



*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

Issues in International Relations focuses on key issues within international relations and does so with a specific focus on how politics informs our understanding of these issues. The course looks at the role of power, agency, and structure on global events and international cooperation. It considers the impact of processes such as global health crises, climate change, war and peace on the relationships between Member States and other important actors including NGOs, and citizens. This course will equip students with the skills necessary to provide critical commentary on current and emerging international events and to advise key stakeholders on resolving global crises. The content, readings and activities set throughout the semester will expose students to a wide range of real-world cases to support their understanding of the themes and concepts necessary to understanding how global events arise and are resolved.

### Contact Hours

#### Integrated Learning Session

Face to Face On Campus

Two (2) hour(s) per Week for Full Term

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.

### Unit Weighting

10

### Pre-requisites

Students must have successfully completed POLI1010 or POLI1020.

### 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 of 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. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the nature and significance of politics and governance;
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of differences in political systems and the contexts in which they operate;
3. Apply concepts and theories used in the study of political science to the analysis of interests, ideas, institutions and political behaviour;
4. Critically evaluate different interpretations of political phenomena;
5. Demonstrate the capacity to use different research methods used to investigate political phenomena;
6. Demonstrate the capacity to develop evidence-based argument and evaluation;
7. Gather, organise and use evidence from a variety of secondary and primary sources;
8. Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to

# COURSE OUTLINE

- problems; and
9. Communicate effectively in oral and/or written work.

## 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	Recorded Presentation	Sunday Week 5 by 11:59 pm	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
2	Briefing Paper	Sunday Week 7 by 11:59 pm	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
3	Major Essay	Sunday Week 12 by 11:59 pm	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

**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

<b>Late Submissions</b>	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. <b>Note:</b> this applies equally to week and weekend days.
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### Assessment 1 –Record Presentation (UN Submission Speech)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Oral Assessment
<b>Purpose</b>	This assessment evaluates students' capacity to assess and provide an oral analysis of scholarly literature, government responses and current events.
<b>Description</b>	Students will create an online recording that demonstrates their understanding of a key theoretical framework central to the study of international relations (covered in the first four weeks of semester). Students will need to apply the key principles of their chosen theory to a current global event, in order to explain the international response. In their 8-minute recording they will discuss how the theory chosen highlights the causes, consequences, and impact of this global event, and response to it by the international community and one UN Member State.  This oral presentation should be "pitched" to an audience of Government representatives from one country who have asked the student as an international relations expert to assess the effectiveness of their response to this global event.  This is an authentic assessment, which asks students to engage with and assess the policy and practice of governments, which is an essential task for policymakers.
<b>Weighting</b>	20%
<b>Length</b>	8 minutes
<b>Due Date</b>	Sunday Week 5 by 11:59 pm
<b>Submission Method</b>	CANVAS Online Portal students should submit an audio file and reference list.
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Students will be assessed on their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity to identify and analyse a current global events and subsequent policy responses.</li> <li>• Ability to select, critically evaluate and apply an appropriate theory of International Relations.</li> <li>• Demonstrated knowledge of international relation issues and key concepts central to two course weeks</li> <li>• Critical engagement with scholarly research to support their claims.</li> <li>• Clarity of their oral presentation (appropriate and minimal use of Jargon for the audience).</li> </ul>

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<b>Return Method</b>	More detailed marking rubric available on CANVAS
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	CANVAS Online Portal

## Assessment 2 – Briefing Paper

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	This assessment examines students' problem solving, critical thinking and written communication skills. It will provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their capacity to research and apply concepts and ideas to real world events.
<b>Description</b>	<p>Writing from the position of a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) students will produce a briefing paper on an issue of immediate global concern for the UN Security Council. The chosen issue must have a transnational element, and in their briefing paper students must recommend and critically evaluate one practice for addressing the issue through international cooperation.</p> <p>A detailed template for the briefing paper will be provided on CANVAS.</p> <p>This is an authentic assessment as students are asked to make policy recommendations to a key stakeholder for addressing international issues, which is a key task for those working in NGOs.</p>
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	2,000 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Sunday of Week 7 by 11:59 pm
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online - via Turnitin in Word format.
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<p>Students will be assessed on their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depth of independent research and capacity to engage critically with scholarly materials.</li> <li>• Capacity for critical thought and evaluation of their chosen international issue and subsequent recommendation.</li> <li>• Logical and well justified recommendation that align with the identified issue.</li> <li>• Evidence of critical engagement with at least two central themes and ideas covered in the course to date.</li> <li>• Correct and consistent referencing and clear presentation style, including evidence of proofreading.</li> </ul> <p>Detailed rubric will be available on course CANVAS site.</p>
<b>Return Method</b>	Online via CANVAS
<b>Feedback Method</b>	Written feedback via CANVAS

## Assessment 3 - Major Essay

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	This assignment tests student's ability to form and articulate a persuasive argument, drawing on independent scholarly research. It will demonstrate their understanding of the core themes and concepts covered in the course throughout the semester, as well as their capacity to engage in critical analysis and evaluation using an essay format.
<b>Description</b>	<p>Students are required to conduct independent scholarly research to produce an essay on a question that draws together several topics and core concepts covered during the semester. Essays must be fully referenced and follow the essay structure provided for students on CANVAS.</p> <p>Questions will be provided on CANVAS in week 2.</p>
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	2,000 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Sunday of Week 12 by 11:59 pm
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online via Turnitin in Word format.
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<p>Students will be assessed on their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrated capacity to articulate and sustain throughout the essay a core argument that answers the chosen question.</li> <li>• Evidence of independent scholarly research and critical engagement with the central debates relevant to the chosen question.</li> <li>• Capacity for critical thought and analysis, including identification and application of core concepts and themes.</li> </ul>

- Clear and consistent engagement with the lectures, discussions and content provided throughout the semester.
- Rigorous and appropriate use of real-world examples to demonstrate a core thesis statement.
- Clear, consistent, and cohesive presentation style, including evidence of proofreading.

Detailed Rubric will be available on course CANVAS site.

**Return Method**

Online via CANVAS

**Feedback Provided**

Written feedback via CANVAS

## SYLLABUS

**Course Content**

**Topics in the course include but are not limited to the following:**

1. Theoretical Debates and Frameworks central to the study of international relations.
2. Detailed analysis of the historical origins of international cooperation and global governance.
3. Discussion of the relationship between war, peace and justice.
4. Introduction to issues such as human rights, environmental diplomacy, public health, war crimes and a consideration of the critical role agents and structures play in facilitating cooperation to resolve issue in international relations.
5. Introduction to core themes and concepts and their application to real world examples.

**Course Materials**

Weekly readings, including weekly essential readings, available in the "Course Readings" section of the CANVAS site for this course.

# SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Class Preparation	Assessment Due
1	Introduction to the Course: The Politics of International Relations.	Students must read the essential reading every week, available in the Course Readings section of the CANVAS site	
2	Core theoretical debates in International Relations:		
3	The Politics of Violence and Instability: Coups (Myanmar) and Conflict (Ukraine & Russia)		
4	The Politics of Peace: (Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding)		
5	Politics, Power, and the Pathologies of International Organisations (Institutions, Agents and the State)		<b>Assessment 1 due:</b> Recorded Presentation (UN SUBMISSION)
6	INDEPENDENT STUDY WEEK		
7	The Politics of Global Justice (Transitional Justice Mechanisms for responding to Mass Human Rights Violations)		<b>Assessment 2 due:</b> Briefing Paper
8	The Politics of Pandemic Preparedness (Ebola, COVID and International Cooperation)		
9	The Politics of Environmental Sustainability (Climate Change, and International Cooperation)		
10	The Politics of Sustainable Development: (Poverty and the International interventions)		
11	The Politics of Economic Globalization: (Multinational Corporations and NGOs)		
12	The Politics of Advocacy: (Children's Rights).		<b>Assessment 3 due:</b> Major Essay
13	The Politics of Migration (Forced Migration and Alliances)		

**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

### Newcastle Business School – Callaghan, Newcastle City & Online

NU Space  
409 Hunter Street  
Newcastle  
[nbs.enquiries@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:nbs.enquiries@newcastle.edu.au)  
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### Newcastle Business School - Ourimbah

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+61 2 4349 4453

### Newcastle Business School - Sydney

55 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney  
[nbs-sydney@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:nbs-sydney@newcastle.edu.au)  
+61 2 82626432

### PSB Academy Enquiries

Log your question or request to the PSB Program Executives at the following website:  
<http://www.psb-academy.edu.sg/eng>  
+65 6390 9000

### Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education Pte Ltd

100 Victoria Street #13-01/02  
National Library Building  
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[Singapore-StudentCentral@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Singapore-StudentCentral@newcastle.edu.au)  
+65 6221 3306

# 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).

<b>Communication Methods</b>	Communication methods used in this course include:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CANVAS Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the CANVAS course site.</li> <li>- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.</li> <li>- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.</li> </ul>
<b>Course Evaluation</b>	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.
<b>Oral Interviews (Vivas)</b>	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 <a href="#">Oral Examination (viva) Procedure</a> . 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 <a href="#">Student Conduct Rule</a> .
<b>Academic Misconduct</b>	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 <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35</a> .
<b>Adverse Circumstances</b>	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3. you are requesting a change of placement; or</li> <li>4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.</li> </ol> <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</a></p>
<b>Important Policy Information</b>	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 <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures</a> 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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