



POIR203

Theories of World Politics

S1 External 2019

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

12cp at 100 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to the major theories of international relations, key debates that have shaped the discipline and interconnections between theory and the actual practice of international politics. International relations was founded as a distinct discipline shortly after the First World War, with the explicit goal of identifying the causes of war and peace. While war and great power conflict remain central concerns, the discipline has grappled with new challenges as de-colonisation and globalisation have created a densely interconnected global system of sovereign states. Students will engage with key themes including power, great power rivalry, nationalism, national interest, critical approaches, justice and cooperation under anarchy.

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:

Collect and record information from self-selected sources with independence to complete

a prescribed research task.

Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.

Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.

Demonstrate capacity to apply the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of international relations.

Develop strong written and oral communication skills.

Participate and lead, when appropriate, class discussions.

Access a wide range of resources related to theories of international relations.

Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on the role of regional powers (such as Australia) in promoting order and justice in international relations.

General Assessment Information

Late Submission Penalty

“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 and the take-home exam unless prior arrangements have been made via email with the unit convenor.”

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Online Reading Quizzes</u>	12%	No	Wednesday 11pm most weeks.
<u>Research Essay & Discussion</u>	45%	Yes	Week 8 - Friday 5pm.
<u>Take home examination</u>	33%	No	Week 13 - 9pm 9 June
<u>Class participation</u>	10%	Yes	11pm on evening of class

Online Reading Quizzes

Due: **Wednesday 11pm most weeks.**

Weighting: **12%**

Online reading quizzes (via ilearn) will run in weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 10. Grades will be based on your best 6 (out of 7) quiz results. These quizzes will assess comprehension of assigned weekly readings and will be based on questions set out in the weekly 'reading guide' (available in advance on ilearn). Each quiz must be completed before 11 pm on the evening before the

lecture. You will have 20 minutes from the time you log into the weekly quiz in which to complete it. Each weekly quiz is worth 2% of your total grade ($2\% \times 6 = 12\%$). This means it is possible to skip one quiz without penalty. Further information and sample quiz questions will be available from ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Demonstrate capacity to apply the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of international relations.
- Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on the role of regional powers (such as Australia) in promoting order and justice in international relations.

Research Essay & Discussion

Due: **Week 8 - Friday 5pm.**

Weighting: **45%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

This is a research essay of 2500 words. Essay questions and marking criteria will be provided on iLearn. All students are required to submit their essays via the turnitin link on ilearn. All students should select the essay question they will address by the end of week 3; you will be asked to post your choice to ilearn (a discussion thread will be provided).

Internal students will be expected to speak to their essay's argument during class, while **external students** will have the opportunity to present a short summary of their essay's argument on ilearn. When discussing your essay in class you should summarise your essay's central argument and raise a question for discussion by the class. In-class presentations will not be graded separately, but they are a hurdle requirement for completion of the course and you may be asked to discuss your presentation with your tutor after class.

All students are encouraged to submit an introductory paragraph that outlines the central argument and essay structure to the unit convenor by the end of week 6 (via email: jonathan.symons@mq.edu.au), so they can receive feedback prior to completing the essay.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Collect and record information from self-selected sources with independence to complete a prescribed research task.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.

- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Demonstrate capacity to apply the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of international relations.
- Develop strong written and oral communication skills.
- Participate and lead, when appropriate, class discussions.
- Access a wide range of resources related to theories of international relations.
- Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on the role of regional powers (such as Australia) in promoting order and justice in international relations.

Take home examination

Due: **Week 13 - 9pm 9 June**

Weighting: **33%**

An end-of-semester take home exam will cover content drawn from the entire unit. The exam will consist of 2 short essay questions and the maximum word length will be 2000 words. Late submission of the exam will not be accepted.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Collect and record information from self-selected sources with independence to complete a prescribed research task.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Demonstrate capacity to apply the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of international relations.
- Develop strong written and oral communication skills.
- Access a wide range of resources related to theories of international relations.
- Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on the role of regional powers (such as Australia) in promoting order and justice in international relations.

Class participation

Due: **11pm on evening of class**

Weighting: **10%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Internal Students Participation: 10% of internal students' final grade will be based on a

participation-activity. Students will be asked to take a leadership role in one week's class after which they will submit detailed class participation notes (graded); students must also participate submit a 50 word reflection after two other week's participation activities (hurdle requirement). You will be asked to select the week in which you will lead and submit notes at the beginning of semester (participation-activities will run in weeks 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 & 11 - instructions for each week are available on iLearn). Students will submit their participation notes to iLearn (700 to 1000 words) by 11pm on the day of their tutorial. Detailed instructions will be available on iLearn. **Alternative task:** Internal students who are unable to participate for a valid reason (documented ill health or special circumstances on three or more of the above dates) will have the opportunity to submit a replacement essay by consultation with their tutor.

Internal Students' Attendance: Attendance and participation in at least 6 tutorials is a hurdle requirement for completion of the unit. **Alternative task:** Students who fail to meet this hurdle requirement (internal or external) without a valid reason must submit a 500 word critical analysis of the weekly readings for a week in which they did not meet the participation requirement.

External Students' Participation: external students will be graded on their participation in discussion on the iLearn website. Discussion will only be graded if contributions are made within 1 week after the lecture on a given topic. Meaningful participation in class discussion on at least 6 topics is a hurdle requirement for completion of the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop strong written and oral communication skills.
- Participate and lead, when appropriate, class discussions.

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

For lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable website: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>. This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and classroom locations.

Internal students are expected to attend the following classes each week:

Lecture: Thursday 10.00am - 11.55 pm - [14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue, T5 Theatre](#).

Tutorial: Thursday - multiple options. Attendance and participation in 6 tutorials is a hurdle requirement for completion of the unit.

NOTE: Tutorials will begin in Week 2.

External students: The lecture is digitally recorded and can be downloaded from the iLearn website shortly after it is delivered.

External students are required to participate actively in discussion on the iLearn website (further details are given in the section on Assessment).

External students are welcome to attend weekly lectures whenever they can.

Required resources:

There is one required text for this unit which is available for purchase from the Macquarie University Coop Bookstore:

Lawson, Stephanie. (2015). *Theories of International Relations: Contending Approaches to World Politics*. Polity Press: Cambridge.

Access to this text will be necessary in order to complete the reading quizzes. Although the library will have a copy of this text, access through the library cannot be guaranteed. All other unit readings will all be available on iLearn or e-reserve.

Unit Schedule

Week 1 - 28 Feb

Introduction: does theory help us tackle international challenges?

Week 2 - 7 March

Realism. First week of weekly reading quizzes - available on iLearn and must be completed by 11pm Wed 6 March - evening before lecture.

Week 3 - 14 March

Liberalism. Weekly iLearn quiz due by 11pm evening before lecture.

Graded tutorial activity #1 (internal students must submit full notes for one of the 6 tutorial activities and a 50 word reflection on 3 others).

NB: You should also nominate which research question you will address this week via the iLearn discussion forum.

Week 4 - 21 March

Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberal Institutionalism. Weekly iLearn quiz due by 11pm Sunday (evening before lecture). You are welcome to change the question you address later if you wish.

Graded tutorial activity #2 (internal students must submit full notes for one of the 6 tutorial activities and a 50 word reflection on 3 others).

Week 5 - 28 March

Constructivism & The English School. Weekly iLearn quiz due by 11pm Sunday (evening before lecture).

Graded tutorial activity #3 (internal students must submit full notes for one of the 6 tutorial activities and a 50 word reflection on 3 others).

Week 6 - 4 April

Marxism, World Systems Theory and Critical Theories. Weekly iLearn quiz due by 11pm evening before lecture.

Week 7 - 11 April

Feminist IR Theory. Weekly iLearn quiz due by 11pm evening before lecture.

MID SEMESTER BREAK: 15 to 28 April 2019

Week 8 - 2 May

Green Theory. No reading quiz this week. Essay due Friday 3 May, 5pm.

Week 9 - 9 May

Postcolonial and Post-structural Theories. *No reading quiz this week.* Guest lecture: Noah Bassil.

Graded tutorial activity #4 (internal students must submit full notes for one of the 6 tutorial activities and a 50 word reflection on 3 others).

Week 10 - 16 May

Middle Power Theory & Foreign Policy Analysis. Weekly iLearn quiz due by 11pm evening before lecture.

Graded tutorial activity #5 (internal students must submit full notes for one of the 6 tutorial activities and a 50 word reflection on 3 others).

Week 11 - 23 May

Normative International Theory

Graded tutorial activity #6 (internal students must submit full notes for one of the 6 tutorial activities and a 50 word reflection on 3 others).

Week 12 - 30 May

Conclusion

Week 13 - No lecture - Take-home exam due.

Exam released via ilearn Thursday 6 June 9am; submission via learn by Sunday 9 June at 9 pm. I expect students will take around 7 hours to complete the exam.

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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://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 published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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

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

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Develop strong written and oral communication skills.

Assessment tasks

- Online Reading Quizzes
- Research Essay & Discussion
- Take home examination

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

- Collect and record information from self-selected sources with independence to complete a prescribed research task.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on the role of regional powers (such as Australia) in promoting order and justice in international relations.

Assessment tasks

- Research Essay & Discussion
- Take home examination

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

- Participate and lead, when appropriate, class discussions.
- Access a wide range of resources related to theories of international relations.

Assessment task

- Research Essay & Discussion

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

- Collect and record information from self-selected sources with independence to complete a prescribed research task.

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Demonstrate capacity to apply the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of international relations.
- Participate and lead, when appropriate, class discussions.
- Access a wide range of resources related to theories of international relations.
- Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on the role of regional powers (such as Australia) in promoting order and justice in international relations.

Assessment tasks

- Online Reading Quizzes
- Research Essay & Discussion
- Take home examination

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

- Collect and record information from self-selected sources with independence to complete a prescribed research task.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Demonstrate capacity to apply the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of international relations.
- Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on the role of regional powers (such as Australia) in promoting order and justice in international relations.

Assessment tasks

- Online Reading Quizzes

- Research Essay & Discussion
- Take home examination
- Class participation

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

- Collect and record information from self-selected sources with independence to complete a prescribed research task.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the specific theories used in the study of international relations.
- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Demonstrate capacity to apply the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of international relations.
- Participate and lead, when appropriate, class discussions.
- Access a wide range of resources related to theories of international relations.

Assessment tasks

- Online Reading Quizzes
- Research Essay & Discussion
- Take home examination

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

- Demonstrate capacity to apply the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several

subfields of international relations.

- Develop strong written and oral communication skills.
- Participate and lead, when appropriate, class discussions.

Assessment tasks

- Online Reading Quizzes
- Research Essay & Discussion
- Take home examination
- Class 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

- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Participate and lead, when appropriate, class discussions.
- Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on the role of regional powers (such as Australia) in promoting order and justice in international relations.

Assessment tasks

- Online Reading Quizzes
- Research Essay & Discussion
- Take home examination
- Class 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

- Identify and analyse interconnections between international relations theory and contemporary international politics.
- Synthesise knowledge to develop an informed perspective on the role of regional powers (such as Australia) in promoting order and justice in international relations.

Assessment tasks

- Online Reading Quizzes
- Research Essay & Discussion
- Take home examination

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
26/02/2019	Timetables changed the lecture theatre without telling me as numbers had increased. Have added the correct lecture theatre (14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue, T5 Theatre)
14/02/2019	Added details of second tutor and corrected a formatting issue.
08/02/2019	Unit guide has been published for a few weeks. I have now merged the external and internal guides and corrected 1 typo.