



UNSW
SYDNEY

School of Social Sciences
UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture

ARTS2816

Who Gets What? The Global Politics of Inequality

Term 1, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 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

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 3% for every 100 words (or part thereof).

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?

Political science and international relations do not have a standard referencing style like some other disciplines (e.g. psychology and law). You can use any referencing style you want, provided that:

1. You use just one style consistently
2. You use the style correctly
3. You use an actually existing style (i.e. you don't just make something up).

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. There is something I do not understand about the assessment, what should I do?

Please make sure you have read the assessment instructions closely. Also have a look at the marking rubric, which explains what we will be looking for when we mark your assessment. If you still have questions, you can ask the convenor or your tutor.

Because I will often field similar questions from multiple students, I ask that you post your questions in the lecture/tutorial/seminar, if possible.

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

For work submitted more than ten calendar 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>.

7. 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>

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

Assessment 1: Unseen Examination

Assessment length: 2 hours

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.

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Additional details

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

Assessment 2: Discussion Papers

Assessment length: 1300

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.

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

Additional details

There are two due dates:

Discussion paper one is due **Monday 14th of March (week 5) at 23:59.**

Discussion paper two is due **Monday 18th (week 10) of April at 23:59.**

Instructions for each paper are available on Moodle.

Attendance Requirements

You **must** attend at least half of your tutorials.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 14 February - 18 February	Lecture	What is inequality and does it matter? In this introductory week we discuss what inequality is, and why we should or shouldn't care if inequality exists. We will also briefly examine ways that inequality is measured, and how unequal our current world is.
	Tutorial	What is inequality and does it matter?
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Lecture	Inequality and capitalism This week considers the relationship between capitalism and inequality from three theoretical perspectives: liberalism, Marxism and economic nationalism.
	Tutorial	Inequality and capitalism
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Lecture	Gender, race, and inequality This week examines the intersectional nature of inequality, specifically considering the importance of gender and race.
	Tutorial	Gender, race, and inequality
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Lecture	The 'Golden Age' of capitalism This week examines the so-called 'Golden Age' of capitalism in the global north following the end of the Second World War. We analyse the foundations of the 'Golden Age' and why it eventually came to an end.
	Tutorial	The 'Golden Age' of capitalism
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Lecture	Neoliberalism: theory and practice This week examines the rise of neoliberalism from the 1980s. We examine the economic and

		political theories that underlie neoliberalism, as well as 'actually existing' neoliberalism.
	Tutorial	Neoliberalism: theory and practice
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Lecture	Globalisation and anti-globalisation This examines 'globalisation', what it is and its impact on inequality. We will look at global governance through international organisations, as well as the operations of global markets and states. Last, we examine the backlash to globalisation from both the anti-capitalist left and, more recently, from the populist right.
	Tutorial	Globalisation and anti-globalisation
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Lecture	Inequality and climate change This week examines how inequality contributes to climate change, and how the impacts of climate change will exacerbate inequality.
	Tutorial	Inequality and climate change
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Lecture	Inequality: What is to be done? Is there a solution to global inequality, and if so what is it?
	Tutorial	Inequality: What is to be done?

Resources

Prescribed Resources

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

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 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.

Correct referencing practices

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

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.)

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.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

Image Credit

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