



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Institutions and Governance						
Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
POL	2001	54157	2, 2006	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOBUS
Academic org:	FOB002
Student contribution band:	1
ASCED code:	090101

STAFFING

Examiner: Cassandra Star
Moderator: Geoff Cockfield

SYNOPSIS

This course introduces students to the basic institutions and processes of government and the economy. While the course has broad application it examines institutions within a regional framework using examples from Australia, Asia and elsewhere where appropriate. Political and economic institutional sovereignty are examined as international institutions become prominent as coordinators of national activity. Australian political and economic institutions are analysed as exemplars of the roles of institutions in an advanced regional economy. Domestic, political and economic institutions are compared and examined within an international context.

OBJECTIVES

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item(s) that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective are shown in parentheses after each objective. On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. explain the factors that bear upon the formation of political and economic institutions (Essay 1, Examination)
2. have an informed understanding of the purpose and roles of constitutions (Essay 1, Examination)
3. understand the relationship between economic performance, property rights and institutions and broadly explain the passage of political and economic institutional development in Australia during the period following World War II (Essay 1, Essay 2, Examination)
4. appreciate and evaluate the importance of global political and economic institutions (Essay 1, Essay 2, Examination)
5. critique the roles of bureaucracy and the public service in policy formation (Essay 1, Essay 2, Examination)
6. logically discuss the linkages between electoral systems, democracy and voter behaviour (Essay 1, Essay 2, Examination)
7. explain theories relating to policy formation (Essay 1, Essay 2, Examination)

8. appreciate the roles and importance of interest groups (Essay 1, Essay 2, Examination)
9. present rational, well-researched, written arguments about political and economic institutions with clarity and coherence (Essay 1, Essay 2, Examination)

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Formal institutions	10.00
2.	Constitutions	10.00
3.	The nature of institutions	14.00
4.	Global, formal institutions	14.00
5.	The public service & bureaucracy	14.00
6.	Electoral systems and voter behaviour	14.00
7.	Policy analysis	14.00
8.	Interest groups	10.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Singleton, G, Atkin, D, Jinks, B & Warhurst, J 2006, *Australian political institutions*, 8th edn, Pearson, New South Wales.

Summers, J & Smith, B 2006, *Communication skills handbook: how to succeed in written and oral communication*, 2nd edn, John Wiley & Sons, Milton, Queensland.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Cohn, TH 2005, *Global political economy: theory and practice*, 3rd edn, Longman, New York.

Emy, HV 1978, *The politics of Australian democracy: fundamentals in dispute*, 2nd edn, MacMillan, South Melbourne, Victoria.

Feng, Y 2003, *Democracy, governance and economic performance: theory and evidence*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Frieden, JA & Lake, DA (eds) 2000, *International political economy: perspectives on global power and wealth*, 4th edn, Routledge, London.

Jackson, RJ & Jackson, D 2000, *An introduction to political science: comparative and world politics*, 3rd edn, Prentice Hall Canada, Scarborough, Ontario.

Jaensch, D 1984, *An introduction to Australian politics*, 2nd edn, Longman Cheshire, Melbourne, Victoria.

- Lucy, R 1983, *The pieces of politics*, 3rd edn, MacMillan, South Melbourne, Victoria.
- Maddox, G 1989, *The Hawke government and Labor tradition*, Penguin, Ringwood, Victoria.
- Roskin, MG, Cord, RL, Medeiros, JA & Jones, WS 2000, *Political science, an introduction*, 7th edn, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.
- Smith, R (ed) 1997, *Politics in Australia*, 3rd edn, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards, New South Wales.
- Spero, JE & Hart, JA 2003, *The politics of international economic relations*, 6th edn, Thomson/Wadsworth, Belmont, California.
- Summers, J, Woodward, D & Parkin, A (eds) 2002, *Government politics and power in Australia: an introductory reader*, 7th edn, Longman, Frenchs Forest, New South Wales.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	56.00
Directed Study	39.00
Private Study	65.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
ESSAY 1	20.00	20.00	21 Aug 2006
ESSAY 2	30.00	30.00	25 Oct 2006
2.5 HOUR EXAMINATION	50.00	50.00	END S2 (see note 1)

NOTES

- The examination is scheduled to be held in the end-of-semester examination period. Students will be advised of the official examination date after the timetable has been finalised. Although assessment expectations differ between streams, students may attempt examination questions from either stream.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- Attendance requirements:
If you are an international student in Australia, you are advised to attend all classes at your campus. For all other students, there are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)
- Penalties for late submission of required work:

If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 20% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
This is a closed examination. Candidates are allowed to bring only writing and drawing instruments into the examination room.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm>. Students should also read the Faculty of Business Guide to Policies and Procedures of the Faculty which can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/buspolproc.html>.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 1 Assignments: (i) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (ii) Students must retain a copy of each assignment submitted for assessment. This must be produced within 24 hours if required by the Examiner. (iii) The Examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. Students may apply for an assignment extension either by application through DEC before the due date or by application with the submitted assignment after the due date. Such applications should be in writing and include supporting documentary evidence. The authority for granting extensions rests with the relevant Examiner. (iv) The Examiner will normally only accept assessments that have been typed or printed on paper-based media. (v) The Examiner will not accept submission of assignments by facsimile. (vi) Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the Examiner to negotiate such special arrangements. (vii) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience.
- 2 Course weightings: Course weightings of topics should not be interpreted as applying to the number of marks to questions testing those topics in an examination paper.
- 3 Referencing in assignments: Students must demonstrate effective essay writing techniques, including correct in-text referencing and bibliographical details, using the Harvard system. Assignments must comply with the guidelines set out in the 'Communication skills handbook: how to succeed in written and oral communication'.

- 4 Deferred work: Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Learning resources: Prescribed texts and materials (see above); recommended reference materials (see above); printed Introductory Book, Study Book/s, and Book/s of Selected Readings; and course Website accessible via USQConnect.
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