

INT101

Introduction to International Relations and Politics

School: School of Law and Society

2026 Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast

 BLENDED
LEARNING

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

Please go to unisc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

This course is an introduction to International Relations and Political Science, from an Australian and global perspective. It focuses on the political system of Australia and its importance in the development of democracy and its relations across the globe. It examines a number of key challenges facing the future of world politics, including order, colonialism, human rights, indigeneity, economics, and the environment. The course provides an opportunity for you to critically examine topic areas of your choice covered within the course.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Asynchronous learning materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus tutorial	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Asynchronous learning materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online tutorial	2hrs	Week 1	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

Political ideas and ideologies; Australian political institutions; Democracy; Human Rights; International Relations; Security; World Order; Postcolonial and Indigenous Politics; Environmental Politics

1.4. Mature Content

Violence, Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Discuss the key theories and practices relating to major events in international politics.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Problem solving Information literacy
2 Describe and explain Australia's political institutions, relations with other countries, international organisations and the impact of globalisation on Australian domestic and foreign policy.	Knowledgeable Empowered Ethical Sustainability-focused
3 Demonstrate critical reasoning and research skills used in international relations and politics.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Engaged Problem solving Information literacy
4 Communicate research through written modes.	Knowledgeable Engaged Communication

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Formative quiz will be given in Week One for early feedback on assessment. Tutorial in weeks 2-7 will practice writing and researching skills needed for the assessments.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	20%	20 minutes	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class
All	2	Examination - not Centrally Scheduled	Individual	35%	1000-1500 words	Week 8	Online Submission
All	3	Essay	Individual	45%	2000 words	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Weekly reading quizzes

GOAL:	You will enhance your knowledge and understanding of the key concepts, practices, and events in international relations found within International Relations academic literature.										
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes										
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:											
FORMAT:	Weeks 1-10. Weekly quizzes will be undertaken asynchronously online and discussed in class each week. These will be in multiple choice format covering the week's assigned reading/s.										
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th></th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Identification of concepts, practices and key issues</td> <td>1 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Critical reasoning</td> <td>1 3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Identification of concepts, practices and key issues	1 2	2	Critical reasoning	1 3	
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2	Critical reasoning	1 3									
GENERIC SKILLS:	Information literacy										

All - Assessment Task 2: Multiple Choice and Short Essay Question

GOAL:	You will demonstrate critical reasoning and research skills used in international relations and politics. You will use the information you have gained from weekly readings, learning materials, tutorials, and quizzes to answer the question you choose from the list distributed by the instructor.																			
PRODUCT:	Examination - not Centrally Scheduled																			
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																				
FORMAT:	1000-1500-word essay. You will choose one essay topic from the questions distributed by the instructor. Multiple choice test will be administered on Canvas. Weighting 25% essay and 10% quiz.																			
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy																			

All - Assessment Task 3: Final Essay

GOAL:	You will demonstrate your ability to apply, analyse, synthesise and communicate the knowledge and concepts in international relations and politics. You will concisely answer essay questions using course materials.																
PRODUCT:	Essay																
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																	
FORMAT:	Students will answer one long essay question and will be required to use Cadmus for this task.																
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7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the [Library](#) at no additional cost.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Andrew Heywood	2019	Politics	5	Bloomsbury Press

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

- Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
- From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
- More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- [UniSC Student Central](#)
- [UniSC Adelaide Student Central](#)