

ARTS1811

Contemporary Issues in Government and Global Politics

Term 3, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Monika Barthwal-Datta | m.barthwal-datta@unsw.edu.au | TBC | Rm 149 Morven Brown Building | 93850557 |

Tutors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|--------------------|--|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Andrea Benvenuti | andrea.benvenuti@unsw.edu.au | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Srinjoy Bose | s.bose@unsw.edu.au | TBC | Rm 131 Morven Brown Building | TBC |
| Madison Cartwright | madison.cartwright@unsw.edu.au | TBC | Rm 132 Morven Brown Building | TBC |
| Guangyi Pan | guangyi.pan@unsw.edu.au | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Lenka Olejnikova | l.olejnikova@unsw.edu.au | TBC | TBC | TBC |

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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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

This course investigates some of the most significant issues facing the world today such as the recurrence of violence between and within countries; the difficulty of lifting large numbers of people out of poverty; what is to happen to people who do not have a home in any country; increasing environmental destruction; intensifying global financial instability; and whether the current structures and processes of governance are adequate to address these issues. In doing so, the course also introduces you to some of the different ways in which Politics and International Relations scholars seek to analyse these issues, giving you the opportunity to develop the skills of analysis needed for more advanced study in Politics and International Relations. At the conclusion of the course, you will have developed an appreciation of the scope and significance of the study of contemporary global politics, and some of the strengths and limitations of existing ways of analysing some of the most pressing problems facing the world.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the main political actors at both the national and global levels, and relate them to the contexts in which they operate.
2. Distinguish between some of the major theoretical perspectives of Politics and International Relations, and how these perspectives account for / interpret a variety of contemporary issues covered in the course.
3. Analyse contemporary political issues from a theoretically grounded point of view with reference to the disciplinary literatures of Politics and International Relations.
4. Identify, locate, and evaluate the utility of different kinds of information about politics and international relations, including academic literature, media coverage, popular cultural artefacts and political debates or statements.

Teaching Strategies

Rationale:

This course assumes no prior knowledge of the disciplines of Politics and International Relations (IR) but, upon its completion, all students who engage fully with the course content, activities and assessments will be able to participate in debates about the study and practice of contemporary Politics and IR.

We see UNSW student learners as participants in the production of knowledge and we pursue the implementation of a curriculum responsive to each student's individual needs. The design of this course is motivated by a desire to foster the skills of **independent learning** and **critical thinking**.

Blended learning encourages diversity of learning activities and also diversity in assessment. There are three main types of structured learning activity in this course, supplementing independent study (reading, note-taking, research):

1. LECTURES

This course consists of weekly 2-hour in-person (live-streamed) lectures by academic experts from the School of Social Sciences. The lectures are designed to supplement independent study on the course that begins (but should not end) with close engagement with the weekly required readings. Lectures run for the duration of Term.

2. TUTORIALS

Tutorials allow students to discuss questions, themes and issues arising from their independent study, as well as providing the opportunity to engage in productive discussion with their peers and to participate in a range of structured learning activities, including group/pair/individual analytical work, formal and informal debates, quizzes and mini-projects. Tutorials run for the duration of Term.

3. OPTIONAL INDEPENDENT LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Optional independent learning activities are offered on Moodle every week. They are designed foster independent study and to help students to prepare for the online multiple choice quizzes.

Assessment

Further details will be provided on Moodle.

| Assessment task | Weight | Due Date | Course Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|-------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Quizzes | 40% | Not Applicable | 1, 2 |
| 2. Research Essay | 60% | 23/11/2022 12:00 AM | 1, 2, 3, 4 |

Assessment 1: Quizzes

2 x short tests (no more than 10 questions each) on key concepts and factual knowledge administered through LMS. Immediate feedback of correct answers and numerical grade available to students through LMS on completion of each test. The first test will become accessible in Week 4 to enable early formative feedback.

Additional details

More information will be provided on Moodle

Assessment 2: Research Essay

Assessment length: 2,500 words

Due date: 23/11/2022 12:00 AM

Research essay (2,500 words). Some indicative sources are provided in the course outline/on Moodle, and the questions are set by the course convenor. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes

Written comments plus marking rubric within two weeks of submission.

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

Additional details

More details will be made available on Moodle.

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: 12 September - 16 September | Lecture | Welcome to Contemporary Issues in International Relations / Key Actors in the Stories of Politics and IR |
| | Tutorial | Welcome to Contemporary Issues in International Relations / Key Actors in the Stories of Politics and IR |
| Week 2: 19 September - 23 September | Lecture | US Elections 2016 and the Trump Presidency |
| | Tutorial | US Elections 2016 and the Trump Presidency |
| Week 3: 26 September - 30 September | Lecture | No Longer Hegemon? The Role of Russia and China in a Changing Global Order |
| | Tutorial | No Longer Hegemon? The Role of Russia and China in a Changing Global Order |
| Week 4: 3 October - 7 October | Lecture | Security and Insecurity ***Mon 3 Oct is a Public Holiday. A pre-recorded lecture will be uploaded on Moodle for this week. |
| | Tutorial | Security and Insecurity |
| | Assessment | Online Quiz 1 opens 5pm Fri 7 Oct |
| Week 5: 10 October - 14 October | Lecture | Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect |
| | Tutorial | Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect |
| | Assessment | Online Quiz 1 closes 5pm Fri 14 Oct |
| Week 6: 17 October - | Lecture | No lecture |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 21 October | Tutorial | No Tutorials |
| Week 7: 24 October - 28 October | Tutorial | Human Rights and Women's Rights |
| | Lecture | Human Rights and Women's Rights |
| Week 8: 31 October - 4 November | Tutorial | International Development Assistance |
| | Lecture | International Development Assistance |
| | Assessment | Online Quiz 2 opens 5pm Fri 4 Nov |
| Week 9: 7 November - 11 November | Lecture | Global Food Security |
| | Tutorial | Global Food Security |
| | Assessment | Online Quiz 2 closes 5pm Fri 11 Nov |
| Week 10: 14 November - 18 November | Lecture | Global Climate Politics |
| | Tutorial | Global Climate Politics |

Resources

Prescribed Resources

***** THIS COURSE OUTLINE DOES NOT CONTAIN THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON COURSE CONTENT AND DELIVERY *****

Please see Moodle for latest updates to all aspects of the course.

Tutorial questions and detailed week-by-week reading will be made available on Moodle. All of the essential readings are freely available through Moodle; the rest can be accessed in hard copy through the library or online.

While there is no set textbook for this course, a number of excellent texts are available in the library and will be helpful introductory reading on the issues and theories covered in this course. Please see Moodle for a list of recommended introductory texts. You will benefit from becoming familiar with [Google Scholar](#) as a key search engine for academic publications and reports. You can set up the preferences to link to the UNSW Library even when you are not on campus.

Go to Google Scholar > settings > library links, and enter 'University of New South Wales' in the box for "Library".

You can sign up for Table of Contents (TOC) Alerts from the homepages of relevant journals, to receive an email whenever new articles are published in that journal. Journal websites will often carry information on the most viewed and most cited articles; these are likely to be interesting and often influential contributions. Google Scholar will also point you to articles that have cited a particular article and hence will be related to the topic.

Recommended Resources

All weekly resources are available on Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered periodically using, among other means, UNSW's My Experience survey. Informal feedback and class-generated feedback are also important. Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based in part on such feedback. Significant changes to the course will be communicated to subsequent cohorts of students taking the course.

For example, student feedback from previous iterations of the course has resulted in the following revisions and changes in 2020: (a) a greater convenor presence throughout the course to support students in linking weekly learnings to core course themes/ questions; (b) changes to the modes of assessment and reduction in the number of online quizzes; (c) a clearer, more detailed presentation of the assessment criteria, and (d) more effective and engaging use of Moodle.

In 2022, following feedback from the 2021 cohort, all lectures for the course (except for the introductory topic lecture) have been switched to live/ synchronous mode (pandemic allowing).

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](#).

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

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.

Image Credit

Photo by Marvin Meyer on Unsplash

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