



UNSW Course Outline

ARTS3810 Politics & International Relations: Theory and Practice - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS3810

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

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

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

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Critically reflect on key learnings developed over the course of the Politics and International Relations major/minor.
CLO2 : Synthesize empirical information and theoretical insights from across the field of Politics and International Relations to consider the ways in which they shape, and are shaped by, domestic and international politics .
CLO3 : Demonstrate effective research skills, critical reasoning, and a variety of communication skills relevant to Politics & International Relations, including using self-reflexive research and writing practices.
CLO4 : Work effectively in a group on a self-directed task to achieve a specific goal.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Critically reflect on key learnings developed over the course of the Politics and International Relations major/minor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Portfolio • Group Project
CLO2 : Synthesize empirical information and theoretical insights from across the field of Politics and International Relations to consider the ways in which they shape, and are shaped by, domestic and international politics .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Portfolio • Group Project
CLO3 : Demonstrate effective research skills, critical reasoning, and a variety of communication skills relevant to Politics & International Relations, including using self-reflexive research and writing practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Portfolio • Group Project
CLO4 : Work effectively in a group on a self-directed task to achieve a specific goal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Group Project

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Participation Assessment Format: Individual	20%	
Portfolio Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	50%	Due Date: 26/07/2024 11:59 PM
Group Project Assessment Format: Group	30%	Due Date: Week 10: 29 July - 04 August

Assessment Details

Participation

Assessment Overview

Students will be graded on their class participation throughout the term. Participation refers to engaging in individual and/or group discussion-based work in each seminar, as per instructions provided, to produce an independently or collaboratively developed written artefact. Students with less than 50% attendance will receive zero for participation.

The rubric for class participation will be available at the start of semester to allow students to work towards clearly communicated standards. Students will receive a numerical mark at the end of term. No written feedback will be provided for this assessment.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Critically reflect on key learnings developed over the course of the Politics and International Relations major/minor.
- CL02 : Synthesize empirical information and theoretical insights from across the field of Politics and International Relations to consider the ways in which they shape, and are shaped by, domestic and international politics .
- CL03 : Demonstrate effective research skills, critical reasoning, and a variety of communication skills relevant to Politics & International Relations, including using self-reflexive research and writing practices.
- CL04 : Work effectively in a group on a self-directed task to achieve a specific goal.

Detailed Assessment Description

Students will be graded on their class participation throughout the term. Their mark will be determined by:

1. their **depth of knowledge** of the week's topic;
2. their **engagement with the readings**;
3. their demonstrated **respect for others** in class discussion; and
4. their **attendance**.

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**. 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.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Portfolio

Assessment Overview

Length: 3000 words

Throughout the term, including in class, students will produce a **written statement** of capabilities supported by a portfolio of evidence. The written statement must demonstrate, using the evidence that has been compiled, how you have met the Graduate Attributes for the POLSIR major/minor. The portfolio of evidence can include a number of forms of evidence, including previously submitted work for other courses, preparatory tasks completed for this course; copies of feedback they have been given in this and other classes, amongst others. While there is no word limit for the portfolio of evidence, the written statement must be 3000 words (+ /- 10%). The written statement is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports. The portfolio must be uploaded on Moodle and instructions will be provided at the start of term.

You will receive 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 you can work towards specified standards.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Critically reflect on key learnings developed over the course of the Politics and International Relations major/minor.
- CL02 : Synthesize empirical information and theoretical insights from across the field of Politics and International Relations to consider the ways in which they shape, and are shaped by, domestic and international politics .
- CL03 : Demonstrate effective research skills, critical reasoning, and a variety of communication skills relevant to Politics & International Relations, including using self-reflexive research and writing practices.

Assessment Length

3000 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Group Project

Assessment Overview

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.

As part of the assessment the groups will present their proposal to the class, however the presentation is non-assessable.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Critically reflect on key learnings developed over the course of the Politics and International Relations major/minor.
- CL02 : Synthesize empirical information and theoretical insights from across the field of Politics and International Relations to consider the ways in which they shape, and are shaped by, domestic and international politics .
- CL03 : Demonstrate effective research skills, critical reasoning, and a variety of communication skills relevant to Politics & International Relations, including using self-reflexive research and writing practices.
- CL04 : Work effectively in a group on a self-directed task to achieve a specific goal.

Detailed Assessment Description

Each submission should address the following key themes:

- *Research question or statement*
- *Background of the topic and chosen theoretical approach*
- *Objectives (what do you hope the study will achieve)*
- *Methods of data collection and data analysis*
- *Ethical considerations*
- *Budget*

The main restriction on your topic selection is that the project needs to cost less than AUD\$100,000.

Each group has to produce a 5 page project proposal , excluding the reference list and the budget page. The proposal must use 11 point font Times New Roman. 1.5 line spacing. 2cm margins (top, bottom, left and right)

Include the names and zID's of all your participants--as only one of you will submit the document on behalf of their group. Your project proposal must include a list of group members.

Assessment Length

5 pages

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

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. Essay that are shorter or longer than the allowed range will be penalized 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**.

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?

Text generated through generative AI software is not allowed to be included in assessments. If the outputs of generative AI form part of your submission it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to standard penalties.

Whilst AI may be used to assist in essay planning, please note that AI is not a reliable academic source.

Non-generative AI programs used to assist with grammar, translation and other improvements to your writing are allowed.

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. $70\% - 10\% (2 \text{ days late} \times 5\%) = 60\%$.

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 : 27 May - 2 June	Topic	Power in Politics and International Relations According to Russell Bertrand (1938), the "fundamental concept in social science is Power, in the same sense in which Energy is the fundamental concept in physics". This week we examine power, who has it, where it comes from, and what we can do about it.
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Topic	Theories in Politics and International Relations How does political theory help us understand the world in which we live? This week we consider how theory can influence the doing of politics.
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Topic	Contemporary issues Politics and International Relations Studying politics gives us additional insights into current events. From climate change to inequality, to global peace, the most pressing issues today all require political as well as technical solutions.
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Topic	Media Impact This week we examine the role of ideology, propaganda and 'common sense' in our society. What role does the media play in determining the 'truth'?
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Topic	Methods and data collection Through observation we can make claims about the world, and the quality of our observations will affect the credibility of our claims. This week we consider how to distinguish between good and bad research.
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Topic	Data analysis and ethics Data must be analysed in order to be useful. This week examines how to use data to draw conclusions, contribute to knowledge, and influence outcomes. We also examine the importance of research ethics.
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Topic	Careers in Politics and International Relations "Are you going to be a politician?" This week we look at the skills and knowledge that you have developed in your degree and how these are used in the workforce.
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Topic	Envisaging Politics and International Relations futures A degree in politics and IR not only prepares us for work, but for life. This week we reflect on personal growth through our degree. We will also think about what the future may hold, and what our role in it may be.
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Topic	Communitating Politics and International Relations This week is dedicated to group project presentations. Each group with 'pitch' their project to the class, with the intent on securing the funding for their project.

Attendance Requirements

Students must attend all lectures and tutorials. Lectures will not be recorded. Failure to attend at least half of classes will result in a grade of **zero (0%)** being automatically applied to your 'participation' grade and a **possible revision down** of your individual grade for the group assessment also.

Course Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

Changes have been made to the delivery and assessment structure of this course based on feedback.

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

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

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 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

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, 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](#).

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>