

POLI1010: Australian Politics and Government
2024



MISSION: To develop a unique business school identity which is distinctive in the marketplace and provides a clear value proposition for students. This will be achieved by embedding the themes of entrepreneurship and innovation, digitalisation and data within our programs and embracing sustainability, work integrated learning and a commitment to social justice.

OVERVIEW

Course Description POLI1010 examines the nature of politics and government in Australia. It examines the political institutions and machinery of government and the political system, as well as the relationships between the political actors and political activity in Australia. Topics discussed include the federal nature of national politics, the constitution, parliament, the High Court, political parties, the public service, and pressure groups (including the role of the media). Throughout the course key political issues will also be examined.

Contact Hours **Lecture/Tutorial**
Face to Face on Campus
A two (2) hour(s) lecture commencing in Week 1 plus one (1) hour tutorial per Week, commencing in Week 2

Students are expected to complete 4 hours of guided learning via online preparation, lectures, interactive workshops, tutorials, discussion groups or self-directed learning and an additional 6 hours of independent study per week.

Contact Hour Requirement		
There is a compulsory attendance requirement in this course.	Tutorial: One (1) hour per Week for Full Term	All students must participate in 80% of all non-lecture activities in this course

Students can check-in using the app or advise the academic staff member at the commencement of the session if they need the staff member to check-in on their behalf. All students' attendance will be recorded using the myUON app. Please note: The 80% attendance requirement applies to **ALL** students enrolled in 1000 level courses.

Unit Weighting 10
Workload Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of teaching staff for ALL course offerings. The primary contact for courses is the Course Coordinator, whose details are listed on the course CANVAS site.

Student Consultation A minimum of one (1) hour consultation per week. Please see course CANVAS site for details of time and location.

Course Learning Outcomes **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Apply core analytical and critical skills in written communication, including critically evaluation of competing information from academic sources;
2. Develop an understanding of the nature of Australia's political institutions;
3. Analyse contemporary social, economic and political ideas and their impact on government;
4. Develop a critical understanding of the complex relationships between political actors and political activity in Australia;
5. Identify and summarise key information within academic sources; and

COURSE OUTLINE

6. Identify, define and describe ideas in political science and employ these within verbal communication.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below:

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Party Platform Memo	Sunday Week 6 by 11:59 pm	Individual	25 %	2, 3, 4, 5
2	Political Issue poster & Advocacy Speech	Sunday Week 9 by 11:59 pm	Individual	35%	3, 4, 5, 6
3	Essay	Sunday Week 13 by 11:59 pm	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4

Please note: students are advised that all assessments must be submitted in English. Assessment items not submitted in English will receive a mark of zero.

Results of individual assessment items and final results, including those provided via the Learning Management System (LMS) are 'unofficial results' until they are confirmed as finalised by the School Assessment Body and the Head of School or delegate. Finalised results are released directly to students on the Fully Graded Date of the relevant Semester/Trimester.

Time referenced is time in Newcastle NSW

Late Submissions	The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.
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Assessment 1 – Party Platform Memo

Assessment Type

Case Study/Problem Based Learning

Purpose

This assessment examines students' capacity to reflect on, evaluate and apply political ideas to a real-world scenario.

Description

Students will write a memo that outlines and justifies a proposed political agenda for an Australian political party of their choice. Their discussion should identify a key issue Australian voters are interested in, provide a justification for why the issue is relevant and important for their political party, and provide recommendations for the strategy and position their chosen party should adopt.

This is an authentic assessment, which provides students with the opportunity to practice skills central to a career in government and politics.

More details and a suggested template to be provided on CANVAS.

Weighting

25%

Length

1,500 words

Due Date

Sunday week 6 by 11:59 pm

Submission Method

CANVAS Online Portal

Assessment Criteria

Detailed assessment rubric provided on CANVAS.

Students will be assessed on:

- Capacity to communicate clearly and using appropriate language in written form.
- Demonstration of a refined and critical analysis, that is supported by independent research.
- Clear engagement with the course content and current political issues.

Return Method

Online via CANVAS

Feedback Provided

Written feedback and grade via CANVAS

Assessment 2 – Political Issue Poster and Advocacy Speech

Assessment Type

Presentation

Purpose

This assessment tests students' capacity to communicate political ideas to a diverse audience using verbal and visual strategies. It will examine students' ability to apply political ideas and to critically evaluate real world issues.

Description	<p>Students will design a poster (using CANVA or POWERPOINT) that represents a current political issue in Australia. Their chosen issue should be one that they believe is either under addressed or ignored by current political representatives. Their poster should provide a visual representation of the nature and extent of the problem.</p> <p>Students will then record a 5 min advocacy speech (they should pitch this presentation to the audience of a political rally). In their speech students will need to demonstrate clear and critical understanding of the issue and why it has been unaddressed. Their speech should consider in particular the role of different forms of power in the construction and advocacy of their chosen issue.</p> <p>Further instructions and guidance available on CANVAS.</p>
Weighting	35%
Length	1 x poster & 5 min recorded presentation
Due Date	Sunday of Week 9 by 11:59 pm
Submission Method	Online - Submit to Turnitin - students should provide the poster, an audio file and reference list.
Assessment Criteria	<p>Detailed rubric provided on CANVAS.</p> <p>Students will be assessed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to identify and analyse a current global events and subsequent policy responses. • Ability to select, critically evaluate and apply an appropriate theory of International Relations. • Demonstrated knowledge of international relation issues and key concepts central to two course weeks • Critical engagement with scholarly research to support their claims. • Clarity of their chosen visual representations and oral presentation
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Written feedback and grade via CANVAS

Assessment 3 - Essay

Assessment Type	Essay
Purpose	This assessment tests students essay writing capacity, as well as their ability to research and apply scholarly sources to form a cohesive argument. Students will demonstrate evidence of critical analysis and evaluation in answering their essay question.
Description	<p>Student will select a question from the provided list (available on CANVAS). Questions will ask students to synthesize and demonstrate their understanding of the key themes and ideas covered throughout the semester. It is expected that students demonstrate evidence of consistent attendance and engagement with the lectures and tutorials, as well as the provided online resources.</p> <p>To answer their question students will be expected to conduct independent research.</p>
Weighting	40%
Length	2000 words
Due Date	Sunday week 13 by 11:59 pm
Submission Method	Online - Submit to Turnitin (in Word format).
Assessment Criteria	<p>Detailed marking rubric provided on CANVAS.</p> <p>Students will be assessed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated capacity to articulate and sustain throughout the essay a core argument that answers the chosen question. • Evidence of independent scholarly research and critical engagement with the central debates relevant to the chosen question. • Capacity for critical thought and analysis, including identification and application of core concepts and themes. • Rigorous and appropriate use of real-world examples to demonstrate a core thesis statement. • Clear, consistent, and cohesive presentation style, including evidence of proofreading.
Return Method	Online via CANVAS
Feedback Provided	Written

SYLLABUS

Course Content

This course examines Australia's changing political and governmental institutions and their relationship to key political actors. These institutions include the constitution, parliament, the High Court, political parties, pressure groups and the bureaucracy. Key political concepts, such as "citizenship", "the state" and "power" are studied in the Australian context. Particular attention is directed to the relationship between key political institutions and the operation of federalism, sovereignty, and legitimacy in Australia.

Course Materials

Weekly essential readings provided in the "Course Readings" section of the CANVAS site.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Class Preparation	Workshop Activities
1	Introduction to 21 st Century Australian Politics + Course Introduction		
2	The Political History of Australia/ Federalism – Commonwealth/State Relations		
3	THE FOURTH ESTATE: Media and Democracy		
4	INSTITUTIONS: Executive Government and Parliaments of Australia		
5	INSTITUTIONS: Electoral Systems and the Australian Party System		
6	INDEPENDENT STUDY WEEK		Assessment 1 due: Party Platform Memo
7	INSTITUTIONS: Courts and the Constitution		
8	POLITICAL ACTORS: Pressure Groups and Social Movements		
9	POLITICAL ACTORS: Gender and Sexuality in Australian Politics		Assessment 2 due: Political Issue Poster and Advocacy Speech
10	POLITICAL ACTORS: Government and Business relations		
11	POLITICAL ACTORS: Indigenous politics		
12	POLITICAL ACTORS: Young People and Politics		
13	POLITICAL ACTORS: Multicultural Australia Where to for Australia's political actors and institutions		Assessment 3 due: Major Essay

If a lecture/class is scheduled on a public holiday, a make-up lecture may be announced by the course coordinator on the course CANVAS site.

CONTACTS

School Offices

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PSB Academy Enquiries

Log your question or request to the PSB Program Executives at the following website:
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods	Communication methods used in this course include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CANVAS Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the CANVAS course site. - Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account. - Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.
Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule .
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .
Adverse Circumstances	The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or 2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system; 3. you are requesting a change of placement; or 4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.
Important Policy Information	Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236 The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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