

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 usc.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-focussed
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

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					
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:	No.					Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Identification of concepts, practices and key issues				1 2
	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					
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.					
CRITERIA:	No.					Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Explanation of theory and practice of international relations				1
	2	Description of political institutions of Australia and global governance				1
	3	Analysis of international relations				2
	4	Critical reasoning				3
	5	Communication - scholarly and authoritative reference sources are used to directly support claims and arguments				1 3
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			
FORMAT:	Students will answer one long essay question and will be required to use Cadmus for this task.			
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	
	1	Explanation of theory and practice of international relations	1	2
	2	Description of political institutions of Australia and global governance	2	
	3	Analysis of international relations	1	3 4
	4	Critical reasoning	3	4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy			

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

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

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. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.8. 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>

10.9. 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.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au