



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
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University



ARTS3822

The Art of Political Science

Term Two // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Fengshi Wu	fengshi.wu@unsw.edu.au	3-5pm Tuesdays	133 Morven Brown	

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*

The systematic study of politics has a long history, stretching back some two and a half thousand years to the ancient Greeks. Over the last century, however, it has become institutionalised and professionalised and, as the disciplinary name Political Science suggests, has sought to put the study of politics on a footing comparable to the aims, methods, and conventions presumed integral to the natural sciences. Yet the possibility, desirability, and even meaning of a “science of politics” are controversial issues. This course examines fundamental questions about what political knowledge is and how it is acquired. In the first weeks, you will explore in a general way what it might mean to be a “student of politics.” You will learn about the different fields of political science and examine the idea of a systematic and dispassionate study of anything. You will consider the modern history of the discipline and identify the different and often conflicting perspectives regarding the appropriate aims, scope, and methods of political inquiry. Thereafter, the course will proceed each week by examining in detail a particular analytical perspective in conjunction with a real-world case study: behaviouralism, marxism, interpretivism, institutionalism, rational choice theory, the structure versus agency problem, the relation between institutions, values and culture, and normative approaches.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and outline the contested character of approaches to studying and analysing political phenomena and the different visions that the discipline of political science has of its mission
2. Evaluate a variety of advanced debates on and approaches to the study of politics, informed by a self-reflexive awareness of the reasoned views of others and using a variety of arguments and analytical perspectives
3. Locate, prioritise and apply appropriate information in and to the study of Politics in a sophisticated and persuasive manner
4. Discriminate between different analytical perspectives in and approaches to the study of politics

Teaching Strategies

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 two main types of structured learning activity in this course, supplementing independent study (reading, note-taking, research):

1. SEMINARS: Seminars allow you to discuss questions, themes and issues arising from your independent study, as well as providing the opportunity to engage in productive discussion with your peers and to participate in a range of structured learning activities, including group/pair/individual analytical work, formal and informal debates and mini-projects. Seminars are 2 hours in duration.
2. ONLINE LEARNING ACTIVITIES: Online learning activities must be completed each week and should take approximately 1.6 hours. These activities are designed to foster independent study and to allow for

engagement with different tasks that cannot be undertaken in a classroom environment, such as conducting online research or watching a film. These activities are clearly explained on Moodle (the University LMS) and will mostly be facilitated by it. This blended mode of delivery both increases your flexibility, as you can complete preparatory activities at a time that suits you, and deepens engagement, as you will arrive in the classroom well-prepared and able to undertake complex, problem-based, learning activities in the face-to-face classes.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research design	15%	20/06/2020 05:00 PM	1,4
Literature review essay	35%	18/07/2020 05:00 PM	1,3
Research Essay	50%	15/08/2020 04:41 PM	2,3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research design

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 500 words

Details:

Choose a topic of research and an approach covered in the course. Draw up a research design (500 words) that has at least the following components: research question, theoretical context, methodology, research tactics and steps. You will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks of submission through Moodle.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Literature review essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1000 words

Details:

Students are to write a 1000-word to review the relevant academic literature for their final research paper.

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

Assessment 3: Research Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

The essay requires you to demonstrate engagement with the core themes and issues raised in the course and your ability to operationalize a research idea. The word length of the essay is 3000 words. You will receive written feedback, a completed rubric, and a numerical grade within two weeks of submission through Moodle. This is the final assessment of the course.

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: 1 June - 5 June	Seminar	Course introduction and what is the art of political science?
	Online Activity	
Week 2: 8 June - 12 June	Seminar	Normative studies of politics
	Online Activity	
Week 3: 15 June - 19 June	Seminar	Formal studies of politics
	Online Activity	
Week 4: 22 June - 26 June	Seminar	Empirical studies of politics 1: discourse, meaning, culture and more
	Online Activity	
Week 5: 29 June - 3 July	Seminar	Empirical studies of politics 2: behaviour
	Online Activity	
Week 6: 6 July - 10 July		Flexible week
Week 7: 13 July - 17 July	Seminar	Empirical studies of politics 3: structure
	Online Activity	
Week 8: 20 July - 24 July	Seminar	Empirical studies of politics 4: institution
	Online Activity	
Week 9: 27 July - 31 July	Seminar	Empirical studies of politics 5: the comparative logic
	Online Activity	
Week 10: 3 August - 7 August	Seminar	The art of political science: your own practice
	Online Activity	

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All resources will be made available via Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Not available

Course Evaluation and Development

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/>

Image Credit

Synergies in Sound 2016

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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.