



UNSW Course Outline

ZHSS1401 International and Political Studies 1A: Ideals, Interests and Power - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ZHSS1401

Year : 2024

Term : Semester 1

Teaching Period : Z1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Canberra

Academic Unit : UC School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : UNSW Canberra at ADFA

Campus : UNSW Canberra

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

[Useful Links](#)

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Ideals, Interests and Power are central concerns in the study of Politics. This course offers you

the opportunity to gain insights into these concerns. You will learn to think critically about power: what is it, and how is it allocated? How do people and countries struggle for it? What values motivate them? What are national interests? How are these interests pursued domestically and in the international arena? How ought we to organise our collective lives? You will be exposed to the discipline's best answers to these and other questions. This course draws on Australian and international examples to help you gain an overview of 'Who gets what, when and how' - the fundamental questions of International and Political Studies. Students are not required to have any specific background qualifications in International and Political Studies.

Course Aims

N/A - title and handbook description change

Relationship to Other Courses

ZHSS1401 is a foundational course for students majoring in IPS. It is a pre-requisite for upper year IPS courses. It is followed by ZHSS1402, the other pre-requisite for upper year IPS courses.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Explain key topics in International and Political Studies, with an emphasis on the Australian context.
CLO2 : Develop coherent written arguments about these topics.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Explain key topics in International and Political Studies, with an emphasis on the Australian context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-class test• Tutorial contribution• Essay 1500 words• Exam
CLO2 : Develop coherent written arguments about these topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay 1500 words• Exam

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

Moodle is the Learning Management System used at UNSW Canberra.

All courses have a Moodle site which will become available to students at least one week before the start of semester. Please find all help and documentation (including Blackboard Collaborate) at the [Moodle Support](#) page.

UNSW Moodle supports the following web browsers:

- Google Chrome 50+
- Safari 10+
- Internet Explorer is not recommended
- Addons and Toolbars can affect any browser's performance.

Operating systems recommended are:

Windows 7, 10, Mac OSX Sierra, iPad IOS10

For further details about system requirements click [here](#).

Log in to Moodle [here](#).

Additional Course Information

For the tutorials, you are to read the specified articles or chapters carefully, then summarise them in your own hand. Bring your handwritten summaries to the tutorial each week. Your handwritten summaries are the ONLY materials you may bring in to the test or the exam. No computers of any kind (laptops, tablets, phones) are to be used during lectures.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
In-class test Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: 13 March Due Date: 13 March
Tutorial contribution Assessment Format: Individual	10%	
Essay 1500 words Assessment Format: Individual	30%	
Exam Assessment Format: Individual	40%	

Assessment Details

In-class test

Assessment Overview

In class test

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain key topics in International and Political Studies, with an emphasis on the Australian context.

Detailed Assessment Description

The test will be based on everything taught in the course up until this point: all the readings, tutorials, and lectures. You may bring handwritten notes into the venue but no printed matter. You are to bring your laptops fully charged and connected to wifi, and be seated at least a couple of minutes before the start time. The test will be made visible on Moodle at the start time. You are to type your answers into the Moodle answer sheets for each question. The test submission box will shut down precisely at the end of the testing period.

Your test will be marked without individual comments, so as to get the results to you quickly. We will have a centralised debrief in a subsequent lecture, after all the results are handed back.

Assessment Length

50 minutes

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Tutorial contribution

Assessment Overview

Contribute to tutorials

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain key topics in International and Political Studies, with an emphasis on the Australian context.

Detailed Assessment Description

You are to complete the assigned readings and bring at least one page of hand written notes on the reading to each tutorial. Your tutor will check your notes at each tutorial.

Essay 1500 words

Assessment Overview

1500 word essay

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain key topics in International and Political Studies, with an emphasis on the Australian context.
- CLO2 : Develop coherent written arguments about these topics.

Detailed Assessment Description

You are required to write a 1200-1500 word essay (*all* words on your submitted document are counted, including bibliography etc*) on the following topic:

Should voting be compulsory?

For research, you must read AND cite all of the following four pieces**:

Brennan, J., (2014), [Should We Force the Drunk to Drive?](#) In J. Brennan and L. Hill, *Compulsory Voting: For and Against* (pp. 83-107). Cambridge University Press.

Chapman, E. B. (2019). [The Distinctive Value of Elections and the Case for Compulsory Voting](#). *American Journal of Political Science*, 63(1), 101-112.

Engelen, B. (2007). [Why Compulsory Voting Can Enhance Democracy](#). *Acta Politica*, 42(1), 23-39.

Lever, A. (2009). [Is Compulsory Voting Justified?](#) *Public Reason*, 1(1), 57-74.

You are NOT to read any more than this. This is primarily an exercise in forming and presenting an academic argument, and in incorporating information appropriately from other sources. It is not a research exercise. You will be marked according to the essay marking rubric displayed below. Out of this, your argument, structure, ability to incorporate your ideas with the ideas of the sources, and your written expression are collectively worth 80%. Your referencing is worth 20% and must be perfect, otherwise that component will be awarded a Zero.

Assessment information

In this course, students are required to reference following the APA 7 referencing style.

Information about this referencing style is available at:

https://guides.lib.unsw.adfa.edu.au/lb.php?content_id=49829204

* Essays are not to exceed the word limit. Examiners will not read beyond the word limit, and marks will be deducted accordingly.

** Essays that do not use all four sources (or that use anything other than the four sources) will fail for not following the instructions.

Exam

Assessment Overview

Final examination

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain key topics in International and Political Studies, with an emphasis on the Australian context.
- CLO2 : Develop coherent written arguments about these topics.

Detailed Assessment Description

This examination is worth 40% of the total mark for this course

There are 40 marks allocated to this examination

Attempt every question.

Examination Materials:

- Lecture Notes (Written Materials ONLY) Detail: Candidates may use any handwritten notes taken during lectures, tutorials, readings. No printed or photocopied material.
- Laptop/notebook or tablet computer.
- Device for the viewing and/or completion of the exam. No windows/apps may be open except for those required for viewing and completing the examination.

Process:

- The Exam is run using Inspera
- Go to the Assessment tab on our Moodle page
- Scroll to the Examination link
- Open the Examination
- Answer all questions in the spaces provided
- When complete, click to Submit. Make sure an exam invigilator checks your submission before shutting down your computer.

General Assessment Information

Late Submission of Assessment

Unless prior arrangement is made with the lecturer or a formal application for special consideration is submitted, a penalty of 5% of the total available mark for the assessment will apply for each day that an assessment item is late up to a maximum of 5 days (120 hours) after which an assessment can no longer be submitted and a grade of 0 will be applied.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Electronic submission of assessment

Except where the nature of an assessment task precludes its electronic submission, all assessments must be submitted to an electronic repository, approved by UNSW or the Faculty, for archiving and subsequent marking and analysis.

Release of final mark

All marks obtained for assessment items during the session are provisional. The final mark as published by the university following the assessment review group meeting is the only official mark.

Guidance on AI

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If such use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 26 February - 1 March	Lecture	<p>26 February: Issues in International and Political Studies 28 February: Introduction to IPS 1A The course begins with an overview of the following topics in International and Political Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key real-life current issues in International and Political Studies• The nature of political activity• The scope of politics• The forms of political analysis• Debates about human nature and the implications for politics <p>You will have the opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of the course. The lecture slides will be displayed here at the conclusion of Week 1. There are NO TUTORIALS in Week 1.</p>
Week 2 : 4 March - 8 March	Lecture	4 March: What is Politics? 6 March: Power and Authority
Week 3 : 11 March - 15 March	Lecture	13 March: The State
Week 4 : 18 March - 22 March	Lecture	18 March: In-class Test 20 March: The Enlightenment and Liberalism The lecture is accompanied by a video from the Academy Library: https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/power-of-knowledge
Week 5 : 25 March - 29 March	Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25 March: Conservatism• 27 March: Essay Preparation
Week 6 : 1 April - 5 April	Lecture	Liberalism, Conservatism and an Indigenous legal system
Week 7 : 22 April - 26 April	Lecture	Modern Political Ideologies - Conclusion
Week 8 : 29 April - 3 May	Lecture	Both lectures this week are on the Constitution.
Week 9 : 6 May - 10 May	Lecture	6 and 8 May: Separation of Powers (Legislature, Executive, Judiciary).
Week 10 : 13 May - 17 May	Lecture	13 and 15 May: Votes, Elections, Parties
Week 11 : 20 May - 24 May	Lecture	20 May: Interest Groups 22 May: The Media
Week 12 : 27 May - 31 May	Lecture	28 May: Defence debates 29 May: Political Leadership and the National Interest
Week 13 : 3 June - 7 June	Lecture	3 June: Course Review 5 June: Exam Preparation

Attendance Requirements

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

General Schedule Information

The lectures will cover the following topics:

Issues in IPS

Intro to the course

What is Politics?

Power & Authority

The State

In-class test

The Enlightenment & its Legacy

Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Conservatism, etc

Essay preparation

Nationalism

Federalism & the Constitution

Separation of Powers: Legislature, Executive, Judiciary

Votes, Elections, Parties

Interest Groups

The Media

Defence debates

Political leadership

Course Review

Exam Preparation

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

All students must have a printed copy of the Australian Constitution.

In this course, students are required to reference following the "Notes and Bibliography" format of the Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition. Information about referencing styles is available at:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

Course Evaluation and Development

One of the key priorities in the 2025 Strategy for UNSW is a drive for academic excellence in education. One of the ways of determining how well UNSW is progressing towards this goal is by listening to our own students. Students will be asked to complete the myExperience survey towards the end of this course.

Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the “On-going Student Feedback” link in Moodle, Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings in schools, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus groups. Student opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for this course to see how the feedback from previous students has contributed to the course development.

Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct Policy

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf>

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Clinton Fernandes					No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Course Evaluation and Development

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Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the “On-going Student Feedback” link in Moodle, Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings in schools, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus groups (where applicable). Student

opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for your course to see how the feedback from previous students has contributed to the course development.

Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct.

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf>

Equitable Learning Services (ELS)

Students living with neurodivergent, physical and/or mental health conditions or caring for someone with these conditions may be eligible for support through the Equitable Learning Services team. Equitable Learning Services is a free and confidential service that provides practical support to ensure your mental or physical health conditions do not adversely affect your studies.

Our team of dedicated **Equitable Learning Facilitators (ELFs)** are here to assist you through this process. We offer a number of services to make your education at UNSW easier and more equitable.

Further information about ELS for currently enrolled students can be found at: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/equitable-learning>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to this principle of academic integrity. All students are expected to adhere to UNSW's Student Code of Conduct.

Find relevant information at: [Student Code of Conduct \(unsw.edu.au\)](https://student.unsw.edu.au/)

Plagiarism undermines academic integrity and is not tolerated at UNSW. It's defined as using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own, and can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidental copying from a source without acknowledgement.

For more information, please refer to the following:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Special Consideration

Special Consideration is the process for assessing and addressing the impact on students of short-term events, that are beyond the control of the student, and that affect performance in a specific assessment task or tasks.

Applications for Special Consideration will be accepted in the following circumstances only:

- Where academic work has been hampered to a substantial degree by illness or other cause;
- The circumstances are unexpected and beyond the student's control;
- The circumstances could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student; and either:
 - (i) they occurred during a critical study period and was 3 consecutive days or more duration, or a total of 5 days within the critical study period; or
 - (ii) they prevented the ability to complete, attend or submit an assessment task for a specific date (e.g. final exam, in class test/quiz, in class presentation)

Applications for Special Consideration must be made as soon as practicable after the problem occurs and at the latest within three working days of the assessment or the period covered by the supporting documentation.

By sitting or submitting the assessment task the student is declaring that they are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration (UNSW 'fit to sit or submit' requirement).

Sitting, accessing or submitting an assessment task on the scheduled assessment date, after applying for special consideration, renders the special consideration application void.

Find more information about special consideration at: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special/consideration/guide>

Or apply for special consideration through your [MyUNSW portal](#).

Late Submission of assessment tasks (other than examinations)

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,

- capped at five 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 extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Electronic submission of assessment

Except where the nature of an assessment task precludes its electronic submission, all assessments must be submitted to an electronic repository, approved by UNSW or the Faculty, for archiving and subsequent marking and analysis.

Release of final mark

All marks obtained for assessment items during the session are provisional. The final mark as published by the university following the assessment review group meeting is the only official mark.