



COURSE OUTLINE

INT250 Forces of Change in International Politics

Course Coordinator: Shannon Brincat (sbrincat@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Law and Society

2021 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

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. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop – 3 hours workshop	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Topic 1 - Introduction to Forces of Change in International Politics

Topic 2 - Theories of Change and Transformation

Topic 3 - Nationalism, nation states, and global politics

Topic 4 - The Cold War/s: superpowers, polarity, and hegemony

Topic 5 – Political leadership as a force of change in international politics

Topic 6 - Citizens and the state: Human security v. Human rights

Topic 7 - The politics of globalisation and the transformation of political community

Topic 8 - Colonialism, imperialism, and development

Topic 9 - Gender, race, and identity

Topic 10 - Environmental change: past and future

Topic 11 – Futures of World Orders

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Apply knowledge related to theory, history, and practice of forces of change in world politics.	Ethical Engaged
2 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.	Knowledgeable Sustainability-focused
3 Research, discuss, apply and communicate knowledge about the relationship between forces of change and world politics.	Creative and critical thinker
4 Application of scholarly writing and research, in the field of politics and international relations.	Empowered
5 Research and critically engage with information about events and current affairs related to forces of change in world politics	Creative and critical thinker 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. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

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

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1a	Artefact - Creative	Individual	15%	An audio; or visual; or mixed-media vignette	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission
All	1b	Written Piece	Individual	25%	1,500 Words.	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Essay	Individual	40%	2,000 Words	Week 13	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Portfolio	Individual	20%	200-500 words/Weeks 1-12	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	In Class

All - Assessment Task 1a: Vignette on Forces of Change

GOAL:	To create an audio-visual; mixed media; audio or other vignette that explores one 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:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Comparison of historical events and theory, combining analysis and synthesis of arguments.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Engagement with topic area by contrasting sources, and, using theories of IR and politics to ground the vignette</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Creativity and effectiveness of communicating arguments and information to the audience</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Critical and lateral thinking into the topic area</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Assessment criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.	Learning Outcome assessed	1	Comparison of historical events and theory, combining analysis and synthesis of arguments.	2	Engagement with topic area by contrasting sources, and, using theories of IR and politics to ground the vignette	3	Creativity and effectiveness of communicating arguments and information to the audience	4	Critical and lateral thinking into the topic area	5	Assessment criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes.	<p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
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All - Assessment Task 1b: Discussion Paper on Forces of Change Vignette

GOAL:	To write a discussion paper underlying the vignette (Assessment Task 1a) exploring one of the counter-factual questions released on Blackboard.
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
FORMAT:	The 1500 word 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 one of the counter-factual questions that will be released on Blackboard. Particular attention will be focused on the ability to think critically and creatively through different theories, patterns, and conditions of the forces of change in world politics.

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Critique and deployment of theory, history, and practice of forces of change in world politics
	2	Creativity in critically exploring concepts related to forces of change in world politics
	3	Written expression and organization of the paper
	4	Critical analysis and synthesis of research materials/sources
	5	Critical evaluation of scholarly sources
	6	Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression grammar, spelling, punctuation, referencing conventions.

All - 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 one 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:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Critique and deployment of theory, history, and practice of forces of change in world politics
	2	Appropriate and critical use of research to discuss, apply and communicate knowledge about the relationship between forces of change and world politics
	3	Quality of written expression and essay structure/organization
	4	Breadth of research, depth of understanding of the topic as related to events and current affairs in world politics
	5	Critical analysis and synthesis of research materials/sources
	6	Critical evaluation of appropriate scholarly sources
	7	Written communication skills and academic literacies including English expression grammar, spelling, punctuation, referencing conventions.

All - 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:	Portfolio								
FORMAT:	<p>In each Seminar wk 1-12</p> <p>Seminar/workshop preparation and participation is assessed on active and informed participation. The seminar/workshop 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/workshop will require:</p> <p>- 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 prior to the seminar; - reflecting about the issues highlighted for discussion in the seminar.</p> <p>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.</p>								
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7. Directed study hours

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.

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

Please note: 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

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility 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 and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training 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

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may 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 to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. 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>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **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