

Master of International Relations

Master of International Relations with Honours

Course Outline

[Note: Course outline and text is intended for distribution to Domestic students only.]

Course Overview

La Trobe University's innovative new Master of International Relations and the Master of International Relations with Honours has been developed to harness the cross-disciplinary teaching excellence of academics and practitioners from across the University. The degree equips graduates with the insights and professional skills critical for a career in international government, business, media or civil society organisations. It is taught by some of Australia's leading scholars and provides an academically rigorous programme with a distinct policy edge.

Issues and Themes

In a rapidly changing world, an advanced understanding of the key economic, political and military forces shaping the world is vital. The Master of International Relations provides students with the analytical tools to make sense of these forces, the way they interact and their implications for firms, states and non-government organizations.

Students will have the opportunity to examine a wide range of critical issues at an advanced level. These include:

- The management of international conflict
- The challenge of providing human security
- How to govern the transnational flow of goods, information, finance and people
- The international relations of the Asia-Pacific, the most dynamic and combustible region in the world
- The analysis and implications of the links between the environment, economy and society
- How to design, evaluate and implement international public policy
- How to drive social change in an interdependent world

Who should undertake the course?

The Master of International Relations offers demanding postgraduate study in the important and complex field of international affairs. While drawing on theory, the primary focus is on real world issues and seeks to provide students with academic insights to help devise concrete responses to these issues.

The degree provides formal academic preparation for people who wish to work in areas that require a detailed understanding of the international political and economic context.

The degree is particularly useful for professionals who seek to enhance their career opportunities, for those who have embarked on a career but wish to change sectors and recent graduates who wish to sharpen their skills. The degree also provides an opportunity to progress to a higher research degree.

Entry Requirements

An Australian undergraduate degree (or its equivalent) in the humanities and social sciences or similar discipline.

Selection criteria: B average (or its equivalent), where a B average has not been achieved, appropriate professional experience will be taken into account, especially if it involves substantial writing assignments.

Language requirement: IELTS of 6.5 with no one score lower than 6.

Course Fees

Local Students (Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents)

This is a fee paying course with some Commonwealth Supported Places available. For information regarding fees refer to: www.latrobe.edu.au/study/postgrad-info.html#fees

Why study International Relations at La Trobe?

In an increasingly complex and interdependent world, international crises litter the headlines of the daily press, while oil price shocks, global climate change, refugee flows, and international terrorism have a profound effect upon every day life. Whether you seek to protect the environmental commons, thrive in the global marketplace, or address the fundamental question of military and human security strategies in a world of soaring riches and staggering poverty, studying international relations at La Trobe provides you with the skills and understanding to achieve your goals.

La Trobe University is one of Australia's leading centers for the study of International Relations. It has a long tradition of scholarship and research excellence that dates back to the University's founding. Faculty members are recognized as some of the world's leading academics and are prominent contributors to public debate about international affairs in Australia and globally. Areas of research and teaching excellence include:

- International relations of the Asia-Pacific
- International political economy
- International security

- Australian foreign policy
- International relations theory
- Globalization and governance
- International trade
- Democracy and Democratization, and
- the politics of Southeast Asia.

Length and Delivery of the Course

Master of International Relations

The Master of International Relations is a one year master's by coursework.

To be awarded the degree, students must successfully complete 120 credit points. Students are required to undertake two core units of 30 credit points each, and choose additional units totalling 60 credit points from an approved list of electives. For more information regarding course structure and unit descriptions refer to www.latrobe.edu.au/handbook

Course Duration: 1 year full-time or part-time equivalent.

Master of International Relations with Honours

Students who wish to undertake the coursework degree with a research component will need to complete an additional semester of study (6 months) which includes the writing of a 15,000 word thesis worth 60 credit points.

Course Duration: 1.5 years full-time or part-time equivalent.

Key dates

Both courses have intakes in Semester One and Two. Semester One commences in March. Semester Two commences in July.

Graduate Skills and Attributes

- Understand key theoretical frameworks and apply them to the practice of contemporary international relations
- Undertake critical inquiry and analysis of complex international issues
- Communicate key findings to diverse audiences in written and verbal formats
- Understand the interaction and power dynamics between actors operating across different tiers of governance in international relations
- Advise on the implication of international developments, opportunities, and risks for national and international organisations
- Understand the key elements and requirements of policy making on the international stage
- Comprehend the critical relationships between economy, environment, and society

Career Opportunities

Graduates will be suited to employment in international organisations, government and inter-governmental agencies, campaigning and advocacy organisations, media organisations, and research or training institutes. These include: Associated Press; AusTrade; Amnesty International; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; United Nations, and the World Health Organisation.

Graduates are able to seek employment in the following fields:

- diplomatic service
- multinational corporations
- management consulting
- international media
- areas of the public service with an international dimension such as intelligence, defence, and immigration
- and, the non-government sector, particularly aid organizations

About the School of Social Sciences

The School of Social Sciences at La Trobe University, Bundoora, offers a unique combination of disciplines: Sociology, Anthropology, Politics and Asian Studies. This makes La Trobe the pre-eminent university for the study of the social sciences in Victoria. The breadth and depth of its teaching in these fields, coupled with the international reputation of its leading scholars, have given Social Sciences at La Trobe a widely acknowledged national and international profile.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/humanities/>

Industry Links

Those undertaking the Master of International Relations study alongside some of Australia's leading experts in award winning professional research centres such as the Refugee Health Research Centre and the Centre for Dialogue. Students who produce research essays of a leading standard during the Masters are also invited to submit work for peer review and possible publication through the internationally renowned journal *Global Change, Peace & Security*.

Further information

Local Students

Associate Professor Nick Bisley

Course Coordinator

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Links:

Master of International Relations
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/politics/mir>

La Trobe University
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/about>

Centre for Dialogue:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/dialogue>

Refugee Health Research Centre:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rhrc>

Journal Global Change, Peace & Security:
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/14781158.html>

Course Structure: Master of International Relations (MIR)

To be awarded the MIR degree, students must successfully complete 120 credit points over 1 year full time, 2-3 years part time.

Core Units

Semester 1

POL5CIR: Contemporary International Relations (30)

Semester 2

POL5SPW: Security Policy in a Borderless World (30)

Or

POL5GAG: Globalisation and Governance (30)

Electives

(Students choose 60 credit points from the list below):

Semester 1

POL5GLT: Globalisation to Localisation (30)

POL5ISD: Issues in International Studies and Development (15)

PHE5HE: International Perspectives in Health Economics (15)

POL5RIP: Transformations of Modern Europe (30)

Semester 2

POL5HSD: Human Security and Development (15)

POL5SPW: Security Policy in a Borderless World (30)

POL5GAG: Globalization and Governance (30)

POL5CJI: International Relations of the Asia Pacific (30)

PHE5IPO: International Health Policy (*Week 30-34*) (15)

PHE5AHR: Australia's International Health Relations (*Summer*) (15)

POL5MSH: Making Social Change Happen (15)

POL5REP: International Relations Research Report (30)

MST5TMC: Transnational Media in Context (30)

Course Duration: 1 Year full time. 2-3 Years part time.

Course Units

Core:

POL5CIR: Contemporary International Relations (30 cps)

This unit is an introduction to the structures, issues and powers of the contemporary international system and surveys the academic and policy debates about these issues which include the broader structure of international society, the place of war and threats to the security of peoples in the system, the impact that need to produce and to consume has on the system and the way in which human aspirations for justice the place of other ideals interact with international society. We will examine the distribution of power in the contemporary world, considering the domestic foundations of America's international role; contemporary American foreign policy; the rise of Asia and its global consequences; and the place of an increasingly integrated Europe in contemporary international society. We examine a number of issues including the growth of democracy, the place of nationalism; the intervention in Kosovo in 1999 and the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

POL5SPW: Security Policy in a Borderless World (30cps)

The transport and communications revolution of the last several decades, coupled with the computerisation of knowledge, has drastically impacted on the state, not least on security policy. The rising threat posed by weapons of mass destruction and increasingly sophisticated means of delivery has raised new questions about the use of force as an appropriate or rational instrument of policy. At the same time the march of economic globalisation appears to be contributing to the increasing frequency and intensity of intra-state conflicts. We examine the implications of these complex trends for security, understood both in its traditional sense as protection against military threats, but also in its less conventional sense as economic, political or environmental security. Issues to be explored include terrorism, piracy, large population movements, transnational crime, pandemics (notably HIV/AIDS), and the environment. The focus will be upon the Asia-Pacific region.

POL5GAG: Globalisation and Governance (30 cps)

In this unit we consider the economic, technological and cultural forces which are reshaping the regional and global environment. The growth of transnational investment, production and trade since 1945 has been accompanied by an equally spectacular expansion of international finance. While these trends are subject to considerable ebb and flow and to significant national variations, the increasing integration of global markets and interpenetration of national economies have become distinguishing features of the international political as much as the economic system. We will examine the nature and pace of technological change, the role of the information revolution, and the implications for their capacity to perform its traditional economic and security functions. Using Australia and Indonesia as case studies, and drawing on current policy debates, we then proceed to a wider analysis of the implications of globalisation for both states, and in particular for democratic institutions.

Electives:

POL5GTL: Globalization to Localization: Rethinking the Dilemmas of Displacement, Flight and Resettlement (30 cps)

The complex problem of refugees and other uprooted peoples is a challenge to global and local well-being. The majority of displaced persons are from resource poor countries and the countries to which they flee are also resource poor countries. The push factors, or reasons for displacement are complex, spanning environmental degradation, civil unrest to the global politics of control over resources and persecution due to religious, cultural and sexual beliefs, identities and practices. The solutions to the growing numbers of displaced persons are contentious. In this unit we will critically explore the different perspectives underlying displacement, the contexts and experiences of flight, the search for a new 'place' and the dilemmas relating to resettlement. We will also explore how the international community addresses displacement, the issues involved in repatriation, local integration and resettlement, and the role of Australia in relation to issues of asylum and resettlement.

POL5ISD: Issues in International Studies and Development: Democracy and Authoritarianism (15 cps)

The promotion of democracy and good governance has become a key objective of foreign policy and aid agencies however, external development interventions towards building democracy have had very limited success. In this unit we explore the complex social, historical and political processes that shape political regimes. We will raise a question of global significance: the sustainability of democracy in relatively poor countries. We consider the relationship between economic development and the spread of democratic forms of rule, the factors that lead authoritarian regimes to fall, the rise of fragile democracies, and the role of NGOs and civil society actors in advancing progressive development. The key objective in this unit is to provide students with frameworks for understanding political dynamics in re-democratising and de-democratising countries. Enhanced understanding of these dynamics can lead to an appreciation of the considerable obstacles facing the project to build democracy.

PHE5HE: International Perspectives in Health Economics (15 cps)

This unit will provide an understanding of how economic tools are used to improve health in developing countries. Particular emphasis will be placed upon some popular health indicators including QALYs, DALYs, YLL, and other measures of health, disease and death. In addition, students will explore the issues that surround the quality of life measurement and program evaluation in a developing country setting. Students will also gain an understanding of the importance of finance in health program sustainability and emphasis will be placed on donor funding arrangements, including the major international, national and local NGO donors such as the IMF and the World Bank, AusAid, Oxfam and Care Australia.

POL5RIP: Transformations of Modern Europe: Reason, Power and Identity (30cps)

In this unit students are provided with an introduction to ideas and concepts that have shaped modern Europe. We seek to demonstrate that the current project of European unification is best understood against a specific historic background which made it possible conceptually and feasible politically. The evolution of the concept of European citizenship can be traced back to Rene Descartes, who presaged the notion of moral autonomy; to Jean Jacques Rousseau, who conceptualised a Social Contract and the republican notion of citizenship; to Immanuel Kant, who foresaw the need for transcending the boundaries of nation-states; and more recently to Jurgen Habermas, who revived these ideals after the devastating experience of the two world wars. Understanding these and many other intellectual and political developments over time is crucial to an appreciation of forces at work in Europe today and the way that institutions and relationships develop within the multi-national European Union.

POL5HSD: Human Security and Development (15 cps)

The advancement of human security is a broadly agreed objective of development, but one that is proving elusive. In this unit we consider the varied meaning of "human security", how human security might be measured, factors that enhance human security, and factors that make people vulnerable to insecurity. Case studies may include: human trafficking, AIDS, environmental issues, refugees, livelihoods, labour, indigenous peoples, slum communities, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities. We also review global and state responses to the challenge of human security including targeted aid and humanitarian intervention.

POL5CJI: International Relations of the Asia Pacific (30 cps)

In this unit students are provided with an introduction to the international politics of the Asia Pacific. We examine: the historical formation of the region, the role played by the cold war in shaping regional dynamics; US interests and policy in the region; the regional position of China, the interests and policy of Japan and the emergence and growing regional role of India. We will also examine Taiwan-China relations, the Korean nuclear crisis, ASEAN, APEC and multilateral economic cooperation, new security challenges and security cooperation in Asia, and conclude with an overview of contemporary challenges to regional order.

PHE5IPO: International Health Policy (Week 30-34) (15 cps)

In this unit, students learn about institutions and frameworks for international health policy - national health development and global health governance, improving health services, making and implementing policies in a global context, and health policy changes and challenges.

PHE5AHR: Australia's International Health Relations (Summer) (15 cps)

In this unit, students are introduced to a range of issues associated with Australia's international health relations including globalization, overseas aid, trade, tourism, international cooperation, treaty obligations and climate change. The domestic implications of these international relations are also considered. The unit deals with key international bodies and agencies involved in the area of health, including the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies, the health agencies of

the Commonwealth of Nations, and regional organisations in which Australia plays a role. Students develop an awareness of the impact of international health developments on Australia and an ability to identify the government departments and agencies responsible for conducting Australia's international relations in the health field.

POL5MSH: Making Social Change Happen (15 cps)

In this unit we explore the conditions that enable progressive social change and those that constrain it. We do so in dialogue with a number of practitioners involved in development. We examine the interplay of actors and structures in the development field with the objective of identifying elements of successful development practice. Moving from broad debates in the social sciences, students are invited to consider a range of practical issues related to development practise, including: how non-governmental organizations mobilise people; the conditions for successful advocacy; the role of networking and informal structures in advancing social change; the constraints facing development agents; the politics of partnership and leadership; the negotiation of power.

POL5REP: International Relations Research Report (30 cps)

In this unit suitably qualified students are provided with the opportunity to conduct detailed research on an approved topic within the broad field of International Relations. Students are expected to undertake independent research, with the assistance of a supervisor, which will lead to the production of a 7,500-word research report in which the findings of their work are communicated in accordance with the requirements of formal academic work.

MST5TMC: Transnational Media in Context (30 cps)

In this unit students will gain an understanding of the role of the media in the process of globalisation during the twentieth century. A case study approach will be adopted in order to consider the political, economic and cultural implications of transnational media products and platforms with particular respect to how these have been received and used by different people in different parts of the world. Issues to be addressed will include; the asymmetrical flow of media from the West, non Western media products which transcend national boundaries, and the ways in which different media products and platforms are adopted and indigenised in different parts of the world. Students will be required to select their own case study and to present the findings of their research in class.

Faculty and Teaching Staff

Dennis Altman AM, Professor of Politics, is the author of numerous books including *51st State?* (2006), *Gore Vidal's America* (2005), and *Global Sex* (2001). His research interests include: sexuality and sexual regulation; politics of HIV/AIDS; politics and culture of the United States and Australia.

Nick Bisley is Associate Professor in International Relations. His research and teaching expertise is in the international relations of the Asia-Pacific, globalization and the diplomacy of great powers. Nick is a member of the Council for Security and Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and he regularly contributes to national and international media including the ABC, The Economist, and Al-Jazeera.

Joseph Camilleri, Professor of International Relations and Director of the Centre for Dialogue, is the author and editor of numerous books including *Regionalism in the New Asia-Pacific Order* (2003) and *Democratizing Global Governance* (2002). He specialises in issues of human rights, civilisation dialogue, global governance reform, peace and security.

Dr Michael Connors, Senior Lecturer in Politics, is the author of *Democracy and National Identity in Thailand* (2007) and *The New Global Politics of Asia Pacific*, (2004). His research interests include modern Thai politics, issues of democratization, and the politics of development.

Sandy Gifford, Professor in Anthropology, Director of the Refugee Health Research Centre, is the co-editor of *Sexual Health: An Australian Perspective* (2005) and numerous articles and chapters on refugee and health issues. Her research interests include: Medical anthropology, anthropology of forced displacement and refugee resettlement, applied anthropology.

Dr Anthony Jarvis, Lecturer in International Relations, is the co-editor of *The State in Transition: Reimagining Political Space* (1995) and numerous articles and book chapters. His research interests include: International relations theory; international organisations and economic change; globalisation; politics of regional economic organisations, especially the European Union.

Dr James Leibold, Lecturer in Asian Studies, is the author of *Reconfiguring Chinese Nationalism* (2007). His research interests include the role of ethnicity, race and national identity in modern Chinese history and society.

Stefan Auer, Lecturer in Politics, is the author of *Liberal Nationalism in Central Europe* (2004). His research interests include: the self-limiting revolutions of 1989 in Central Europe and their more recent reincarnations (e.g. Ukraine 2004); political thought of dissident intellectuals and Hannah Arendt; nationalism in Central Europe; enlargement of the European Union.

Dr John Chiddick, Lecturer in Politics, is the author of numerous book chapters and articles such as 'The Cold War and Anti-Americanism' (2007) and 'Middle East Peace Process' (2007). His research interests include: International relations; the Middle

East; the Cold War; foreign policy debates and the interventionism in the post-Cold War era.

Robert Manne, Professor and Politics Program Convenor, is the author of *Left Right Left* (2005) and *In Denial: The Stolen Generations and the Right* (2001). He regularly contributes to the Melbourne Age and Sydney Morning Herald, and is one of Australia's foremost public intellectuals. His research interests include: twentieth-century European politics, Communism, and Australian politics.

Dr Angus McIntyre, Senior Lecturer in Politics, is the author of *The Indonesian Presidency: From Personal toward Constitutional Rule* (2005). His research interests include: Indonesian politics and society; political psychology; biography; studies of political leadership.

Dr Michael O'Keefe, Lecturer in Politics, is the co-editor of *Righteous Violence: The Ethics and Politics of Military Intervention* (2005) and *Terrorism and Justice: Moral Argument in a Threatened World* (2003). His research interests include: Security; Australia's defence and foreign policies; international ethics.

Judith Brett, Professor of Politics, is the author of numerous books including *Exit Right: The Unravelling of John Howard* (2007) and *Robert Menzies' Forgotten People* (2002). Her research interests include: Australian politics and society; liberalism; political biography

Philip Bull, Associate Professor of History, is the author of *Ireland and Australia, 1798–1998* (2000) and *Land, Politics and Nationalism: A study of the Irish Land Question* (1996). His research interests include: Irish and British political history from 1800; land and nationalism

Brian Furze, Lecturer in Sociology, is the co-author of *The Potential of Ecotourism for sustainable development in Uttaranchal* (2001) and *Ecotourism and other forest services in the Asia-Pacific region* (1997). His research interests include: sustainable natural resource management and development in Australia, Asia and Europe; cross-border issues in sustainable development.

Alberto Gomes, Associate Professor in Anthropology, is the author of *Modernity and Malaysia: Settling the Menraq Forest Nomads* (2007) and *Malaysia and the Original People* (1997). His research interests include: Anthropology and sociology of development and environment; ethnicity and cultural identities; South and Southeast Asia.

Dr Trevor Hogan, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, is the co-editor of *Sociology: Place, Time, Division, Melbourne* (2006) and *Social Self, Global Culture* 2002. His research interests include: Social theory; comparative and historical sociology; cities; religion; Philippines

Joel S. Kahn, Professor of Anthropology, is the author of *Other Malays: Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism in the Modern Malay World* (2006) and *Modernity and Exclusion* (2001). His research interests include: Southeast Asia; history of

anthropology/social theory; cultural globalisation; the study of culture, race and difference.

Dr Matt Killingsworth, Associate Lecturer, is the editor of 'Europe: New Voices, New Perspectives' (2007). His research interests include: Civil society, religion and dissent and opposition in the former Communist regimes of Eastern Europe; democratisation in Eastern Europe; Habermas and the public sphere; accession to the EU by former Communist countries.

Dr Wendy Mee, Lecturer, is the author of numerous articles and book chapters including: 'Kuala Lumpur: A muddy junction' (2006) and 'Women, Gender and Science and Nation-Building' (2005). Her research interests include: Sociology of science and technology; globalization; development; feminist perspectives.

Dr Uldis Ozolins, Lecturer in Politics, is the author of numerous book chapters and articles such as *Interpreting/Translating in Australia: contemporary issues and international comparisons* (1998) and *The Politics of Language in Australia* (1993). His research interests include: Australian politics; politics of ethnicity and language; cultural diversity; language policy; Eastern European politics.

Tom Weber, Reader and Associate Professor of Politics, is the author of *Gandhi, Gandhism and the Gandhians* (2006) and *Conflict Resolution and Gandhian Ethics* (1991). His research interests include: peace and nonviolence, conflict resolution, social and political thought of M.K. Gandhi.