

Course Outline

Code: INT250

Title: Forces of Change in International Politics

School: Social Sciences
Teaching Session: Semester 1
Year: 2019
Course Coordinator: Dr Shannon Brincat - sbrincat@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Dr Marcus Bussey – mbussey@usc.edu.au

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

This course acquaints you with the forces that have influenced change in international relations and world orders, particularly in the twentieth century. It incorporates elements of political theory so that you acquire basic analytical tools for understanding the development of international relations. From a chronological and a thematic viewpoint, the course analyses the major forces of change – material, institutional, and ideational – in the history, present, and future of international politics.

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

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

2. What level is this course?

200 level Developing – Applying broad and/or deep knowledge and skills to new contexts. May require pre-requisites and introductory level knowledge/skills. Normally undertaken in the 2nd or 3rd 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:
Apply knowledge related to theory, history, and practice of forces of change in world politics.	1	Engaged. Ethical.

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:
Examine and critique international relations theory, concepts, and practice related to forces of change in world politics, including: actors, institutions, processes, historical events and current affairs.	2, 3	Knowledgeable. Sustainability-focused.
Research, discuss, apply and communicate knowledge about the relationship between forces of change and world politics.	3	Creative and critical thinkers.
Application of scholarly writing and research, in the field of politics and international relations.	2, 3	Empowered.
Research and critically engage with information about events and current affairs related to forces of change in world politics	2 and 3	Creative and critical thinkers. 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

Nil

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

Early feedback is provided in Assessment 3 Preparation and Participation Portfolio throughout all weeks of class. Students will be given direct oral feedback on their preparation and participation in the seminar/workshop related to readings and lecture content.

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?
1a	Artefact - Creative	Individual	15%	An audio; or visual; or mixed-media vignette	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission
1b	Written Piece	Individual	25%	1,500 Words.	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
2	Essay	Individual	40%	2,000 Words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
3	Preparation & Participation Portfolio	Individual	20%	200-500 words Weeks 1-12	In each Seminar Week 1-12	In class
			100%			

Assessment 1a: Vignette on Forces of Change

Goal:	To create an audio-visual; mixed media; audio or other vignette that explores <u>one</u> of the counter-factual questions that will be released on Blackboard.
Product:	Artefact - Creative
Format:	Using any form of media or communication tools (video, illustration, oral presentation, radio, web etc), students are to develop a short vignette that explores one of the counterfactual scenarios released on Blackboard.
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of historical events and theory, combining analysis and synthesis of arguments. • Engagement with topic area by contrasting sources, and, using theories of IR and politics to ground the vignette • Creativity and effectiveness of communicating arguments and information to the audience • Critical and lateral thinking into the topic area

Assessment Task 1b: Discussion Paper on Forces of Change Vignette

Goal:	To write a discussion paper underlying the vignette (Assessment Task 1a) exploring <u>one</u> of the counter-factual questions released on Blackboard.
Product:	Written Piece
Format:	The 1500 discussion paper is written as a formal, scholarly piece of writing. Students are to write a discussion paper based on research and concepts related to the course, to explore and speculate on an alternative history/counter-factual to world politics. The paper must have appropriate acknowledgement of research sources presented with references. Students will explore <u>one</u> of the counter-factual questions that will be released on Blackboard. Particular attention will be focused

Course Outline: INT250 Forces of Change in International Politics

	on the ability to think critically and creatively through different theories, patterns, and conditions of the forces of change in world politics.
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique and deployment of theory, history, and practice of forces of change in world politics • Creativity in critically exploring concepts related to forces of change in world politics • Written expression and organization of the paper • Critical analysis and synthesis of research materials/sources • Critical evaluation of scholarly sources • Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression grammar, spelling, punctuation, referencing conventions.

Assessment Task 2: Essay

Goal:	To undertake research and write an essay that explores forces of change in world politics.
Product:	Essay
Format:	The 2000 words essay is written as a formal academic essay with appropriate acknowledgement of research sources presented with references. Students will answer <u>one</u> essay question from the topics provided on Blackboard. Particular attention will be focused on the inclusion of empirical data to support points and arguments made, integration of arguments with theories of politics and IR, and, on the critical analysis and synthesis of materials in the essay.
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique and deployment of theory, history, and practice of forces of change in world politics • Appropriate and critical use of research to discuss, apply and communicate knowledge about the relationship between forces of change and world politics • Quality of written expression and essay structure/organization • Breadth of research, depth of understanding of the topic as related to events and current affairs in world politics • Critical analysis and synthesis of research materials/sources • Critical evaluation of appropriate scholarly sources <p>Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression grammar, spelling, punctuation, referencing conventions.</p>

Assessment Task 3: Preparation and Participation Portfolio

Goal:	Actively prepare for and engage in seminar/workshop discussions and activities; and constructively respond to course content questions, theories and practices.
Product:	Reading summaries and question/answer portfolio.
Format:	<p>Seminar/workshop preparation and participation is assessed on active and informed participation. The seminar/workshop provide an opportunity to extend your understanding though 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/workshop will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reading the required readings for the week; - watching the online recording of the lecture; - completing written summaries or question/answer (200 words) each week and emailing these to the lecturer <i>prior</i> to the seminar; - reflecting about the issues highlighted for discussion in the seminar.

	Discussions will take place in the seminar/workshop which will give you the opportunity to be heard and participate in a range of learning activities. The mark of 20% 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.	
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 	
Generic skill assessed	Skill assessment level	
Communication	Developing	
Collaboration	Developing	

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	Workshop: 3 hours per week

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

Information regarding prescribed texts or other associated resources will be made available on the BlackBoard site prior to commencement of study.

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

Course Outline: INT250 Forces of Change in International Politics

- **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