POLS5102

Key Issues in Australian Foreign Policy

Term Three // 2020

School of Social Sciences // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
William Clapton	w.clapton@unsw.edu.au	Mondays, 4:00pm - 5:00pm. Other times by appointment (virtual appointments also available)	Room 124, Morven Brown	9385 3570

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Australia finds itself in a rapidly changing and uncertain international environment, presenting foreign policymakers with a number of key issues, challenges, and risks to address. In this course, you will consider some of the main themes and issues in contemporary Australian foreign policy. The course begins with an exploration of the foundations of Australia's foreign relations, including the formulation and implementation of foreign policy, national identity, and the extent to which Australia can be described as a 'Middle Power'. You will then look at some of the key issues in Australian foreign policy. These include Australia's evolving relationships with traditional allies, its management of relations with rising powers, national security, immigration, and Australia's participation in the global economy.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Outline and evaluate the foundations of Australian foreign policy
2. Assess Australia's contemporary international environment
3. Consider key issues and themes in contemporary Australian foreign policy
4. Conduct independent and scholarly research

Teaching Strategies

As a Masters level course, POLS5102 is intended both to supplement existing knowledge and experience and also to develop expertise in the analysis of the key issues in Australian foreign policy. The course is based on the assumption that students have an active role to play in the learning process and are active participants in the production of knowledge, whether they have prior knowledge or experience of these issues or not. Thus, the course actively engages student involvement through independent reading, class participation and the preparation and presentation of written work.

This course seeks to develop your critical analysis and communication skills and provide structured learning so that you may apply the knowledge gained directly to present and future careers in business, the public sector and the non-government sector. The course is designed to contribute to an inclusive curriculum in the study of International Relations.

POLS5102 is designed as a seminar in order to meet the learning outcomes identified above. A seminar can be defined as a class conducted though active student discussions as opposed to a lecture in which the lecturer alone usually conducts the discussion. For each seminar I will provide a brief presentation to introduce the week's topic and main themes and to frame the readings and discussion for that topic. The seminar discussions will provide a structured environment in which you can explore your opinions, challenge current beliefs and develop new conceptual tools and understandings.

An emphasis will be placed on student-led learning and discussion, and it is expected that all students will actively contribute to group and class discussions. You will also be expected to engage in independent study, using the reading lists provided, and have prepared prior to each seminar by completing the required readings and as many of the recommended readings as possible.

Assessment

Assessments should be referenced in accordance with the *School of Social Sciences Referencing Guide*, available at https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/

IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:

- You will **lose 3%** if you do not use the Harvard (in-text) system of referencing for all assessments
- You will lose **3% for every 100 words (or part thereof)** that your assignment is **over or under** the established word limit. There is an allowance of + or – 10% for assessments, e.g. if your policy brief is 1650 words in length, it will not be penalised. If it is 1700 words, you will lose 3%. As you have already received a 10% allowance on the word count, **even 1 word over will attract a 3% penalty.** Using the policy brief again as an example, if your policy brief is 1651 words, you will receive a 3% penalty. If it is 1300 words, you will also receive a 3% penalty for being under the word limit, and so on for every 100 words or part thereof that your assignment is over or under the word limit. **The word count includes all text in the main body of the assignment. In-text references are included.** Only the reference list or bibliography is excluded.
- You stand to **lose between 5 and 20 marks** for poor referencing and attribution of sources. There is A LOT of assistance available to you to help you learn about referencing, attribution and avoiding plagiarism. If you are not sure JUST ASK! See https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Policy Brief	40%	09/10/2020 11:59 PM	2,3,4
Essay	60%	27/11/2020 11:59 PM	1,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Policy Brief

Start date:

Length: 1500 words

Details:

1500-word policy brief

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission through the University's Learning Management System. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

Additional details:

The purpose of this exercise is to simulate, to the extent possible, the experience of preparing a policy

brief for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This assessment task will require you to structure a document similar to how policy officers in most government departments structure briefing papers and provide a set of discrete recommendations to the Minister based on your analysis and evaluation of the policy area and issue that you choose to focus on.

You may choose any issue/topic to focus on from those covered in the course, with the exception of the issue/topic that you write the essay on.

The policy brief should be structured to include the following headings:

ISSUE AND BACKGROUND

This should be succinct as possible. This section should summarise the topic and provide an indication of what the brief will cover. It should also provide a general overview of the issue, including existing policies relating to the issue being discussed - does the government already have a stated position or policy on this issue? This should also include reference to essential pieces of information that are critical to understanding how the situation has developed or reached the current status it is in right now. This may include reference to legislation, key decisions, or events in the past that have been fundamental in defining the current policy or position of key stakeholders and other participants.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

This section should describe the current problem that needs to be addressed by government action. What is the nature of the problem, why does it need to be addressed and why does it need to be addressed now? This should not simply repeat the issue at hand, but provide a statement of the specific problem that the general foreign policy issue presents to the government. **Note: problem definition is a crucial feature of the policy brief. Your brief should clearly outline the problem to be addressed**.

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The analysis should highlight the key issues of tension/concern for different stakeholders, both international and domestic. Included in this section should be a clear identification of the main international and domestic stakeholders and their position on the issue/problem.

OPTIONS

This section should outline options for action and provide an analysis of the likely outcomes if each option is implemented. This may include some assessment of what you anticipate would be the likely response from key international and domestic stakeholders in reaction to each option. This section should also provide an overview of the costs and benefits of the listed options. You may need to include a comment on who gains and who loses. Don't forget to include the option of taking no action!

SUGGESTED APPROACH

Based on the above assessment of options you need to identify a preferred option and elaborate further on why this option is preferable – in other words, **you need to advance an argument as to why your suggested approach should be adopted**. This is your opportunity to expand on the benefits that will result from selecting this option – who benefits, who loses and why such an outcome would/should be acceptable to the government, community etc. You may also need to include an outline of any action that the government needs to take to compensate those groups/stakeholders that lose out by the government adopting your preferred approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This is a very concise statement that defines the action you recommend the government adopt. It may be a series of recommendations or a simple request for the endorsement of the above strategy. Whatever your approach the recommendations should be brief, clear and action orientated i.e. 'It is recommended that the Minister,

Agree…

Endorse the…

Approve the allocation of $xx million towards…

Announce your decision at the …

Refuse to support the position put by stakeholder…

Advise stakeholder … that you have decided…

Etc.'

REFERENCES

The policy brief should be fully referenced as per normal academic referencing conventions. A reference list providing full bibliographic information for all sources cited in the policy brief must be provided.

Note: The Policy Brief is not an essay and should not be written as such. Please keep this in mind when preparing your briefs. An example will be provided on Moodle.

The policy brief will be graded /100 and will constitute 40% of your final grade for the course. It will be graded using a rubric showing the assessment criteria. The rubric is available on Moodle.

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

Assessment 2: Essay

Start date:

Length: 3000 words

Details:

3000-word essay

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission through the University's Learning Management System. The feedback sheet/rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

This is the final assessment in the course.

Additional details:

Before you begin your research essay, you should make sure that you have read the SoSS assignment-writing guide available on Moodle.

You will have to make reference to further reading. References to textbooks alone will not be sufficient to pass this assessment. You need to engage with the arguments present in the existing literature and come to conclusions on the basis of this literature. There are a very large number of excellent references available on Moodle, both in the 'Required Readings' sections of the individual topic tabs and also in the 'Recommended Readings List' document available under the 'Content and Resources' tab. It is expected that you will make use of those sources that are relevant to the topic of your essay.

Your essay must be properly referenced and accompanied by a reference list. If you are not sure about referencing conventions, please speak to me or your tutor. The UNSW Learning Centre provides a range of resources to assist with referencing, available at http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/ref.html.

To write a good essay:

- Explain in the introduction the context of the question, your basic argument/s and how the paper will proceed step by step (the structure).
- Signpost the structure throughout the paper, indicating the logical progression from paragraph to paragraph and section to section (so linking sentences at the ends of paragraphs and sections are important).
- Provide persuasive analysis of evidence in support of your argument/s.
- Ground your argument in the theoretical debates of the discipline where relevant.

Essays should demonstrate that you have engaged with the themes and issues raised in the course and that you are able to construct a persuasive and well-evidenced argument in relation to one or more of these themes or issues.

Further guidance to assist with preparing, planning and researching your essay is available on Moodle, including week-by-week further reading. You will be assessed on your ability to demonstrate research skills (the ability to provide accurate and detailed information about your chosen case study), on synthesis and persuasive argument (in bringing together ideas and data from several sources), on quality of presentation (including accurate referencing) and on the clarity of your writing.

It is a good idea to plan and draft your research essay well in advance. You are welcome to see me or your tutor during consultation hours to discuss your ideas, plan and draft. We will not, however, respond to requests for research assistance, i.e. 'I want to use 'X' as a case study, what should I read?'

The essay will be graded /100 and will constitute 60% of your final grade for the course. It will be graded using a rubric showing the assessment criteria. The rubric is available on Moodle.

Essay Questions

You are permitted to write your essay on any of the seminar discussion questions listed on Moodle. This means that you can write your essay on any of the course topics, however you **cannot write your essay and policy brief on the same topic or policy area** (e.g. if your policy brief is on security and defence, you must choose a different policy area for the essay).

Alternatively, if you wish to write your essay on a question that you have devised yourself, you are

welcome to do so. However, please inform me of the question before commencing with the essay to ensure that it is appropriate to the course.

Please note: detailed feedback will only be provided for the essay if students request it. If you wish to receive detailed feedback on your essay, please make a note at the top of the first page. Students who do not request feedback will receive a mark and a completed rubric with brief comments.

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	Seminar	History, Identity, Interests – Australia's Place in the World
	Online Activity	***Admission Impossible* Review** Please watch *Admission Impossible* (available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPfJRetYP04) and write a 300-word review that briefly discusses what the film says and reveals about the White Australia Policy. You do not need references, provided you are not copying and/or paraphrasing material taken from other sources, and this can be written colloquially. Post your response via the Turnitin submission link under the topic tab 'Australia's National Identity'. The reviews will not receive a grade. The submission deadline for this activity is open-ended. Please try and complete it by the Friday of Week 10 (20 November).
Week 2: 21 September - 25 September	Seminar	The Domestic Context of Australian Foreign Policy
Week 3: 28 September - 2 October	Seminar	Security and Defence
Week 4: 5 October - 9 October	Seminar	Australia's Global Trade
Week 5: 12 October - 16 October	Seminar	A Good International Citizen? Immigration, Human Rights, and the Environment
Week 6: 19 October - 23 October		**FLEX WEEK (NO CLASSES)**
Week 7: 26 October - 30 October	Seminar	The Contemporary ANZUS Alliance
Week 8: 2 November - 6 November	Seminar	The Rise of China – Opportunities and Risks
Week 9: 9 November - 13 November	Seminar	Evolving Relationships in Asia - India and Japan
Week 10: 16 November - 20 November	Topic	The Regional Power: Australia in the South Pacific

Resources

Prescribed Resources

There is no prescribed textbook for this course. All of the required readings, and many of the recommended readings (listed on Moodle), are available online via the library's website or through the course Moodle site.

Recommended Resources

Some useful texts that students may wish to consult include:

Beeson, Mark and Hameiri, Shahar (2017) Navigating the New International Disorder: Australia in World Affairs 2011-2015 (Melbourne: Oxford University Press)

Cotton, James and Ravenhill, John (eds) (2001) The National Interest in a Global Era: Australia in World Affairs 1996-2000 (Melbourne: Oxford University Press)

Cotton, James and Ravenhill, John (eds) (2007) Trading on Alliance Security: Australia in World Affairs 2001-2005 (Melbourne: Oxford University Press)

Devetak, Richard Burke, Anthony and George, Jim (eds) (2007) An Introduction to International Relations: Australian Perspectives (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

Firth, Stewart (2011) Australia in International Politics: An Introduction to Australian Foreign Policy, 3rd ed. (Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin) (available as an e-book through the UNSW Library website)

Gyngell, Allan and Wesley, Michael (2007) Making Australian Foreign Policy, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

McDougall, Derek and Shearman, Peter (eds) (2006) Australian Security After 9/11: New and Old Agendas (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate)

McDougall, Derek (2009) Australian Foreign Relations: Entering the 21st Century (Frenchs Forest, NSW: Pearson Australia)

Burke, Anthony (2008) Fear of Security: Australia's Invasion Anxiety (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

Ungerer, Carl (ed.) (2008) Australian Foreign Policy in the Age of Terror (Sydney: UNSW Press)

You will benefit from becoming familiar with Google Scholar (http://scholar.google. com) 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.

Students may also find the following websites and journals useful:

Websites

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – http://www.dfat.gov.au

Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs – https://foreignminister.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx

Department of Defence – http://www.defence.gov.au

Australian Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee – http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade

Australian Parliament Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade – http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Foreign_ Affairs_Defence_and_Trade

Prime Minister of Australia – http://www.pm.gov.au

United Nations – http://www.un.org

Australian Strategic Policy Institute – www.aspi.org.au

Lowy Institute for International Policy – www.lowyinstitute.org

International Institute of Strategic Studies – http://www.iiss.org/

Journals

Australian Journal of International Affairs

Australian Journal of Political Science

Australian Journal of Politics and History

Foreign Policy

Global Change, Peace and Security (formerly Pacifica Review)

Foreign Affairs

European Journal of International Relations

International Security

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered periodically using, among other means, the University's

'MyExperience' feedback process. Informal feedback and feedback specific to individual tutorials and lectures are also important, and welcome. Student feedback is taken seriously and continual enhancements are made to learning and teaching activities on the basis of student feedback. For example, in response to past feedback, the assessment regime for the course has been changed to include a policy brief, required readings for specific topics have been changed and different topics have been included or altered.

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.