



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



# ARTS1811

Contemporary Issues in Government and Global Politics

Term Three // 2019

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Monika Barthwal-Datta	m.barthwal-datta@unsw.edu.au	Thurs 11AM-12PM	Rm 149 Morven Brown Building	93850557

#### Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Andrew Kapos	andrew.kapos@unsw.edu.au	TBC	TBC	TBC
Sonia Qadir	sooss@unsw.edu.au	TBC	TBC	TBC
Stuti Bhatnagar	sooss@unsw.edu.au	TBC	TBC	TBC

### School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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Morven Brown C20

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## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Politics and International Relations*

This course investigates some of the most significant issues facing the world today such as the recurrence of violence between and within countries; the difficulty of lifting large numbers of people out of poverty; what is to happen to people who do not have a home in any country; increasing environmental destruction; intensifying global financial instability; and whether the current structures and processes of governance are adequate to address these issues. In doing so, the course also introduces you to some of the different ways in which Politics and International Relations scholars seek to analyse these issues, giving you the opportunity to develop the skills of analysis needed for more advanced study in Politics and International Relations. At the conclusion of the course, you will have developed an appreciation of the scope and significance of the study of contemporary global politics, and some of the strengths and limitations of existing ways of analysing some of the most pressing problems facing the world.

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the main political actors at both the national and global levels, and relate them to the contexts in which they operate.
2. Distinguish between some of the major theoretical perspectives of Politics and International Relations, and how these perspectives account for / interpret a variety of contemporary issues covered in the course.
3. Analyse contemporary political issues from a theoretically grounded point of view with reference to the disciplinary literatures of Politics and International Relations.
4. Identify, locate, and evaluate the utility of different kinds of information about politics and international relations, including academic literature, media coverage, popular cultural artefacts and political debates or statements.

### Teaching Strategies

#### Rationale:

This course assumes no prior knowledge of the disciplines of Politics and International Relations (IR) but, upon its completion, all students who engage fully with the course content, activities and assessments will be able to participate in debates about the study and practice of contemporary Politics and IR.

We see UNSW student learners as participants in the production of knowledge and we pursue the implementation of a curriculum responsive to each student's individual needs. The design of this course is motivated by a desire to foster the skills of **independent learning** and **critical thinking**.

Blended learning encourages diversity of learning activities and also diversity in assessment. There are three main types of structured learning activity in this course, supplementing independent study (reading, note-taking, research):

## 1. ONLINE LECTURES AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

This course consists of weekly 2-hour online learning segments, which include a series of mini-lectures by academic experts from the School of Social Sciences, as well as a range of online learning activities that may include brief research and writing tasks. The mini-lectures and other learning activities are designed to supplement independent study on the course that begins (but should not end) with close engagement with the weekly required readings. Online lectures and learning activities run for the duration of Term.

## 2. TUTORIALS

Tutorials allow students to discuss questions, themes and issues arising from their independent study, as well as providing the opportunity to engage in productive discussion with their peers and to participate in a range of structured learning activities, including group/pair/individual analytical work, formal and informal debates, quizzes and mini-projects. Tutorials run for the duration of Term.

## 3. INDEPENDENT LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Independent learning activities replace tutorials in some weeks. They are designed to foster independent study and to allow for engagement with different tasks that cannot be undertaken in a tutorial environment, such as conducting online research or watching a film. These activities are clearly explained below and will mostly be facilitated by Moodle.

In Moodle, there is a range of resources specific to each week, as well as online activities to enhance independent learning.

## Assessment

### Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Quizzes	48%	Not Applicable	1,2
Research Essay	52%	26/11/2019 11:59 PM	1,2,3,4

### Assessment Details

#### Assessment 1: Quizzes

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:** 4 x short tests (no more than 12 questions each) on key concepts and factual knowledge administered through LMS. Immediate feedback of correct answers and numerical grade available to students through LMS on completion of each test. There will be at least two tests prior to Week 6 to enable early formative feedback.

#### Assessment 2: Research Essay

**Start date:**

**Length:** 2,500 words

**Details:** Research essay (2,500 words). Some indicative sources are provided in the course outline/on Moodle, and the questions are set by the course convenor. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes. Written comments plus marking rubric within two weeks of submission.

#### Additional details:

More details will be made available on Moodle.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

## Attendance Requirements

**\*\*\*\*For this course, one weekly unit of attendance = Completion of weekly online lectures and associated learning activities AND tutorial attendance.\*\*\*\***

The School of Social Sciences expects that students will attend and participate actively in 100% of learning and teaching activities (henceforth 'classes', to include lectures, tutorials, seminars, labs, online activities and so on). If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, you may be recorded as absent. If such a penalty is imposed, you will be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours. Attempts to falsify attendance records will be treated as student misconduct under the [Student Misconduct Procedures](#). All applications for exemption from attendance at classes of any kind must be made in writing to the course convenor and, where applicable, should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

If you attend less than 80% of classes (including instances where you may be present in class but do not complete and submit your Online Learning Activities for a week, and vice-versa), you may be refused final assessment. This means that if you do not attend at least 80% of possible classes and submit all associated Online Learning Activities, your final assignment may receive a mark of zero. You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance and contacting your course convenor immediately if you are concerned about your attendance record and its impact on your ability to complete your course successfully. For the purpose of attendance monitoring, the final assessment for this course is the Research Essay worth 52% of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment item that will be graded at zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement for this course.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 16 September - 20 September	Lecture	Welcome to Contemporary Issues in International Relations / Key Actors in the Stories of Politics and IR
	Tutorial	Welcome to Contemporary Issues in International Relations / Key Actors in the Stories of Politics and IR
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Lecture	The US Presidency and the Trump Administration
	Tutorial	The US Presidency and the Trump Administration
	Assessment	Online Quiz
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October	Lecture	The Climate Crisis
	Tutorial	The Climate Crisis
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Lecture	Human Rights and Women's Rights
	Tutorial	Human Rights and Women's Rights
	Assessment	Online Quiz
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Lecture	Essay Writing
	Tutorial	Essay Writing
Week 6: 21 October - 25 October	Lecture	Security Studies, Anarchists and the State
	Tutorial	Security Studies, Anarchists and the State

Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Lecture	The Global Nuclear Threat
	Tutorial	The Global Nuclear Threat
	Assessment	Online Quiz
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Lecture	Are "Free Trade Deals" Killing Development?
	Tutorial	Are "Free Trade Deals" Killing Development?
Week 9: 11 November - 15 November	Lecture	No Longer Hegemon? The Role of Russia and China in a Changing Global Order
	Tutorial	No Longer Hegemon? The Role of Russia and China in a Changing Global Order
Week 10: 18 November - 22 November	Lecture	Peace, Conflict and State-Building
	Tutorial	Peace, Conflict and State-Building
	Assessment	Online Quiz
Week 11: 25 November - 29 November	Assessment	Research Essay due on Tue 26 Nov by 23.59PM via Moodle.

## Resources

### Prescribed Resources

**Please see Moodle for latest updates to all aspects of the course.**

Tutorial questions and detailed week-by-week reading will be made available on Moodle. All of the essential readings are freely available through Moodle; the rest can be accessed in hard copy through the library or online.

While there is no set textbook for this course, a number of excellent texts are available in the library and will be helpful introductory reading on the issues and theories covered in this course. Please see Moodle for a list of recommended introductory texts. You will benefit from becoming familiar with [Google Scholar](#) as a key search engine for academic publications and reports. You can set up the preferences to link to the UNSW Library even when you are not on campus.

Go to Google Scholar> settings> library links, and enter 'University of New South Wales' in the box for "Library".

You can sign up for Table of Contents (TOC) Alerts from the homepages of relevant journals, to receive an email whenever new articles are published in that journal. Journal websites will often carry information on the most viewed and most cited articles; these are likely to be interesting and often influential contributions. Google Scholar will also point you to articles that have cited a particular article and hence will be related to the topic.

### Recommended Resources

All weekly resources are available on Moodle.

### Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered periodically using, among other means, UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process. Informal feedback and class-generated feedback are also important. Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based in part on such feedback. Significant changes to the course will be communicated to subsequent cohorts of students taking the course.

For example, previous student feedback has resulted in the following revisions and changes to the course: (a) introduction of a more comprehensively blended mode of delivery, with all students enrolled in the online lecture component (rather than only 50 per cent) (b) changes to the modes of assessment; (c) a clearer, more detailed presentation of the assessment criteria; (d) the more effective and engaging use of Moodle.



## **Submission of Assessment Tasks**

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### **Turnitin Submission**

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au) . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

**Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

**Inappropriate paraphrasing:** Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

**Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

**Inappropriate citation:** Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

**Duplication ("self-plagiarism"):** submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

## **Academic Information**

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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