



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



# ARTS3810

Politics & International Relations: Theory and Practice

Term Two // 2019

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Nicholas Apoifis	n.apoifis@unsw.edu.au	Thursday 3-4	MB 144	93852407

#### Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Zahra Stardust	z.stardust@unsw.edu.au	TBA Check Moodle	TBA	

### School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

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## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Politics and International Relations*

What is theory? What is praxis? What assumptions guide us when we theorise about events or phenomena in domestic and global politics? And what does it mean to undertake theoretically informed research and then actually apply it, in the discipline of Politics & International Relations? This course encourages you to consider the broader context of the discipline through critical, reflective and engaged thinking about contemporary Pols & IR. The course draws on your previous experience of scholarship, both in Pols & IR and in other disciplines, to engage with contemporary debates and issues. In this course, you will revisit the theoretical literature of the discipline, examine its methodologies, and discuss the disciplinary politics of knowledge production through the process of designing a research project relevant to contemporary debates in Pols & IR.

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and explore a contemporary issue in Politics & International Relations.
2. Locate and prioritise empirical information and theoretical insights about domestic or world politics from a variety of sources.
3. Demonstrate effective research skills, critical reasoning, and a variety of communication skills relevant to Politics & International Relations.
4. Work effectively in a group on a self-directed task to achieve a specific goal.
5. Articulate the capacity to apply considerations regarding ethical fieldwork practices in the study of Politics and International Relations
6. Employ self-reflexive research and writing practices.

### Teaching Strategies

In accordance with UNSW Learning and Teaching Guidelines, this course has been designed to engage you in learning through informed seminar discussion based on guided reading and independent research, and to provide you with meaningful and timely feedback. The course is taught through a two-hour weekly seminar and additional hour of online learning activity each week. Class discussions will be led by both you and your convenor based on readings, analysis and independent interpretation of a selection of secondary sources. Learning outcomes will be addressed through seminar preparation and participation plus the timely submission of your course assignments. Your achievement of the learning outcomes of this course shall then be demonstrated through the extent of your engagement with course material, the quality of the presentation of your ideas and class discussion, and your level of achievement in course assessments.

## Assessment

For all information, see Moodle.

### Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Media article/Blog	30%	28/06/2019 11:59 PM	1,6
Group Project	30%	02/08/2019 11:59 PM	2,3,4,5
Assignment	40%	09/08/2019 11:59 PM	2,6

### Assessment Details

#### Assessment 1: Media article/Blog

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 1300 words

**Details:** Students submit a 1300-word written assignment modelled on the style of a media outlet or blog of their choice. Students will receive written feedback and a marked rubric within ten working days of submission. The rubric will be available at the start of semester to allow students to work towards clearly communicated standards.

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

#### Assessment 2: Group Project

**Start date:**

**Details:** Groups submit a 5-page project proposal. This is a group task. All students in the group will receive the same grade for the assignment. Students are asked to rate their fellow group members' participation and contribution on a scale of 1-10 using a confidential online survey. If any group member's participation and contribution is rated lower than 7 (by students or the course convenor) then their grade will be moderated accordingly by the convenor. This will be clearly communicated to students at the start of semester. The final proposals will be submitted through moodle and students will receive written feedback and a marked rubric within ten working days of submission.

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

#### Assessment 3: Assignment

**Start date:**

**Details:** You will submit a 2000-word research essay. Questions are set by the course convenor. You

will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to you at the start of the course so that you can work towards specified standards

## Attendance Requirements

In ARTS3810, seminar attendance and the completion of the online components are compulsory. A student who attends less than eighty per cent of the classes within a course may be refused final assessment.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 3 June - 7 June		See Moodle
Week 2: 10 June - 14 June		See Moodle
Week 3: 17 June - 21 June		See Moodle
Week 4: 24 June - 28 June		See Moodle
Week 5: 1 July - 5 July		See Moodle
Week 6: 8 July - 12 July		See Moodle
Week 7: 15 July - 19 July		See Moodle
Week 8: 22 July - 26 July		See Moodle
Week 9: 29 July - 2 August		See Moodle
Week 10: 5 August - 9 August		See Moodle

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

Not available

### **Recommended Resources**

Not available

## **Course Evaluation and Development**

In 2015, student feedback suggested that the course might benefit from using the time differently, as 3-hour seminars were not always wholly productive. I now use new learning technology to blend a mixture of face-to-face and online learning activities and scheduled 2-hour classes.

In 2016, student feedback suggested that more time be given in class for the group project proposal, as students noted that it was often difficult to organise too much time outside of class. More time has since been added to this element during our face-to-face sessions. Students also suggested that they very much enjoyed the media and blogging workshops and as such this has also been more significantly incorporated into the course. In 2017, we worked really hard to get at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the cohort's articles published. The other significant piece of feedback was that students saw merit in the written statement of capabilities, but did not enjoy the portfolio of evidence binder submission. This has been removed from the course and now it is just the written statement element.

In 2017, students suggested that the critical reflection should relate to the group proposal, thus giving students an opportunity to extend on a project that had played such a key role in the course. Further, engaging with all stream learning outcomes for that final assessment was deemed excessive. The final assessment now relates to individual experiences and critical reflections of the group project, and will be restricted to a handful of stream learning outcomes as decided by the cohort. In 2018, it was suggested that the convenor select the stream learning outcomes.

## **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/>

## **Image Credit**

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