice

S1 External 2018

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Steve Wood steve.wood@mq.edu.au
Credit points 4
Prerequisites POIR901 and IRPG841 and (admission to MIntRel or MIntCommMIntRel or MIntBusMIntRel or MTransInterMIntRel or MPPPMIntRel)
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit draws on knowledge from across the International Relations program, requiring candidates to apply their earlier learning to an urgent and/or controversial theme in international relations – i.e. an international political problem. The participatory exercises are simulations that involve role playing. They require students to acquire (i) some specialist and general theoretical knowledge; (ii) to develop and apply negotiation, communication and practical problem solving abilities; iii) enhance research and writing skills.

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:

- gain insight into some contemporary issues in international relations
- ability to identify and articulate views in verbal and written form
- comprehend relations between elements of domestic and international political systems
- develop a critical understanding of the relationship between political ideas and political action
- develop communication and negotiation skills
- enhance research skills

General Assessment Information

Late Submission Penalty - University Policy

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Plagiarism – read this very, very carefully

Plagiarism is more trouble than it is worth. It is unscholarly, unethical, unfair and illegal. It will waste your tutor's and/or convenor's time and ultimately your own. You will achieve far better outcomes by avoiding it. Do not do it. At Master's level there are no excuses whatsoever. If you plagiarise do not claim after the fact that you did not understand what it was. More info at: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

The University encourages and requires good scholarship and accuracy in referencing.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Scenario Paper #1</u>	25%	No	March 28, 12:00 Noon
<u>Scenario Paper #2</u>	25%	No	April 30, 12:00 noon
<u>Essay</u>	50%	No	May 30, 12:00 noon

Scenario Paper #1

Due: **March 28, 12:00 Noon**

Weighting: **25%**

In the internal version of this unit there are three scenarios of current international themes that students engage with in simulated "diplomacy sessions".

Because this cannot be replicated for external students, an alternative assessment has been formulated.

(For technical reasons, the Unit Description for the Internal version of the unit cannot be altered in the External version)

The scenarios are:

- 1) The South China Sea
- 2) The EU's Refugee/Migrant Challenge

3) The Arctic

External students are to select 2 (two) out of the three scenarios and write a **1200 word** paper on each.

This paper should take the form of a diplomatic position on the issue. You can choose the actor from whose perspective the position paper is written. You cannot choose the same actor for each of the two papers.

In each instance, the paper should articulate the chosen actor's position on the issue. Developments can move fast - be aware of that.

Your papers can draw on official sources (political statements, policy documentation, and other material). It could also refer to scholarly literature, legislation, even media reports. These would need to be skillfully integrated into the text - remember it is a diplomatic position paper, not an essay.

It **SHOULD NOT merely copy or paraphrase** a media report or a single pronouncement by an official. Rather, it should demonstrate some depth of knowledge and, if possible, a diplomatic sensibility. Some latitude is allowed to 'play the role' in written form.

For each paper, external students should first consider what actor they want to represent.

They should adequately inform themselves on that actor and the position/s it is likely to have and propose regarding this scenario.

Skills in diplomatic argumentation and written communication, as well as background knowledge, can then be conveyed in the paper.

Include any references drawn on, including "quotation marks" where required, in a References section **on a separate page** at the end of the paper.

Some background slides from the first internal session (28 Feb) will be posted on iLearn after that session. You do not have to be overly guided by those slides. They may give some context to the scenarios. Because this unit has been allocated a room without facilities to do so, that session cannot be recorded and broadcast as a form of 'lecture'.

Please submit papers to the links on the unit iLearn site

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- develop communication and negotiation skills
- enhance research skills

Scenario Paper #2

Due: **April 30, 12:00 noon**

Weighting: **25%**

As for Scenario Paper #1

On successful completion you will be able to:

- gain insight into some contemporary issues in international relations
- ability to identify and articulate views in verbal and written form
- comprehend relations between elements of domestic and international political systems
- develop a critical understanding of the relationship between political ideas and political action
- develop communication and negotiation skills
- enhance research skills

Essay

Due: **May 30, 12:00 noon**

Weighting: **50%**

Essay (3000 words - of text, notes and bibliography are extra) on the other of the three scenarios - the one you have not written on in Scenario Paper #1 or #2.

The essay could be a more theoretical exploration or a take a more empirical approach. It could investigate a negotiation perspective.

In all instances it should be academic, properly researched and referenced.

Please submit to the link on the unit iLearn site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- gain insight into some contemporary issues in international relations
- ability to identify and articulate views in verbal and written form
- comprehend relations between elements of domestic and international political systems
- develop a critical understanding of the relationship between political ideas and political action
- enhance research skills

Delivery and Resources

online for external students

Unit Schedule

There will be an introductory session on 28 February. Some slides will be posted to the unit iLearn site

External student papers are due on March 28 and April 30

The essay is due on May 30

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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 - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- gain insight into some contemporary issues in international relations
- ability to identify and articulate views in verbal and written form
- develop communication and negotiation skills

Assessment tasks

- Scenario Paper #1
- Scenario Paper #2

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

- gain insight into some contemporary issues in international relations
- ability to identify and articulate views in verbal and written form
- comprehend relations between elements of domestic and international political systems
- develop a critical understanding of the relationship between political ideas and political action
- develop communication and negotiation skills
- enhance research skills

Assessment tasks

- Scenario Paper #1
- Scenario Paper #2
- Essay

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

- gain insight into some contemporary issues in international relations
- ability to identify and articulate views in verbal and written form
- comprehend relations between elements of domestic and international political systems
- develop a critical understanding of the relationship between political ideas and political action

- develop communication and negotiation skills
- enhance research skills

Assessment tasks

- Scenario Paper #1
- Scenario Paper #2
- Essay

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

- gain insight into some contemporary issues in international relations
- ability to identify and articulate views in verbal and written form
- comprehend relations between elements of domestic and international political systems
- develop a critical understanding of the relationship between political ideas and political action
- develop communication and negotiation skills
- enhance research skills

Assessment tasks

- Scenario Paper #1
- Scenario Paper #2
- Essay

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

- ability to identify and articulate views in verbal and written form
- develop communication and negotiation skills

Assessment tasks

- Scenario Paper #1
- Scenario Paper #2
- Essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- develop communication and negotiation skills