ARTS1811

Contemporary Issues in Government and Global Politics

Term Three // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Monika Barthwal-Datta	m.barthwal-datta@unsw.edu.au	TBC	Rm 149 Morven Brown Building	93850557

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Andrew Kapos	andrew.kapos@unsw.edu.au	TBC	TBC	TBC
Stuti Bhatnagar	stuti.bhatnagar@unsw.edu.au	TBC	TBC	TBC

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

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	40%	Not Applicable	1,2
Research Essay	60%	TBC	1,2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Quizzes

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

2 x short tests (no more than 10 questions each) on key concepts and factual knowledge administered through LMS. Immediate feedback of correct answers and numerical grade available to students though LMS on completion of each test. The first test will become accessible in Week 4 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

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 14 September - 18 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: 21 September - 25 September	Lecture	US Elections 2016 and the Trump Presidency
	Tutorial	US Elections 2016 and the Trump Presidency
Week 3: 28 September - 2 October	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 4: 5 October - 9 October	Lecture	Security and Insecurity
	Tutorial	Security and Insecurity
	Assessment	Online Quiz 1 opens 3pm Fri 9Oct
Week 5: 12 October - 16 October	Lecture	The Global Nuclear Threat
	Tutorial	The Global Nuclear Threat
	Assessment	Online Quiz 1 closes 5pm Fri 16 Oct
Week 6: 19 October - 23 October	Lecture	No Lecture
	Tutorial	No Lecture
Week 7: 26 October - 30 October	Lecture	International Development Assistance
	Tutorial	International Development Assistance
Week 8: 2 November - 6 November	Lecture	Are "Free Trade Deals" Killing Development?
	Tutorial	Are "Free Trade Deals" Killing Development?
	Assessment	Online Quiz 2 opens 3pm 6 Nov
Week 9: 9 November - 13 November	Lecture	Human Rights and Women's Rights
	Tutorial	Human Rights and Women's Rights
	Assessment	Online Quiz 2 closes 5pm Fri 13 Nov
Week 10: 16 November - 20 November	Lecture	Global Climate Politics
	Tutorial	Global Climate Politics

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 [GoogleScholar](#) 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 My Experience survey. 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, student feedback from previous iterations of the course has resulted in the following revisions and changes: (a) a greater convenor presence throughout the course to support students in linking weekly learnings to core course themes/ questions; (b) changes to the modes of assessment and reduction in the number of online quizzes; (c) a clearer, more detailed presentation of the assessment criteria, and (d) more effective and engaging use of Moodle.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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 . 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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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.