INTRODUCING WORLD POLITICS,
A BOARD OF STUDIES ENDORSED
HSC COURSE

From terrorism to trade and from climate change to war, world politics affects us all. The HSC World Politics course taught by the University of Sydney aims to give students a deep understanding of global events by exploring the major political forces at work in the world and how they shape the decisions of governments and their leaders. We examine the classic and contemporary debates about how the world works, including questions about whether war is natural and inevitable, whether there is any more to international politics than just power, and whether governments and citizens can hope to rectify long-standing problems of injustice and deprivation. This course will teach students how to think critically about the actions of governments and other powerful decision-makers, and how to absorb current events into a broader understanding of the workings of world politics.

The HSC World Politics Course is taught by staff from the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. As well as appearing on a student’s HSC record, it can be counted towards degrees at the University of Sydney. It’s a way of advanced students starting University while they are still at school.

Board Endorsed Courses, such as World Politics, are designed for high-achieving students to supplement and extend the HSC curriculum. Any student who has the ability and aptitude to undertake university-level study is welcome to apply. Students can do World Politics as part of the University of Sydney Summer School program during the January that falls after either their Year 10 or Year 11.

WHY STUDY HSC WORLD POLITICS?

Students will learn useful skills thinking and writing about key issues in today’s world. World Politics is part of the Government and International Relations major at the University of Sydney. Our graduates have found jobs throughout the public sector, politics, media, NGOs and business, including the United Nations, the Prime Minister’s Office, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Amnesty International, GetUp!, the ABC and the Sydney Morning Herald.

On successful completion of World Politics, students have earned six credit points (equivalent to a semester-length unit of study) that they can count towards a range of degrees at the University of Sydney.

The skills acquired by World Politics students are also useful in other HSC subjects, such as English, History, Geography, Legal Studies, Business Studies and Society and Culture.
The course fee is $782, about one-third of the full fee rate for doing the same course as part of a University of Sydney degree. Students who later include World Politics in their degrees do not have to pay anything more to have it count.

WHAT DOES WORLD POLITICS COVER?

World Politics consists of nine modules:

1. **Introduction to world politics.**
   What is politics? What tools do we need to study it? What are theories? What are the main theories of world politics?

2. **Realist theories of world politics: selfishness and conflict.**
   What does it mean to be a “realist” in world politics? The realist view of human nature and the state, the different kinds of realism, and how realists explain war.

3. **Liberal theories of world politics: selfishness and cooperation.**
   The philosophical origins of liberalism, the liberal view of international law and order, liberalism in the international political economy, and the neoliberal versus realist debate.

4. **Marxist and feminist theories of world politics: imperialism, gender and the international economy.**
   Why is Marxism relevant? What does a feminist view of international relations look like? How does power shape economic relations between countries?

5. **Constructivist, post-structural and post-colonial theories of world politics.**
   The world is what we make of it, but who are “we”? The power of ideas, the power of discourse, and the power of the powerless.

6. **International law and order.**
   Is it possible? The idea of anarchy in the international system and how we may overcome it. The development of international law, international regimes, and the United Nations.

7. **National and transnational identities in world politics.**
   Nationalism, culture, and religions as international actors. The development of regional identities and regions as political entities.

8. **Violence in world politics.**
   War is a central concern of world politics. How has it evolved, and what new forms is it taking? What is terrorism, and why does it happen? How can we make the world more secure?

9. **The global environment, human rights, and humanitarian intervention.**
   The global environment and human rights pose two of the greatest challenges for international cooperation. Can countries cooperate to solve humanity’s biggest problems?
HOW ARE STUDENTS ASSESSED?

Assessment for World Politics consists of:
- a 1000-word essay (20%)
- a 1500 word essay (30%)
- a one hour short answer mid-term examination (10%)
- a two hour short answer and essay final examination (40%).

As part of the course, students are taught how to write university standard essays. The assessments are spread across the Course. Assessment is marked by the teaching staff from the University of Sydney.

HOW IS THE WORLD POLITICS COURSE RECOGNISED?

World Politics is endorsed by the Board of Studies as a one-unit course. A result for World Politics will appear on a student’s Record of Achievement and can be counted towards a number of degrees at the University of Sydney.

Results in World Politics are not included in the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

DATES, TIMES AND PLACES

Classes run from on weekdays from Tuesday January 3 to Tuesday January 17 2017, starting at 10am and finishing at 2pm (includes a lunch break). All classes will be held at the Camperdown campus of the University of Sydney. The final examination will be held on Friday 22 January at the University of Sydney.

HOW TO APPLY

Any student who has the ability and aptitude to undertake university-level study is welcome to apply. Students can take World Politics as part of the University of Sydney Summer School program during the January that falls after either their Year 10 or Year 11.

Applications for the 2017 Summer School close Friday 11 November 2016. However, we may need to close earlier if positions fill up. Please apply as soon as possible!

Applications are assessed by the course convener on the basis of a student’s past academic record and the School Principal’s recommendation. We take into account ability to meet the intellectual demands of the course and to study in a university environment. Please note that places are limited and that applications are assessed on a competitive basis.

World Politics is offered by the University on a cost-recovery basis. The cost as at 2016 is $786. The fee is payable once you are accepted into the course.

Candidates should complete the attached application form and take it to their school principal for approval and submission to the University. Students must also attach a copy of a recent school report. Please send all applications from a single school together, rather than students sending forms individually.
Completed applications (including all attachments) should be sent to:

HSC World Politics Coordinator (David Smith)
Department of Government and International Relations
Merewether Bdg HO4
University of Sydney
NSW 2006

All information in this form is correct as of July 4 2016 but may be subject to change.