

HUMN 1052 AUSTRALIAN POLITICS AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 102738

Coordinator James Trapani ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/James Trapani/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/James%20Trapani/))

Description We live in an increasingly interconnected world where international trade, foreign policy, digital communication and flows of migrants and cultures across borders appear to undermine the importance of national communities. Despite this, everyday life is still profoundly influenced by the decisions which national governments make and the powers they exercise. This subject introduces Australian political institutions, processes and contemporary issues. It traces democracy beyond Parliamentary representation to encompass active citizenship, through which public opinion is formed and expressed. Students will identify key political issues in contemporary Australia, understand how political institutions respond, and develop the skills to contribute to public debates.

School Humanities & Comm Arts

Discipline Studies in Human Society, Not Elsewhere Classified.

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 1 subject

Equivalent Subjects HUMN 1005 - Australia and the World HUMN 1006 - Australia and the World (WSTC) HUMN 1055 - Australian Politics and Active Citizenship (WSTC)

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Describe Australia's representative systems of government
2. Explain Australia's federal system
3. Identify key issues in Australian foreign policy
4. Participate in contemporary public debates using a variety of written genres

Subject Content

1. What is liberal democracy? To what extent do Australian political institutions reflect liberal democratic principles?
 - The origins and development of Australian Federation
 - Responsible government: representative democracy and the policy process
 - The Australian State: the Federal system and the Constitution, the legislature, the cabinet, the judiciary, and the public service
2. Political representation: reflecting the political will?
 - Australia's electoral system and elections: How democratic are they?
 - The history and development of the major parties
 - The role of minor parties and independents in Australian politics
 - Communal rights in Australian democracy, including the rights of first nations peoples
3. Australia in the world

- Thinking about foreign policy ? the traditional agent

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Short Answer	250 words	10	N	Individual	Y
Portfolio	1,500 words	50	N	Individual	Y
Final Exam	2 hours	40	N	Individual	Y

Prescribed Texts

- Online readings

Teaching Periods

Autumn (2025)

Bankstown City

On-site

Subject Contact James Trapani ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/James Trapani/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/James%20Trapani/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1052_25-AUT_BK_1#subjects)

Penrith (Kingswood)

On-site

Subject Contact James Trapani ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/James Trapani/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/James%20Trapani/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1052_25-AUT_KW_1#subjects)

Spring (2025)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

On-site

Subject Contact Diane Colman ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Diane Colman/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Diane%20Colman/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1052_25-SPR_PS_1#subjects)