

The University of Sydney
FACULTY OF LAW



master of international law

2008 lecture timetable & unit descriptions

for units offered by other departments

For confirmation of timetabling/unit information, please contact:

Department of Government and International Relations

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master of international law

units offered by other departments

MIL candidates must complete one unit from the approved units of study listed below.

february semester 2008

CODE	UNIT OF STUDY	DAY	TIME	ROOM	LECTURER
GOVT6154-1	Conflict and Peace in the Middle East	Tuesday	6-8pm	Merewether LR 6	L. Piggott
GOVT6108-1	Development Dilemmas in Southeast Asia	Thursday	4-6pm	Merewether LR 4	L. Rahim
GOVT6147-1	Foundations of International Relations	Thursday	6-8pm	Quad Bldg Phil S249	B. Howard
GOVT6123-1	Globalisation and Governance	Wednesday	4-6pm or 6-8pm	Eastern Ave Sem 405	L. Weiss
GOVT6116-1	International Organisations	Wednesday	2-5pm	Merewether LR 4	B. Beem
GOVT6117-7	International Politics of Human Rights	Friday	9am-1pm (Wks 1-7)	Eastern Ave Sem 406	F. Panzironi
GOVT6146-1	International Risk Analysis	Thursday	6-8pm	Eastern Ave Sem 406	tba
GOVT6119-1	International Security	Thursday	6-8pm	Carslaw LR 250	B. Goldsmith
GOVT6125-1	Politics of the World Economy	Wednesday	4-6pm or 6-8pm	Carslaw LR 350	M. Cook

july semester 2008

CODE	UNIT OF STUDY	DAY	TIME	ROOM	LECTURER
GOVT6136-2	Asia Pacific Politics	Wednesday	4-6pm or 6-8pm	Eastern Ave Sem 405	M. Cook
GOVT6103-2	Australia in Diplomacy, Defence & Trade	Monday	6-8pm	Eastern Ave Sem 310	R. Muller
GOVT6135-2	Global Environmental Politics	Thursday	4-6pm	Merewether LR 4	C. Epstein
HSTY6994-2	Globalism, Internationalism and the UN [^]	Monday	3-5pm	Education Sem 433	G. Sluga
GEOS5501-2	Human Rights and the Environment*				

[^] Offered by the Department of History, Faculty of Arts

* Offered by the School of Geosciences, Faculty of Science

The information contained in this timetable should be used as a guide only. For up-to-date information on unit offerings, times and locations, please contact the relevant department.

2008 unit of study descriptions

GOVT6136 Asia Pacific Politics

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 2 **Classes:** Two hour seminar per week **Assessment:** Option A: Essay, Policy brief, Final exam, Participation; Option B: Three Policy briefs, Final exam, Participation. This unit is organised around the upsurge in regional economic and security cooperation within East Asia and the more nebulous Asia Pacific in the last 15 years. It also looks at academic efforts to define East Asia and the Asia Pacific as regions. The first part of the unit covers the domestic similarities in East Asia and what these mean for East Asian and Asia-Pacific regionalism. The second part of the unit covers efforts to develop regional institutions like APEC and ASEAN and the role of these institutions in spurring regionalism. While the Asia Pacific and its sub-regions are the focus of the unit, both domestic and global economic and political forces are fully integrated into discussions. The unit provides critical insights into the reasons for the upsurge in regional economic and security cooperation, its likely trajectory and how East Asia and the Asia-Pacific are defined.

GOVT6103 Australia in Diplomacy, Defence & Trade

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 2 **Classes:** Two hour seminar per week **Assessment:** Agency Reports and Ministerial Briefing Paper; Group Project

This unit examines Australia's external relations through its foreign, defence and trade policies from Federation until today. It will begin with an overview of the theoretical tools for studying foreign policy and the institutions of Australia's external relations. Following an examination of 'Continuity and Change' in Australia's foreign, defence and trade policies over the past millennium, key regional and international relationships will be analysed and the questions of national borders and international legal obligations examined. The final weeks of the unit will consider Australia's response to contemporary global issues such as the 'War on Terror'; the environment; nuclear affairs; and Australia in the global economy.

GOVT6154 Conflict and Peace in the Middle East

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 1 **Classes:** 2 hr seminar per week **Assessment:** Essay/literature reviews; Policy briefs, Essay, Class tests

The Middle East has been plagued for more than a century by a series of national, ethnic and religious conflicts, reflecting shifting regional alliances and the unresolved legacy of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and in turn, the end of colonial rule in the region. Even in the 21st century, some Middle Eastern states continue to struggle, both internally and externally, to establish their legitimacy. This unit examines the causes and manifestation of some of the central conflicts in the region over the past few decades and today. Assessment for the unit will include consideration of political change that might result in a more peaceful future for the region.

GOVT6108 Development Dilemmas in Southeast Asia

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 1 **Classes:** Two hour seminar per week **Assessment:** Short written assessment; Analytical essay/report; Exam

Southeast Asia's economic experiences and socio-political challenges will be examined within an historical and comparative context in order to better appreciate the economic continuities, understand the major socio-political dilemmas and changing patterns of development. Themes such as the significance of colonialism on post-colonial economies and polities, role of the state in the national and global economy, causes of the region's high-speed growth in the 1980s and 1990s, subsequent economic downturn and future prospects, changing complexion of foreign investment, significance and operational dynamics of the Overseas Chinese Business Networks, salience of socio-economic and ethnic tensions, contradictions associated with the promotion of open economies within authoritarian political structures, the relationship between economic and political corruption, prominence of political Islam, rise of civil society actors, implications of the national and regional reserve army of labour, efficacy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the region's economic and security links with Northeast Asia will be analysed.

GOVT6147 Foundations of International Relations

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 1 **Classes:** Two hour seminar per week **Assessment:** Essay; Exam; Tutorial Paper.

This unit will examine the major theoretical approaches to understanding international relations: liberalism; realism; Marxism; the international society ('English') school; constructivism; and, post-modernist and critical theory. It will include the contributions of writers in the classical tradition like Thucydides, Machiavelli, Hobbes and Kant; and those of the 'moderns' like Carr, Morgenthau, Waltz, Keohane, Nye, Bull, Cox and Wendt. The unit will also examine the significance for international relations theory of the end of the Cold War. The unit will conclude with an evaluation of the major 'images' of international relations ('End of History', 'Clash of Civilizations', 'Back to the Future', 'Coming Anarchy', etc.) that have figured in analyses of the post-Cold War world.

GOVT6135 Global Environmental Politics

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 2 **Classes:** Two hour seminar per week **Assessment:** Policy review; report; essay

This unit examines the environment as a political and policy issue. Although relatively recent, the environment has become a full-fledged public policy issue exerting influence in local, national and international arenas. The unit will first focus on the specific features of the policy that influences the capability of contemporary societies to enhance the management of environmental resources and of public goods in general. Second, it discusses the development of environmental policy in Western countries, with a particular emphasis on the European Union. Third, a grid for the analysis of environmental policy will be presented, with a discussion of the main actors (political, institutional and socio-economic) involved in it and of the factors (interests and ideas) influencing their positions. Fourth, the unit briefly discusses environmental conflicts and consensual approaches used for tackling them.

GOVT6123 Globalisation and Governance

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 1 **Classes:** Two hour seminar per week **Assessment:** Short papers; Essay; In-class test

It is widely believed that we are entering a new era in which the transborder flows of capital, goods, ideas, and people are rapidly transforming human society. 'Globalisation', many claim, threatens the autonomy of nation-states and erodes the power of national governments to provide social protection and promote the nation's economic prosperity. This unit examines not only the causes and mechanisms of this process, but also assesses its social, economic, and political impacts. The views of radicals, transformationalists, skeptics, and institutionalists are compared and criticised. While globalisation is often viewed as a singular process, trending towards a global society, this unit offers a distinctive approach. Globalisation has uneven and highly differentiated impacts, whether harmful or beneficial, and this unevenness is closely associated with the nature of institutions of governance, at both the domestic and international levels.

HSTY6994 Globalism, Internationalism and the UN

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 2 **Classes:** Two hour seminar per week **Assessment:** Essay proposal 500 words (10%); worksheets, masterclasses and lectures (10%); essay 4000 words (60%); seminar, public lecture and masterclass participation (20%)

What is the future for international society in the 21st century? This unit of study will attempt to answer this question by examining the idea of international society and its expression in the past of ideas of global communities, globalisation, cosmopolitanism, transnationalism, and international organisations, most particularly the League of Nations and the United Nations. The aim of this unit is also to provide intensive master classes for students interested in researching international history at postgraduate level.

Please contact the coordinator, Associate Professor Glenda Sluga, at the latest by 18 July, 2008 (glenda.sluga@arts.usyd.edu.au). There will be an introductory meeting on Tuesday 22 July, with 6 additional hours of attendance required, drawing from a choice of public lectures, a postgraduate master class with visiting international academics from Harvard and Birkbeck, and combined staff/student seminars during the week 22-28 July. This attendance will be

assessed and will count towards overall attendance and assessment requirements for the course. Semester seminars will then continue regularly from Tuesday 29 July in completion of those requirements.

GEOS5501 Human Rights and the Environment

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 2 **Classes:** One 1-hour lecture per week, one 2-hour tutorial per week and 4-hours per week personal study **Assessment:** 3000 word essay 70%, Seminar paper 30% This core unit of study addresses the nexus between human rights and the environment. The unit has a geographical focus on Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. Human rights and environmental concerns intersect in diverse and complex ways. Rights to a healthy environment and rights to resources forge a common cause between human rights advocates and environmental activists. Projects such as dams and mines have on-site and wider environmental impacts that displace marginal groups and impact on their rights to livelihood. On the other hand, creation of protected areas and other forms of environmental protection that alienate indigenous and other groups from their customary land and livelihoods create an uneasy relationship between human rights and environmental movements. Public and private access to urban space is also bound up with rights around race, sexuality and class. There are also human rights issues associated with climate change, the fate of South Pacific islands and environmental refugees. The unit of study deals with the human rights - environment nexus around such themes through a series of lectures, seminars and case study based assignment work.

GOVT6116 International Organisations

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 1 **Classes:** Two hour seminar per week **Assessment:** Essays (theoretical and empirical); Exam

This unit aims to introduce students to how states and other actors in the international arena cooperate to build institutions as a response to common problems. After completing the unit students should be able to analyse contemporary international organisations to see how they work, whose interests they serve, and to what degree they attenuate or enhance the power of sovereign states.

GOVT6117 International Politics of Human Rights

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 1a **Classes:** Intensive mode, 4 days, 10am to 5pm **Assessment:** Literature Review; Research project; In-class tests

This unit introduces students to the notion of human rights, outlines international human rights enforcement mechanisms and the application of human rights standards globally. Throughout the course we consider the evolution of human rights and consider questions about the adequacy of existing human rights machinery. We examine criticisms by a range of commentators of the UN and other international rights institutions and discuss alternatives for protecting international human rights. We also look at the role played by Non-Government Organisations in advancing and protecting human rights throughout the world.

GOVT6146 International Risk Analysis

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 1 **Classes:** Two hours per week **Assessment:** Seminar Participation, Tutorial Report and Debate Leadership, Essay/Report Workshop, Essay Report

This unit is an introduction to theories and applications of risk analysis, with special emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region: including the emerging economies of India, China, South East Asia, and Central Asia and the Pacific. Risk analysis emerged from insurance finance and from industrial safety concerns, and is currently an increasing function of modern commercial and political life, especially in commercial and government enterprises that operate in increasingly complex multi-juridical environments, but also for non-government organisations that engage both businesses and governments in the social process of defining and governing risk. This unit will provide students with a grounding in the background and development of risk analysis and its deployment by international enterprise and public sector agencies, and survey some of the issues engaged with and problems encountered by risk professionals, such as cross-border investment and political risk, state and inter-state regulation, energy security and terrorism, climate change and ecological risk, technological systems and biosecurity. Course work takes the form of group discussion, tutorial papers, and research essays.

GOVT6119 International Security

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 1 **Classes:** Two hour seminar per week **Assessment:** Two essays
The study of security lies at the heart of international relations. Traditionally, the study of international security focused on relations between states and their competing political, military and economic interests. However, since the end of the Cold War, international security studies have broadened to encompass such dangers as transnational terrorism, pandemics and environmental degradation. This unit begins by examining the traditional theoretical perspectives used to study security relations between states and concludes by assessing the security challenges that have emerged as a part of the process of globalisation in the post-Cold War period.

GOVT6125 Politics of the World Economy

6 Credit Points

Offered: Semester 1 **Classes:** Two hour seminar per week **Assessment:** Option A: Essay, Final Exam, Policy Brief, Participation; Option B: Three Policy Briefs, Final Exam, Participation.
The objectives of this unit are to introduce students to the various approaches to the key institutions and processes in the areas of production, trade, and finance at the global and regional levels. After completing the unit, students should be able to analyse current international political-economic developments in their historical context and form an informed opinion on contemporary issues. This unit introduces students to the key theoretical approaches and contemporary issues in the discipline of international political economy and the political structuring of the present global economy. The unit focuses on how inter-state cooperation and competition mediated through the main multilateral economic institutions (the WTO, BIS, IMF and World Bank) both constrain and allow global market forces to expand. This is a unit on international politics not international economics. The unit's survey nature means that students are introduced to numerous different issues from the spread of multinational production to offshore banking.