UNSW Course Outline

ARTS1811 Contemporary Issues in Government and Global Politics - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS1811
Year : 2024
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
Academic Unit : School of Social Sciences
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook](#) [Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

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

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Identify the main political actors at both the national and global levels, and relate them to the contexts in which they operate.
CLO2 : 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.
CLO3 : Analyse contemporary political issues from a theoretically grounded point of view with reference to the disciplinary literatures of Politics and International Relations.
CLO4 : 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.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Identify the main political actors at both the national and global levels, and relate them to the contexts in which they operate.	• Class Participation • Research Essay
CLO2 : 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.	• Reading group - individual analysis • Reading group - group report • Class Participation • Research Essay
CLO3 : Analyse contemporary political issues from a theoretically grounded point of view with reference to the disciplinary literatures of Politics and International Relations.	• Reading group - individual analysis • Reading group - group report • Class Participation • Research Essay
CLO4 : 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.	• Reading group - individual analysis • Reading group - group report • Research Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Class Participation Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Due Date: Weekly
Reading group - individual analysis Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (1 day)	15%	Due Date: 14/10/2024 11:59 PM
Reading group - group report Assessment Format: Group	30%	Due Date: 04/11/2024 11:59 PM
Research Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	45%	Due Date: 18/11/2024 11:59 PM

Assessment Details

Class Participation

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

Students will be graded on their class participation throughout the term. Their mark will be determined by: 1) the depth of knowledge of the week's topic; 2) their engagement with the readings; and 3) their demonstrated respect for others in class discussion.

Students will receive feedback and a preliminary grade in Week 4, and a rubric will be available at the start of term to allow students to work towards clearly defined standards. Students will receive a numerical mark at the end of term.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Identify the main political actors at both the national and global levels, and relate them to the contexts in which they operate.
- CLO2 : 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.
- CLO3 : Analyse contemporary political issues from a theoretically grounded point of view with reference to the disciplinary literatures of Politics and International Relations.

<u>Detailed Assessment Description</u>

Students who miss more than half of the tutorials without a valid reason will **automatically receive a 0% for participation**. Students can miss up to **2 tutorials without documentation, however special consideration will be required for absences beyond this or penealties will apply**. Please note that participation grades can only be assessed in class and as such persistent

absences, even if for valid reasons, will result in a lower participation grade.

<u>Generative AI Permission Level</u>

Not Applicable

Generative AI is not considered to be of assistance to you in completing this assessment. If you do use generative AI in completing this assessment, you should attribute its use.
For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Reading group - individual analysis

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

The reading group assessment includes two written tasks. The first is assessed individually. For the individual task, students will submit a critical assessment of one of the required readings for this course. This will:

1. Briefly sunmmarise the argument presented in the reading
2. Critically analyse the argument by identifying both its strengths and weaknesses.
3. Offer an assessment on how convincing the argument is (i.e. – do you agree with the argument and why/why not?)

This task should be written in a essay format. Word count: 500 words

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO2 : 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.
- CLO3 : Analyse contemporary political issues from a theoretically grounded point of view with reference to the disciplinary literatures of Politics and International Relations.
- CLO4 : 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.

<u>Assessment Length</u>

500 words

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

<u>Generative AI Permission Level</u>

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Reading group - group report

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

The reading group assessment includes two written tasks. The second task is assessed as a group. Students will read the individual analyses of their group members. They will then arrange a time to meet (either in person or online) to discuss. As everyone will have analysed a required reading from the course, it will be assumed that all group members have read all the texts under examination. Then, as a group, they will discuss their own opinions on each text, and the written analyses of their peers.

Based on this discussion, the group will then prepare a written report on their analysis of all the texts. It will detail the agreements and disagreements within the group, and the group's collected assessment on the strengths and weaknesses of each text.

Groups will have 3-4 members and will be allocated by the convenor. Students must coordinate with their members to ensure that they all prepare their individual analysis on different texts.

The report does not need to follow an essay structure. It should instead have a sub-heading for each text discussed, followed by a summary of the groups discussion and analysis. Word count: 1500 words

Students will receive written or recorded audio feedback, a marked rubric, and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The rubric will be available at the start of term to allow students to work towards clearly defined standards.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : 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.
- CLO3 : Analyse contemporary political issues from a theoretically grounded point of view with reference to the disciplinary literatures of Politics and International Relations.
- CLO4 : 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.

Assessment Length

1500 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Research Essay

Assessment Overview

Research essay (2,000 words) on a topic related to course content.

Students will receive written or recorded audio feedback, a marked rubric, and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The rubric will be available at the start of term to allow students to work towards clearly defined standards.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify the main political actors at both the national and global levels, and relate them

to the contexts in which they operate.
- CLO2 : 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.
- CLO3 : Analyse contemporary political issues from a theoretically grounded point of view with reference to the disciplinary literatures of Politics and International Relations.
- CLO4 : 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.

Detailed Assessment Description

The research essay must include at least 2 references published in either 2023 or 2024.

Assessment Length

2000 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

Planning/Design Assistance

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to generate initial ideas, structures, or outlines. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e., what is generated by the tool, software or service should not be a part of your final submission. You should keep copies of your iterations to show your Course Authority if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work.

If your Convenor has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text or media that have not been sufficiently modified you may be asked to explain your work, but we recognise that you are permitted to use AI generated text and media as a starting point and some traces may remain. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

General Assessment Information

Assessment FAQs

1. What if I go over the word limit?

A +/- 10% leeway is applied to all written assessments. For example, for a 2000-word essay can be anywhere between 1800 and 2200. Essays that are shorter or longer than the allowed range will be penalised at 1% per 50 words over/under the 10% leeway.

2. What is included in the word count?

Everything except your reference list is included in the word count. That means that footnotes, sub-headings and in-text references **are** included in the word count.

3. What referencing style should I use?

All your written assessments must be formatted according to the **Harvard in-text system of referencing**, as found in the guidelines in the **School of Social Science's Referencing Guide**. This is available at https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/SoSS_Referencing_Guide_2019.pdf.

Poor referencing and attribution of sources will result in a lower grade and may even constitute academic misconduct. 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/support-referencing-assignments.

If you submit work for this course that you have already submitted for assessment in another course at this University or any other institution, in whole or in part, or if you copy material from another source and do not attribute that material to its original author, your work will be referred to the School Student Ethics Officer for an investigation into a possible charge of academic misconduct. See https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism.

4. Can I use generative AI in my assessments?

The AI policy may vary between assessments. Please consult the course outline and/or Moodle for more information.

5. What if I submit an assignment late?

Unless you have an approved extension (see question 6 below), 5% is deducted from the 'total awardable mark' each calendar day you are late. For example, an assessment that received 70% but is two days late will receive a final grade of 60% - i.e. 70% - 10% (2 days late x 5%) = 60%.

For work submitted more than five days after the due date a mark of **zero** will be awarded.

6. What if I need more time to finish my assessment?

You can apply for special consideration if you need more time due to illness, misadventure etc. It is highly recommended that you apply for an extension before the due date passes, if possible.

Special consideration is handled by a centralised bureaucracy. For more information, or to apply for an extension, visit https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration.

You may also be able to apply for a Short Extension. You still apply for Short Extensions through Special Consideration (i.e. NOT the convenor!), however these are approved automatically and do not require you to provide documentation. Please note that only some assessments are eligible for Short Extensions – please consult the Moodle to see which, if any, are eligible for this course.

7. I have an ELP – can I still apply for a Short Extension?

The extension provided through your ELP (if there is one) does not 'stack' with the Short Extensions – you must choose between one or the other. For example, if a 2-day Short Extension is available for an assessment and you have a one week extension under your ELP, you can choose to either apply for a 2-day extension or use your one week ELP extension. You cannot combine both to receive a 9-day extension.

8. I have an approved ELP/Special Consideration/Short Extension but Turnitin and Moodle are still showing the original due date. Does this mean the extension has not been applied properly?

Moodle and Turnitin are not synchronised with other systems and will not update automatically once extensions are approved. That is, they will show the original due date, even when you have an approved extension. Graders have access to the extensions and will know when not to apply late penalties. If a late penalty is applied in error, it can easily be removed provided we are made aware before results are finalised.

9. I think my grade was too low, what can I do?

The process for appealing grades is available here: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines. Appeals must be submitted within 5 working days of marks being released. Please first talk with the grader of the assessment prior to lodging an appeal.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Topic	Week 1 (Power): The new cold war – China, the US and hegemonic struggle
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Topic	Week 2 (Race): Post-colonialism and underdevelopment – the case of the Franc of the Financial Community of Africa.
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Topic	Week 3 (Gender): Trans athletes in cometitive sport
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Topic	Week 4 (Class/Marxism): Is China socialist?
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Topic	Week 5 (Individuals/Liberalism): The rise and fall of R2P
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Topic	Week 7 (States): Actually existing non-state governance in Rojava
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Topic	Week 8 (Organisations): Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the response – a failure of liberal institutionalism?
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Topic	Week 9 (Social movements): How to blow up a pipline: where to next for climate activism?
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Topic	Week 10 (Knowledge): Pentecostalism, identity and conservatism in Brazil

Attendance Requirements

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

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Madison Cartwright		Room 132 Morven Brown Building		By appointment	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Student equity and disability;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Examination information;
- Review of results;

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request Special Consideration as early as possible before the deadline. Support with Time Management is available here.

Important note: UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Location: Room 159, Morven Brown Building (C20), Kensington campus

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm (except public holidays)

Telephone: +61 2 9385 1807

Email: soss@unsw.edu.au

Web: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-schools/social-sciences