

Course Outline

Code: INT235

Title: International Relations: Theory and Practice

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2019
Course Coordinator: Dr Shannon Brincat – sbrincat@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Dr Harriot Beazley

Please go to the USC website 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

International relations (IR) is discussed in the context of a changing international environment on the assumption that many political theorists are attempting to understand and explain the transformations in the world in which we live. The course analyses political theory and its relationship to the practicalities of international relations. Human security and international and global politics are presented from a chronological and thematic perspective.

1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

2. What level is this course?

300 level Graduate - Independent application of graduate knowledge and skills. Meets AQF and professional requirements. May require pre-requisites and developing level knowledge/skills. Normally taken in the 3rd or 4th 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?

Specific Learning Outcomes	Assessment tasks	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Contribute and engage in course content discussions with lecturer and peers during lecture/seminars.	1	Engaged.
Discuss, explain and describe international relations theory and practice	2, 3	Knowledgeable.

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	Assessment tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
including: actors, institutions, processes, key events.		
Demonstrate research, critical analysis skills, and argument development in writing folio, essay paper and seminar discussions	3	Creative and critical thinkers.
Apply scholarly writing, research and reference practice in the field of Politics and International Relations.	2, 3	Empowered.

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1 Enrolment restrictions

Nil

5.2 Pre-requisites

Any 2 courses

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Nil

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

Reflection and review of all content is encouraged in weekly interactive tutorials, and feedback will be given in class.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Portfolio	Individual	30%	200 words / week portfolio	Week 1-12	In Class
2	Written Piece	Individual	20%	2x 750 word answers = 1500 Words	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission

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3	Essay	Individual	50%	3000 words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission
			100%			

Assessment 1: Portfolio -Seminar preparation and participation

Goal:	Actively prepare for and engage in seminar discussions and activities; and constructively respond to course content questions, theories and practices.
Product:	Portfolio
Format:	<p>Seminar preparation and participation is assessed on active and informed participation. The seminars provide an opportunity to extend your understanding through an exchange of views, discussion, debate and group exercises. Your contribution needs to be informed. Asserting opinions without providing evidence in support or constantly wandering too far from the set topics will not constitute informed participation. Please note, you will be required to listen to each lecture recording and read all required readings before attending the seminar to understand the key ideas, concepts and themes for the week. Preparation for each seminar will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reading the required readings for the week; - completing written summaries (200 words) each week and emailing these to the lecturer <i>prior</i> to the seminar; - watching the online recording of the lecture; - reflecting about the issues highlighted for discussion in the seminar. <p>Discussions will take place in the seminar which will give you the opportunity to be heard and participate in a range of learning activities. The mark of 30% is based on active and informed participation but you can only participate if you are present; and you can only participate if you are prepared. This contributes to peer-to-peer collaborative learning.</p>
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated knowledge of the required readings and lectures • Demonstrated capacity to analyse readings and lecture content • Contributed to class and group discussions with relevant and informed comments

Assessment Task 2: Written piece - Short answer paper

Goal:	Research your allocated tutorial topic, write an essay addressing the topic, and present the tutorial essay's research outcomes during tutorials. Pre prepare three questions based on your topic to facilitate small group tutorial discussions. The three facilitation questions are inserted at the end of the essay after the List of References.
Product:	Written Piece
Format:	The short answer paper will consist of responses to two short answers (750 words each for a total of 1500 words). Students will have a choice of topics that will be listed in Week 1 on Blackboard. The paper will be written as a formal academic paper and will apply the Harvard style of referencing with a List of References (LOR).
Criteria:	<p>The short answer paper will be assessed by the degree of achievement in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formation of relevant knowledge • critical analysis and argument • effective communication • presentation in required format

Assessment Task 3: Essay

Goal:	To undertake research and write an essay that explores a topic regarding international relations theory and practice.
Product:	Essay
Format:	The essay will consist of 3000 words addressing one topic that will be chosen from those listed on Blackboard and released in Week 6.

	The 3000 word essay will be written as a formal academic essay with appropriate acknowledgement of research sources presented with references. Particular attention will be focused on the inclusion of theoretical concepts to support points and arguments made, integration of arguments with theories of international relations, and, on critical analysis and synthesis of materials in the essay. The essay should apply the Harvard style of referencing with a List of References (LOR).
Criteria:	The essay will be assessed by the degree of achievement in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formation of relevant knowledge • critical analysis and argument • effective communication • presentation in required format

7. Directed study hours

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. 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. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

Location:	Directed study hours for location:
Sippy Downs	Seminar: 3 hours

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1 Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Lists of required and recommended readings may be found for this course on its Blackboard site. These materials/readings will assist you in preparing for tutorials and assignments, and will provide further information regarding particular aspects of your course.

8.2 Specific requirements

Nil

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student 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. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module 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 Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

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%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 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
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.6 General Enquiries

In person:

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

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au