

ARTS3822

The Art of Political Science

Term 2, 2023



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
A/Prof Geoffrey Brahm Levey	g.levy@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	137 Morven Brown	02 9385 1376

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

The systematic study of politics has a long history, stretching back some two and a half thousand years to the ancient Greeks. Over the last century, it has become institutionalised and professionalised and, as the disciplinary name Political Science suggests, has sought to put the study of politics on a footing comparable to the aims, methods, and conventions presumed integral to the natural sciences. Yet the possibility, desirability, and even meaning of a “science of politics” are controversial issues. In this seminar you will critically engage with fundamental theories and debates in political science about what political knowledge is and how it is acquired. In the first weeks, you will explore in a general way what it might mean to be a “student of politics.” You will learn the different fields of political science, explore the different perspectives regarding the appropriate aims and methods of political inquiry, and examine how landmark works in political science have sought to shed light on real-world political phenomena, issues, and questions.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and outline the contested character of approaches to studying and analysing political phenomena and the different visions that the discipline of political science has of its mission
2. Evaluate a variety of advanced debates about and approaches to the study of politics, informed by a self-reflexive awareness of the reasoned views of others
3. Locate, prioritise and apply appropriate methodology and methods to the study of Politics in a sophisticated and persuasive manner
4. Employ self-reflexive, critical research and writing practices

Teaching Strategies

We see UNSW student learners as participants in the production of knowledge. The design of this course is motivated by a desire to foster the skills of independent learning, research and critical thinking.

The course is offered as a 3-hour seminar that is supplemented with online and independent study (reading, note-taking, research viewing). Seminars allow you to discuss questions, themes and issues arising from your independent study and research, as well as providing the opportunity to engage in productive discussion with your peers and to participate in a range of structured learning activities, including group/pair/individual analytical work, and formal and informal debates.

Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Presentation	25%	Not Applicable	1, 2, 3,
2. Essay	50%	04/08/2023 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 4
3. Critical Reflection	25%	09/08/2023 01:59 PM	4

Assessment 1: Presentation

Assessment length: 15 minute oral presentation

You will provide a 15 minute presentation discussing and analysing a particular week's seminar readings that will be self-assigned in class. The aim of this assessment is to provide you with an opportunity to test your mastery of key arguments and concepts in communicating them to your peers and to gain constructive feedback from the course convenor. You will receive detailed feedback immediately in the seminar and a mark with comments the following week.

Additional details

Assessment 2: Essay

Assessment length: 3000 words

Due date: 04/08/2023 11:59 PM

You will prepare an essay on a selected issue or problem from a list of supplied essay questions treating issues covered by the seminar. You will select this issue in consultation with the course convenor. The word length of this essay is 3000 words. Students will receive written feedback and a mark within ten working days of submission, pending course finalisation. The grading rubric is available on the course Moodle site, which will allow you to work towards clearly communicated standards.

Additional details

Assessment 3: Critical Reflection

Assessment length: 1000 words

Due date: 09/08/2023 07:00 PM

You will submit a 1000 word written statement discussing your participation and engagement throughout the seminar and in relation to what you have learned in terms of the course learning outcomes. You will receive written feedback and a mark within ten working days of submission, pending course finalisation.

The critical reflection will be further explained in class.

Students will receive written feedback and a mark within ten working days of submission.

Additional details

Attendance Requirements

The School of Social Sciences guidelines on attendance are available at <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

The School of Social Sciences expects that students will attend and participate actively in all learning and teaching activities (henceforth 'classes', to include lectures, tutorials, seminars, labs, online activities and so on).

If you attend fewer than 80% of classes, you may be refused final assessment. This means that if you do not attend at least 80% of possible classes your final assignment or exam may receive a mark of zero.

You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance and contacting your course convenor immediately if you are concerned about your attendance record and its impact on your ability to complete your course successfully.

For the purpose of attendance monitoring, the final assessment for this course is the Critical Reflection and is worth 25% of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment item that will be graded at zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement for this course.

If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, or leave class with more than 15 minutes remaining, you may be recorded as absent. If such a penalty is imposed, you will be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours. Attempts to falsify attendance records will be treated as student misconduct under the *Student Misconduct Procedure*.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 29 May - 2 June	Seminar	Introduction: What is Political Analysis?
Week 2: 5 June - 9 June	Seminar	Behaviouralism and a Science of Politics? (Voting Behaviour / Presidential Character)
Week 3: 12 June - 16 June	Seminar	Interpretive Political Analysis (What does it Mean to be an American?)
Week 4: 19 June - 23 June	Seminar	The Structure vs. Agency Problem (Explaining the Holocaust)
Week 5: 26 June - 30 June	Seminar	Rational Choice Theory (Coalition Formation / Vote Choice)
Week 6: 3 July - 7 July	Flexi Week	No seminar
Week 7: 10 July – 14 July	Seminar	Institutionalism and the State (Cuban Missile Crisis)
Week 8: 17 July - 21 July	Seminar	Marxism & Class Analysis (Who Rules Australia?)
Week 9: 24 July - 28 July	Seminar	Ideas, Culture, and Institutions (Revolutions / The Clash of Civilisations)
Week 10: 31 July - 4 August	Seminar	Normative Analysis: Ethics and Public Policy (Tragic Choices / Dirty Hands)
Week 10: 4 August by 11:59 pm	Assessment	Review Essay
Week 11: 9 August by 7:00 pm	Assessment	Critical Reflection

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All resources will be made available via Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Some recommended resources are available through Moodle, others via the Library and its portals.

Course Evaluation and Development

In keeping with UNSW's Learning and Teaching philosophy constructive student feedback plays an important role in course development. Student evaluative feedback is gathered periodically using, among other means, UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement process. Informal feedback and class-generated feedback are also important. Student feedback is taken seriously, and improvements will be made to the course based in part on such feedback. Significant changes to the course will be communicated to subsequent cohorts of students taking the course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

All assessments must be submitted electronically only, through the relevant assessment TurnItIn portal in Moodle. There is no hard copy submission required. Please ensure that your name and student ID number are on every page of your submission. All pages should be numbered. You are not required to attach a cover sheet to electronically submitted assessments.

When you submit an assessment at UNSW, you are acknowledging that you have understood and abided by the University requirements in the preparation of that assessment item, in respect of student academic misconduct outlined in the Student Code Policy and Student Misconduct Procedures, both of which are available at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>.

You are also declaring that the assessment item is your own work, except where acknowledged, and has not been submitted for academic credit previously in whole or in part.

In addition, you submit the assessment in the knowledge that:

1. the course convenor may provide a copy of the assignment to another staff for the purposes of assessment or evaluation; and
2. a copy of this assessment item will be retained in the TurnItIn database and may be used in evaluations of originality.

UNSW provides support for students in using TurnItIn at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/turnitin-support>. This webpage includes information on how to generate and interpret originality reports in TurnItIn. Support is also available from the central TurnItIn Help Center at http://turnitin.com/en_us/support/helpcenter.

To check you have submitted your assignment successfully you should click 'View digital receipt' at the bottom left-hand corner of the 'My Submissions' screen. You should print or save the digital receipt for your records. Do not navigate away from the submission screen or close your laptop during upload.

It is your responsibility to keep a copy of your work in case of loss of an assignment. You are also responsible for checking that your submission is complete and accurate. For information about **Special Consideration** and **Extensions and Late Submission of Work**, please refer to the School's Policies and Guidelines available at <https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies17guidelines/>.

Return of assignments

Electronic submissions will be returned via the TurnItIn portal on Moodle with electronic feedback within ten working days of submission.

Feedback

UNSW provides support for students in using TurnItIn to receive feedback at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-use-turnitin-within-moodle>. Please access this page to learn how to retrieve grades and comments on your assignment.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to this principle of academic integrity. Plagiarism undermines academic integrity and is not tolerated at UNSW. Plagiarism at UNSW is defined as using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own. Examples include:

- ♦ Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks.
- ♦ Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgment. This also applies to presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit.
- ♦ Collusion: Presenting work as independent work when it has been produced in whole or part in collusion with other people. Collusion includes students providing their work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task and passing it off as your own, 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 that have not been read, without acknowledging the 'secondary' source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- ♦ Self-plagiarism: 'Self-plagiarism' occurs where an author republishes their own previously written work and presents it as new findings without referencing the earlier work, either in its entirety or partially. Self-plagiarism is also referred to as 'recycling', 'duplication', or 'multiple submissions of research findings' without disclosure. In the student context, self-plagiarism includes re-using parts of, or all of, a body of work that has already been submitted for assessment without proper citation.

It is not permissible to buy essay/writing services from third parties as the use of such services constitutes plagiarism because it involves using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own. Further, it is not permissible to sell copies of lecture or tutorial notes as you do not own the rights to this intellectual property.

If you breach the Student Code with respect to academic integrity the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure (see above).

Academic Information

Student responsibilities

You must read and adhere to the UNSW Student Code Policy (2016):

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/studentcodepolicy.html>.

There are five primary student responsibilities under this Code:

1. A condition of enrolment that students inform themselves of the University's rules and policies affecting them, and conduct themselves accordingly.
2. An obligation to act with integrity in academic work, to ensure that all academic work is conducted ethically and safely.
3. An obligation to observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the University community.
4. An obligation to use and care for University resources in a lawful and appropriate manner
5. An obligation to not diminish the University's reputation in the carrying out of academic and other associated University activities. (UNSW Student Code Policy, Art. 2)

A related document is the UNSW Student Misconduct Procedure (2016):

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/studentmisconductprocedures.html>.

All courses in the School of Social Sciences are run in accordance with School, Faculty and University rules and policies.

You need to make sure that you are familiar with University policies and School guidelines, <https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policiesguidelines/>, particularly those relating to attendance requirements, extensions and late submission of assessed work.

Image Credit

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