

PPEC1001

Introduction to Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Term 1, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Fengshi Wu	Fengshi.wu@unsw.edu.au	Wednesdays 2:00-4:00pm and by appointments	Rm 133, Morven Brown Bldg.	9385-3619

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 will introduce you to the disciplines of Philosophy, Politics and Economics, and more specifically the synergies and tensions surrounding their distinctive approaches to knowing the world. The major challenges facing policymakers today – from inequality to geopolitical instability – are at once political, economic and philosophical. How these challenges are understood and addressed rest on ideas and methods developed by foundational thinkers in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, and especially by those whose thought embraced these three disciplines. In this course, you will study the ideas and methods of these three disciplines, and the critical interactions between them, in order, firstly, to identify their central role in contemporary public debates, and, secondly, to assess their relevance to current problems, questions and challenges. Through the analysis of specific case studies, you will engage with the multidimensional nature of global challenges, and will consider the desirability and difficulty of multi-disciplinary approaches to addressing them.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the key foundations of philosophical, political and economic approaches to knowing the world, in local and global context.
2. Identify the synergies and tensions between philosophical, political and economic approaches to and practices of knowing the world, in local and global context.
3. Connect the study of PPE to historical and contemporary philosophical, political and economic challenges, debates and problems, in local and global context.

Teaching Strategies

The course is taught through a two-hour lecture, a one hour tutorial and .6-hour of online learning activities per week.

The weekly lecture introduces key concepts and problems via background material, analysis and discussion. Lectures are interactive and treat topics through the intersection of ideas, intellectual histories and case studies in and of Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Tutorial discussion is designed to develop your understanding of the required research material, your ability to grasp empirical and conceptual issues, and your communication and research skills. The online learning activities may vary and are facilitated through the LMS.

Preparation for all learning activities consists of the completion of weekly web-based online learning activities, reading print materials that include peer-reviewed scholarly texts such as books and journal articles in addition to a selection of primary and secondary sources such as online resources, public debates, short and documentary films. You will also engage with current affairs and news media artefacts, and conduct independent research. You must complete all essential readings and online learning activities in preparation for weekly learning activities. You should supplement your preparation at all points of the course with appropriate and relevant independent research.

The design of the teaching mode and contact hours reflect both a commitment to face to face teaching and engagement with various aspects of blended learning, as outlined in the UNSW 2025 Strategy Theme A2: Educational Excellence.

Assessment

Your written assessments in PPEC1001 must only use the Harvard system of referencing, according to the guidelines set out in the School of Social Science's Referencing Guide, which is available at on the Moodle page for PPEC1001.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Reaction Note	20%	Not Applicable	2
2. Review Essay	40%	15/04/2022 11:59 PM	2, 3
3. Examination	40%	Not Applicable	1, 2, 3

Assessment 1: Reaction Note

Assessment length: 750

You will choose one of the Weekly Learning Outcome item/questions (from Week 1 to 9) and prepare a reflection, assessment, answer, and reaction to it. The Reaction Note should be submitted within a week after the week's lecture is delivered. For example, if you choose to focus on the 2nd Weekly Learning Outcome listed under Week 4, you should submit the Reaction Note within a week's time (5 working days) after the Week 4 lecture has been delivered. (No exception with respect to Flexibility Week). You must engage with the lecture content and required readings.

Written feedback, including a rubric and numerical grade, will be provided within 10 working days of submission. You will be provided with guidelines on assessment expectations, made available through the course's LMS.

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

Additional details

This 750-word Reaction Note is essentially a short reaction essay on relevant required readings, concepts, frameworks and/or key cases covered in the lecture.

Assessment 2: Review Essay

Assessment length: 2000 words

Due date: 15/04/2022 11:59 PM

In this Review Essay, you will choose a topic, a specific case, a policy debate, or a theoretical concept in order to critically review it from two PPE disciplinary perspectives. You might choose to focus on a moment in time or period in history (for example, the global financial crisis of 2008), a theme that has struck you as pertinent across your studies (for example, imperialism, neo-liberalism, intergenerational justice), or a type of actor (for example, the Asian Development Bank, the anti-globalisation movement, the Green Climate Fund). You will need to look at this issue/concept/topic from different analytical angles, supported by the lecture content, required readings and beyond. You are required to apply

theories/concepts from more than one discipline covered by PPE in your analysis, and you are encouraged to think beyond disciplinary boundaries.

Written feedback, including a rubric and numerical grade, will be provided within 10 working days of submission. You will be provided with guidelines on assessment expectations, made available through the course's LMS.

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

Additional details

In this essay, you review a theme that has struck you as pertinent across your studies (for example, imperialism, neo-liberalism, intergenerational justice), a critical case (for example, the 2008 financial crisis, the ongoing pandemic), a type of actor (for example, the Asian Development Bank, the anti-globalization movement, the Green Climate Fund).

You are required to apply theories/concepts from more than one discipline covered by PPE in your case analysis, and you are encouraged to think beyond the disciplinary boundaries and disagreements.

Assessment 3: Examination

You are required to sit a 2-hour final exam during the University's examination period. The examination will evaluate your ability to think synthetically and critically about the material in the course. It requires you to engage with content across the course and asks you to demonstrate your achievement of the course learning outcomes. Examination scripts will be marked but not returned to you. You will receive a numerical grade and can request to see your examination paper at the end of the term.

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Additional details

The exact date/time of the exam will be determined by the University. The final exam may be changed to a 3-hour take-home exam depending on the COVID-19 situation and UNSW policies.

Attendance Requirements

Students are required to attend at least 80% of the tutorials to meet the attendance threshold of the course. Exceptions can be made based on notices in advance and discussions with the Course Convenor.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 14 February - 18 February	Topic	Course Introduction
	Lecture	
	Tutorial	
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Topic	Markets and organizations
	Lecture	
	Tutorial	
	Online Activity	As per the requirements of last week's OLA, you are required to complete the Learning Centre's interactive Moodle module, 'Working with Academic Integrity'.
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Topic	European imperialism and liberal government
	Lecture	
	Tutorial	
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Topic	Exploring Interconnections (1): What is Political Economics?
	Lecture	
	Tutorial	
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Topic	Exploring Interconnections (2): Political philosophy
Week 6: 21 March - 25 March	-- Select --	none teaching week
	Lecture	
	Tutorial	
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Topic	Exploring Interconnections (3): Political development and decay

	Lecture	
	Tutorial	
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Topic	Exploring Interconnections (4): Globalizations
	Lecture	
	Tutorial	
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Topic	Exploring Interconnections (5): Climate justice
	Assessment	Assignment 2 Review Essay due on 15 April 2022 (midnight)
	Lecture	
	Tutorial	
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Topic	Course conclusion

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All required readings (e.g., journal articles, commentaries and book chapters) are either listed on the Moodle page for PPEC1001 or can be found and accessed via UNSW Library's online catalogue, ejournal and ebook services.

Recommended Resources

Please check Moodle for suggested readings and additional resources.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered periodically using the University's 'MyExperience' survey. Informal feedback is also important, and welcome, throughout the semester. Your feedback is used to help guide tutorials, lectures and to help you approach your assessments. Student feedback is taken seriously and continual enhancements are made to learning and teaching activities on the basis of student feedback. This includes making changes to the assessment regime, tutorial activities, weekly readings, Moodle content, and so on. There is also a short Midterm review scheduled in Week 7 for students to raise their concerns about learning and teaching.

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, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

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.

Correct referencing practices

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.)

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

Image Credit

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