



ARTS2816

Who Gets What? The Global Politics of Inequality

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Is power where the money is? Why do some people get so much, while others struggle to survive? What does it mean to take inequality in global politics seriously as a decisive factor in people's lives? In this course, you will question the nature, constitution and effects of the contemporary global political economy from a critical perspective, discussing the variety of approaches to and understandings of global political-economic practices, actors, patterns and ideas. Introducing you to global political economy as a field of study and a space of human interaction, the course examines the relationship between politics and economics and the reasons why power, resources and privilege are often concentrated in particular hands. Scrutinising the past, present and future of the global political economy, the course outlines and overviews key histories in, approaches to and developments of the global economic order. By focusing on particular dynamics in areas such as international development, trade, finance, production, the environment and gender, the course shines a light on how inequality is generated and maintained, asking you to think carefully about the constitution and effects of who gets what in global politics today.

Subject Area: Politics and International Relations. This course can also be studied in the following specialisations: Peacebuilding and Development and Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and describe key issues, actors and institutions in the global political economy, including their relationships with each other and global politics broadly.
2. Discuss and explain the historical and contemporary political dynamics of various issues, actors, and institutions in the global political economy.
3. Analyse contemporary international debates on inequality and power in global political economy from a theoretically informed, empirically grounded position.
4. Evaluate the political and economic constitution and effects of inequality in global politics.

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught through a two-hour lecture, a one-hour tutorial and six hours of online learning activities. The lectures provide background material and analyses drawn from the expertise of the lecturer and from the relevant academic literature. The one-hour tutorial will be led by a tutor and will consist of class discussion and student presentations. It will be based on readings, analysis and independent interpretation of a selection of secondary sources. The tutorial discussion is designed to develop your understanding of the previous week's material, your ability to grasp empirical and conceptual issues, and your communicative and interpretative skills. Online learning activities will build and expand on course content across the term and must be completed to a satisfactory standard. The specifics of the online learning activity will vary according to topic. Minimum weekly readings, the supplementation of readings with appropriate and relevant independent research, and engagement with current affairs where relevant are necessary for the successful completion of this course.

The design of the teaching mode and contact hours reflect both a commitment to face to face teaching and engagement with various aspects of blended learning, as outlined in the UNSW 2025 Strategy Theme A2: Educational Excellence.

Assessment

Further assessment details will be provided through the Moodle page for ARTS2816. You should check Moodle regularly and make sure your email address is properly set up to receive course communications.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Unseen Examination	50%	Not Applicable	2, 3, 4
Discussion Papers	50%	Not Applicable	3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Unseen Examination

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2 hours

Details:

Students are required to sit a 2-hour final exam during the University's examination period. The examination will evaluate a student's ability to think synthetically and critically about the material in the course. It requires students to engage with content across the course while asking them to demonstrate their achievement of the weekly learning outcomes. Examination scripts will be marked but not returned to students. Students receive a numerical grade and can request from the School of Social Sciences to see their examination paper. This is the final assessment for this course.

Additional details:

Details about the exam will be provided on moodle closer to the exam period.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Discussion Papers

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1300

Details:

Students must submit two 1,300 word discussion papers. Each paper is worth 25% of the final grade, for a total of 50%. Students should choose a different question for each paper (this can be their own question or the question of another student, as discussed in tutorials). They should reflect on relevant

scholarly debates, methods and theoretical frameworks within each paper. Written feedback, including a rubric and numerical grade, will be provided within two weeks of submission for each assessment. Students will be provided with guidelines on assessment expectations, made available to them through Moodle.

Additional details:

There are two due dates: Friday 19 March at midnight (Friday of week 5) and Friday 23 April at midnight (Friday of week 10).

Late penalties will be imposed at the usual rate of 5% per day, starting at 12:01 the day after the due date in each case.

Extensions must be sought via the centralised system and be applied for before the due date.

Word count infringements will be imposed at the rate of 3% for every 100 words (or part thereof) that your assignment is over the set limit. There is an allowance of + or – 10%; i.e. if your discussion paper is 1430 words in length, it will not be penalised. If it is 1431 words, you will lose 3%. If it is 1531 words, you will receive a 6% penalty, and so on. The word count includes all text in the main body of the assignment. In-text references are included. Only the reference list or bibliography and the overall title is excluded.

A penalty of 3% will be imposed for failure to use the Harvard (in-text) system of referencing. See <https://student.unsw.edu.au/harvard-referencing>.

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/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>.

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: 15 February - 19 February	Lecture	Why inequality, and why now?
	Tutorial	Why inequality, and why now?
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Lecture	Inequality and industrial capitalism
	Tutorial	Inequality and industrial capitalism
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Lecture	Inequality and the making of the modern world
	Tutorial	Inequality and the making of the modern world
	Online Activity	First online activity due at midnight on Friday 5 March.
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Lecture	Bretton Woods and the global trading regime
	Tutorial	Bretton Woods and the global trading regime
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Lecture	Inequality and neoliberalism
	Tutorial	Inequality and neoliberalism
	Assessment	First discussion paper due at midnight on Friday 19 March. Late penalties will accrue at 5% per day or part-thereof from this time.
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Lecture	Who's responsible? Governing the Global Political Economy
	Tutorial	Who's responsible? Governing the Global Political Economy
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Lecture	The changing face of work
	Tutorial	The changing face of work
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Lecture	Financialisation and the rise of debt
	Tutorial	Financialisation and the rise of debt
	Online Activity	Second online activity due at midnight on Friday 9 April. Please ensure you click submit before this time.
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Lecture	Globalism and its discontents
	Tutorial	Globalism and its discontents
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Lecture	Inequality: What is to be done?
	Tutorial	Inequality: What is to be done?
	Assessment	Second discussion paper due at midnight on Friday 23 April. Late penalties will accrue at 5% per day or part-thereof from this time.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

There is no textbook for this course. Both mandatory and recommended readings for lectures and tutorials will be posted on moodle.

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

This course uses the university's MyExperience process to acquire and respond to feedback from students at the end of the course. You are very welcome and invited at any time to submit informal feedback specific to individual tutorials and lectures to the course convenor.

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/>

Image Credit

'Woman at Occupy Wall Street' Timothy Krause 2011

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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.