



INST1005

Key Debates in International Studies

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
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School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

The world we live in is complex, with deeply embedded connections between local, national, international and global phenomena. Today we struggle to understand how to manage the effects of people, finance, services and ideas as they flow across borders. This course introduces you to the field of international studies as an interdisciplinary endeavour. We will explore insights gained from geography, economics, anthropology, sociology and politics to better understand the way global flows interact and how they affect countries in both the developed and developing world.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze and critically evaluate debates in international studies from an interdisciplinary perspective;
2. Identify and elaborate on the dynamics and processes that are driving changes to international trade, culture, media, information and politics;
3. Demonstrate familiarity with changes to the structure and form of states, cities and international institutions;
4. Evaluate how these dynamics contribute to changes in citizenship and self-determination, the emergence of conflict and the movement of people across borders;
5. Display effective research and communication skills and be able to apply them in essays, presentations and other forms of assessment

Teaching Strategies

The teaching strategies include 3 hours of lecture and one hour of tutorial time, together with a varied assignment structure.

The lectures will introduce the theoretical material, the contours of changes affecting the world today in broad perspective and the types of specific processes through which these changes occur. This information will be mapped onto actual examples of such changes across the globe. Students will be required to attend lectures, where they will develop effective listening skills, comprehension and effective note-taking.

Tutorials will provide an opportunity to explore these themes in conjunction with assigned reading material. Tutorials allow for the development of oral presentation skills and inter-group dialogue about the issues being explored.

Assignments test the students in a variety of skill sets. An exam will test whether the information has been assimilated, together with critical and analytical thinking skills. The assignments will test the ability to separate core from subsidiary arguments and the ability to craft a coherence thesis and line of argumentation. Group work assignments test team working, lateral thought, application of concepts to actual situations, innovation and both written and oral presentation skills.

Assessment

Please consult the Assessment Guide on Moodle.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Essay	25%	19/03/2021 04:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Final Examination	50%	During Formal Examination Period	1, 2, 3, 4
Tutorial Presentation	25%	Weekly	1, 2, 3, 5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2000 Words

Details:

Students will be required to apply theoretical content that has been learnt in the course by the midterm stage to analyse a contemporary issue. Length is about 2000 words.

Written feedback will be provided.

Additional details:

Students should consult the assessment guide posted on Moodle for additional information on this assignment.

Submission notes: Essay to be turned via Moodle site and Turnitin

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

Assessment 2: Final Examination

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: Not Applicable

Details:

The written final exam will cover the entire course.

Written feedback will be provided.

This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

Additional details:

Students should consult the Assessment Guide posted on Moodle for additional information on this assignment. Exam will take place during the exam period.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Tutorial Presentation

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: Not Applicable

Details:

Students will be required to make a presentation based on the readings that have been assigned, and contribute to an "in class problem solving exercise", relating to the readings. Students will facilitate the tutorial once during the term.

Oral and written feedback (in the form of a rubric) will be given.

Additional details:

Students should consult the Assessment Guide posted on Moodle. Students must 1) contribute to the discussion each week and 2) facilitate the discussion once in the trimester

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Attendance Requirements

Lectures are online and may be completed at your convenience.

Please note that your tutorials are an assessment and part of your grade. You must therefore attend weekly tutorials as per university policy. If you encounter any problem that means you cannot attend a tutorial, please apply for special consideration.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Lecture	TERRITORY & SOVEREIGNTY: THE CHANGING FACE OF OUR GLOBAL WORLD If nothing else, over the last year the pandemic has illustrated the global nature of the world we live in and the ways in which territory, flows, human mobility and nature coincide. As we will see in this class, the phenomenon we call globalization is not simply a matter of access to global commodities, such as our ability to buy a Big Mac, or access to our favourite online communities. It goes much further than that by fundamentally reshaping our relationship to time and space. In this lecture we analyse the ways in which time, space and scale are changing and the challenges this presents to territory, sovereignty and social cohesion across the world.
	Tutorial	INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL STUDIES & THE COURSE
	Group Work	PREPARE FOR WEEK TWO SIMULATION
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Lecture	DO STATES MATTER? What does it mean to talk about the state sovereignty in the face of flows of migrants and refugees who are leaving in their thousands to avoid persecution and insecurity in their homelands? Can states claim to control their borders in the face of pandemics and illegal flows of arms and drugs? What forms of control can be used to regulate cross-border capital flows (legal and illegal), cyber and organized crime, the theft of intellectual property and increases in counterfeit goods? In this class we look at some of these issues and ask whether globalization has irrevocably changed the nature and reach of the

		state.
	Tutorial	BREXIT - CAN THE UK GO IT ALONE?
	Group Work	PREPARE FOR WEEK THREE SIMULATION
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Lecture	<p>POPULIST POLITICS & THE CHANGING FACE OF WESTERN GOVERNANCE</p> <p>The last few years have witnessed significant political changes worldwide. Conventional left-right distinctions are no longer able to accurately map the political landscape. Further, a strong antipathy has emerged to elites and their self-serving behaviour. This has increased ver the last year as populations have opposed government lockdowns. Yet populism, as a political logic defies easy explanation, coming from the left, but also from right and centrist positions. This week we will analyse the emergence of populist leaders such as Trump, Putin, Johnson, Le Pen and Wilders. We will also look at fights that threaten to destabilize the European Union and the fallout from BREXIT in the UK.</p>
	Tutorial	CYBER DIPLOMACY
	Group Work	PREPARE FOR WEEK FOUR SIMULATION
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Lecture	<p>THE LOGIC OF WEAK STATES</p> <p>In recent decades, there has been a seemingly irresistible urge to create taxonomies of states the world over, and to label them as “developed”, “weak” or “failed”. Indices have emerged, ranking states according to various measures of dysfunction, which include: the suspension of law, corruption, poor or non-functioning institutions, economic deterioration, sustained human flight and the removal or reduction of public services. Interventions in Iraq, Afghanistan or Sudan for example, talk of the need to improve governance structures, promote accountability and transparency and to build the capacity of state actors and institutions. Yet, in the vacuums created by weak states and interventions, we have seen the growth of entities such as ISIS. This week we will analyse the logics and forms of legitimacy through which “weak states” operate and ask whether they are amenable to the kinds of intervention that international actors often propose.</p>
	Tutorial	TYRANNY OR GOVERNANCE IN THE USA?
	Group Work	PREPARE FOR WEEK 5 SIMULATION
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Lecture	CAPITAL FLOWS AND FINANCIAL CRISES

		<p>The rise of neoliberal orthodoxy and the ascendancy of the free market from the 1970s appeared to be an unshakeable foundation on which the capitalist system has been built. In this class we will analyse the classical liberal philosophy behind neoliberalism and the major events and technologies that contributed to the growth of capital markets. We will also look at the anatomy of the recent world financial crisis and the role that securitization, collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) and the lack of regulation played in the collapse of banks and investment houses across the globe. Finally we will ask whether things have changed or whether a new shadowy world of investment is emerging.</p>
	Tutorial	HOW TO HANDLE A DICTATOR
	Group Work	PREPARE FOR WEEK SEVEN SIMULATION
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March		MIDTERM BREAK!
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Lecture	<p>THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE NORTH & SOUTH</p> <p>This week we will analyse the ramifications of the neoliberal project for relations between developed and developing countries. In particular we will look at the way that conditionalities embedded in structural adjustment programs have shaped inequalities across the world. We will also look at the ways that such policies have created relations of dependence based around commodity production and the race for the cheapest products worldwide. As we will see, these policies have had social political and environmental consequences that are very difficult to overcome.</p>
	Tutorial	TRADE WARS & TARIFFS
	Group Work	PREPARE FOR WEEK EIGHT SIMULATION
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Lecture	<p>LAND, COMMODITIES & RESOURCE COMPETITION</p> <p>The race to acquire resources links an unlikely grouping of financial traders, speculators, multinational corporations and warlords, who see land and natural resources as the next frontier for wealth accumulation. However, as we have seen throughout this course, whereas capital flows are digital, land acquisition and resource extraction are fixed in space and can only occur in particular places where people live. This week, we look at the geography of resource competition and who is involved in this speculation. We also analyse the</p>

		impacts that this race is having on indigenous communities worldwide and the ways in which they are starting to fight back.
	Tutorial	RETHINKING YOUR IPHONE
	Group Work	PREPARE FOR WEEK NINE SIMULATION
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Lecture	<p>MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE: IDPs, REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS</p> <p>According to the UNHCR, 70 million people are now forcibly displaced – the highest number since World War II. As the UNHCR points out, forced displacement is not just a humanitarian issue: it has important economic, social, political and environmental impacts, both in the places of origin and destination. This week we will look at the current migration crisis and ask what it means to be a “refugee” an “internally displaced person” (IDP) and an “asylum seeker”. What protections exist in law and from a moral standpoint? We will discuss the geography of displacement and whether alternative solutions might be considered by states and other parties.</p>
	Tutorial	THE NILE: A CONTESTED RESOURCE
	Group Work	PREPARE FOR WEEK TEN SIMULATION
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Lecture	<p>NON-STATE ACTORS & SECURITY CHALLENGES</p> <p>Today all across the globe, we are witnessing a move away from total international war fought by states, to insurgencies fought by non-state actors. These wars are different in character and form, tend to be lower level and more prolonged. They contribute to the flight of people both internally and across borders. Many of these wars are being fought by militias with claims against governments or by groups that have styled themselves as religious jihadis with claims to return to a more fundamental form of life based on 14th century quranic norms. This week we look at some of these groups, the basis for their support and the challenges they present to government in the West and in the developing world.</p>
	Tutorial	THE LAKE CHAD BASIN CRISIS
	Group Work	NO GROUP WORK

Resources

Prescribed Resources

See Moodle site for weekly required and optional readings.

Please also consult the Assessment Guide on Moodle which gives additional help and guidance about completing assignments and how to prepare for tests.

Recommended Resources

Below are journal resources and websites that you might find useful:

American Journal of Sociology; American Political Science Review; Political Science Quarterly; Review of International Political Economy; International Studies Review; International Affairs; Journal of Peace Research; Journal of Strategic Studies; Foreign Affairs; Foreign Policy Analysis; Journal of Refugee Studies; Third World Quarterly, World Development, Journal of Development Studies, Development and Change, European Journal of Development Studies, SAIS review.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) – <http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>

World Bank - <http://www.worldbank.org/>

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) - <http://www.oecd.org/>

World Trade Organization (WTO) - <http://www.wto.org/>

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - www.undp.org

UNHCR – www.unhcr.org

USAID – www.usaid.gov

Department for International Development (DFID) - www.dfid.gov.uk

Norwegian Development Aid (NORAD) - <http://www.norad.no/en/front-page>

Amnesty International – www.amnesty.org

Human Rights Watch – www.hrw.org

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will be solicited through the My Experience evaluation portal, but in general if you have any suggestions about how to improve your learning experience, please don't hesitate to contact the course convenor or your tutors. We value your input!

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.