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| <b>Course Code:</b>        | 2004GIR                                 |
| <b>Course Name:</b>        | Government-Business Relations           |
| <b>Trimester:</b>          | Trimester 3, 2018                       |
| <b>Program:</b>            | Associate Degree in Commerce & Business |
| <b>Credit Points:</b>      | 10                                      |
| <b>Course Coordinator:</b> | Martin Soden                            |
| <b>Document modified:</b>  | 12 September, 2018                      |

### **Teaching Team**

Your lecturer/tutor can be contacted via the email system on the portal.

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### **Staff Consultation**

Your lecturer/tutor is available each week for consultation outside of normal class times. Times that your lecturer/tutor will be available for consultation will be given in the first week of lectures. A list of times and rooms will be published on the Griffith College Portal under the “myTimetable” link.

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### **Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course

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## **Brief Course Description**

Government-Business Relations is a 10 Credit Point course within the Associate Degree in Commerce and Business. The course is situated within the second year of the program. The Associate Degree in Commerce and Business is designed to provide students with a pathway to:

- further university studies in Commerce, Business and related degrees or
- direct employment

This course examines the relationships between government and business, and asks what impact these have on governmental decision-making and democratic practice. It explores the institutional structures involved, the political organisation of business, the nature of industry policy-making, government policy toward business and the impact of business on such policy.

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## **Rationale**

Politics is a central feature of our lives – issues such as oil prices, globalisation and climate change are the subject of front-page headlines and nightly news bulletins. These issues can have a direct impact on millions of people across the globe. All citizens have a stake in understanding the politics that lie behind these events, and how they are affected by them. For these reasons alone, this course is important – it helps to make sense of the seemingly mystifying and chaotic world we live in.

Yet, topics such as globalisation and climate change are also central to government-business relations. This is because almost every aspect of the commercial world – from taxation to pollution control, consumer regulation to employment law – has been shaped by political decisions. As a result business success often depends on understanding and successfully engaging in the political process. For this reason, this course is essential for business students.

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## **Aims**

The course explores the impact government and business has on one another in a national and international context and asks what consequences these relationships have for both government and business. It will provide insights into how government policies and practice affect business, and how business influences and relates to government. While the Australian political system is used as a point of reference, extensive international comparisons are made. The course also provides insights into the political practices and business culture of some of Australia's major trading partners.

In order to explore these themes the course initially introduces central concepts in the study of politics and then describes the main institutions and actors in government-business relations. Having established this foundation the course explores government-business relations in comparative perspective before examining some of the most significant international political issues affecting business, including: global environmental regulation, business regulation, and globalisation.

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## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate a basic understanding of politics and current events;
  - 2) Identify key political institutions and critically evaluate how they impact on business and society;
  - 3) Critically analyse government-business relations;
  - 4) Compare and critically evaluate Australia's system of government-business relationship with those in other countries;
  - 5) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of some of the key policy issues confronting business.
  - 6) Demonstrate competence in a range of generic skills required for academic study which include the following: critical thinking skills, ability to critically analyse data, problem-solving skills, ability to argue in an articulate manner, self-management skills, the ability to develop an argument and structure a response to questions and improved written expression skills.
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## Texts and Supporting Materials

van Acker, E., Eccleston, R., Hollander, R. and Williams, P. 2013 Politics for Business Students, 2nd Edition, Frenchs Forest NSW: Pearson Education.

Curran, G. and van Acker, E. (eds) 2013 Government and Business in Volatile Times. Frenchs Forest NSW: Pearson Education.

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## Organisation and Teaching Strategies

Each week, you are required to attend 4 hours of contact time in class consisting of lectures, tutorials and workshops. The **lectures** will raise debates, theoretical issues and empirical evidence while the **tutorials** will allow you to further explore these issues and debates in an informal small-group environment. Tutorial sessions will be based on the key readings (see Texts and Supporting Materials above). **Workshop** sessions will provide you with the opportunity to develop a range of skills that will support learning objectives and foster certain generic skills that are helpful to your professional development.

## Class Contact Summary

### Attendance:

Your attendance in class will be marked twice during a four hour class. To receive full attendance, you must be present in the classroom on both occasions.

### Program Progression:

You are reminded that satisfactory Program Progression requires that attendance in classes is maintained at equal to or greater than 80%, and that GPA is maintained at equal to or greater than 3.5 [please see Griffith College Policy Library - Program Progression Policy - for more information].

### Lecture Notes & Course Materials:

You are required to bring a copy of the lecture notes printed from the Griffith College website and any other required course materials to classes each week.

### Independent Study:

You are expected to reinforce your learning gained during class time by undertaking sufficient independent study. For this 10 CP course, you will need to spend at least 10 hours per week engaged in activities that will help your learning and fulfil the course objectives. Thus, provided you have well used the 4 hours per week of formal contact, you would then complete at least 6 hours per week of independent study.

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## Content Schedule

### Weekly Teaching Schedule

| Week | Topic   | Activity | Readings  |
|------|---|----------|---|
| 1    | Introduction to Government-Business Relations | Lecture  | van Acker, Ch 1                                       |
|      |   | Workshop | Student workbook/expectations                         |
| 2    | Political Actors                              | Lecture  | van Acker ch/s 5 and 6                                |
|      |   | Tutorial | Student Workbook                                      |
| 3    | Patterns of Government Business Relations     | Lecture  | Van Acker and Curran, ch 1 and 2                      |
|      |   | Tutorial | Student Workbook;                                     |
| 4    | Globalisation, Government and Business        | Lecture  | Van Acker and Curran, ch's 4 and 11                   |
|      |   | Tutorial | Student Workbook; Submission presentation preparation |

|    |  |          |  |
|----|--|----------|--|
| 5  | GBR in Australia, the impact of globalisation              | Lecture  | van Acker ch 6   |
|    |  | Tutorial | Student Workbook: Submission presentation preparation      |
| 6  | The Asian models: China and Japan                          | Lecture  | van Acker and Curran ch 7, 8                               |
|    |  | Tutorial | Presentations  |
| 7  | The United States: Heading for a fall?                     | Lecture  | van Acker and Curran ch 3                                  |
|    |  | Tutorial | presentations  |
| 8  | Germany and Sweden: social democracy or business as usual? | Lecture  | van Acker and Curran ch 5                                  |
|    |  | Lecture  | Written Business Submission preparation                    |
| 9  | Business Regulation  | Lecture  | van Acker and Curran ch 9. Written business submission due |
|    |  | Tutorial | Student workbook   |
| 10 | Corporate Responsibility                                   | Lecture  | van Acker and Curran ch 10                                 |
|    |  | Tutorial | Student Workbook   |
| 11 | Government, Business and the Challenge of Climate Change   | Lecture  | van Acker and Curran ch 12                                 |
|    |  | Tutorial | Student Workbook/portfolio                                 |
| 12 | Revision and Exam Information                              | Lecture  |  |
|    | Revision and Exam Information                              | Tutorial | Submission of Student Workbook/portfolio                   |

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## Assessment

This section sets out the assessment requirements for this course.

### Summary of Assessment

| Item | Assessment Task                     | Weighting | Relevant Learning Outcomes | Due Date    |
|------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1    | Portfolio/workbook                  | 20%       | 1,2,3,6                    | 2-12        |
| 2    | Presentation of Business Submission | 15%       | 2,3,4,5,6                  | 6-7         |
| 3    | Written Business Submission         | 35%       | 2,3,4,5,6                  | 9           |
| 4    | End of trimester exam               | 30%       | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | Exam Period |

### Assessment Details

You will be required to complete the following assessment items throughout the course:

#### **Portfolio/workbook** (20%)

Students will complete set activities each week as explained in the course workbook which you will receive in Week 1. Some of these activities will be completed in class, and some will require preparation or completion in your own time. Your tutor will check and mark the completion of these activities each week so you must be present to hand them in.

You are expected to attend all tutorials and to participate fully within the tutorial sessions as they are an invaluable opportunity for you to reinforce your understanding of key theoretical concepts through peer analysis and interpersonal communication. 20 marks are allocated for the portfolio/workbook which will include activities to build your knowledge and skills of the main course topics, and also to assist you in preparation for the other assessment items. You must be prepared to discuss your workbook answers with the class and to contribute to discussion of others' viewpoints.

As a result of participating in tutorials, you will gain improved teamwork abilities, in particular the ability to argue and discuss with your fellow students issues related to government and how they impact on the business community. You will also have at the end of the course enhanced problem-solving skills since often policy problems are put forward for you to solve after discussion with your fellow students. For the same reason, your analytical and conceptual skills are being developed, as tutorials will sometimes be focused around a certain reading or newspaper article.

## **Item: Business Submission**

For your major assignment, you will complete a business submission. The marks for the business submission are divided into two parts:

### **1. Business Submission Presentation (15%)**

Students will make a short individual presentation to the class detailing your

- interest group
- submission position, and
- evidence to support that submission.

Presentations should be between 10 minutes long and will be scheduled during tutorials and workshops in Week 6, 7 & 8. You can use powerpoint or other media to support your presentation, and should invite discussion of your ideas from the class. Feedback you receive from peers and your tutor should be incorporated into your final written Business Submission.

### **2. Written Business Submission (35%)**

This final business submission is an individual applied assignment in which you make a policy submission on behalf of a firm, business association, or interest group, suggesting that the government take a particular policy position on an issue. This assessment allows you to apply your knowledge of political processes and policy issues in a real world context. You will write a submission on one of a few possible topics which will be provided by your lecturer during class time.

This assessment item will test your critical thinking skills, and your ability to critically evaluate a range of primary sources (i.e. newspaper articles, media releases, etc). You need to critically analyse the statements of a range of interest groups that advocate courses of action for government to take in various policy areas. It also presents a test of problem-solving skills, encouraging you to put forward solutions to policy problems. Because you are engaged in trying to persuade government to adopt a certain policy stance, you are required to argue in an articulate and concise fashion, therefore, helping you to develop your writing skills and your ability to write for a particular audience. Finally, it is an individual assignment, so it will also test your self-management skills.

**Note:** Expectations and criteria for the major assignment will be discussed extensively in tutorials.

A requirement for submission of your Business Submission is that it must be uploaded to Turnitin for checking of originality against sources (including web/database/other students' assignments) by the due date of submission. Failing to submit to Turnitin will result in you receiving a Did Not Submit (DNS) mark for your assignment. Your tutor will discuss how Turnitin will be specifically used in your course. Turnitin Student User Guides are also available from the Griffith College portal.

### **Final Examination (30%)**

The exam may include short essay and/or short answer questions and tests your knowledge of the issues covered throughout the course as well as your ability to apply more abstract arguments relating to the changing patterns of government-business relations to the analysis

of these issues.

As the final exam is an individual assessment item, it will help you to develop strong self-management skills. Short essay questions require you to develop an argument, structure a response to a question, and to try to persuade the reader of a point of view. Therefore, the exam also helps you to improve your written expression skills. As you will not know the questions in advance, your ability to adapt to situations is also going to determine in part how well you perform in the exam. Because you are often required to develop your own opinion and to critically evaluate a statement, your analytical and conceptual skills will be improved as a result of undertaking this assessment item.

## **Submission and Return of Assessment Items**

Normally you will be able to collect your assignments in class within fourteen [14] days of the due date for submission of the assignment.

### **Retention of Originals**

You must be able to produce a copy of all work submitted if so requested. Copies should be retained until after the release of final results for the course.

### **Extensions**

To apply for an extension of time for an assignment, you must submit an Application for Extension of Assignment form to your teacher at least 24 hours before the date the assignment is due. Grounds for extensions are usually: serious illness, accident, disability, bereavement or other compassionate circumstances and must be able to be substantiated with relevant documentation [e.g. Griffith College Medical Certificate]. Please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library - for guidelines regarding extensions and deferred assessment.

### **Assessment Feedback**

Marks awarded for in-trimester assessment items, except those being moderated externally with Griffith University, will be available on the Student Portal within fourteen [14] days of the due date. This does not apply to the final assessment item in this course (marks for this item will be provided with the final course result).

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## Generic Skills

Griffith College aims to develop graduates who have an open and critical approach to learning and a capacity for lifelong learning. Through engagement in their studies, students are provided with opportunities to begin the development of these and other generic skills.

Studies in this course will give you opportunities to begin to develop the following skills:

| Generic Skills                   | Taught | Practised | Assessed |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Written Communication            | Yes    | Yes       | Yes      |
| Oral Communication               |        | Yes       | Yes      |
| Information Literacy             | Yes    | Yes       | Yes      |
| Secondary Research               |        | Yes       | Yes      |
| Critical and Innovative Thinking | Yes    | Yes       | Yes      |
| Academic Integrity               | Yes    | Yes       | Yes      |
| Self Directed Learning           |        | Yes       | Yes      |
| Team Work                        |        | Yes       | Yes      |
| Cultural Intelligence            | Yes    | Yes       | Yes      |
| English Language Proficiency     |        | Yes       | Yes      |

## Additional Course Generic Skills

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### Additional Course Information

In addition to formal contact hours, you are provided with extra support through individual consultation with teaching staff, tutorials in English language, and self-access computer laboratories.

### Teacher and Course Evaluations

Students commented that they felt the course was relevant with its reference to real life situations faced by business and government, and its use of up-to-date resources and materials. The use of modern case studies has been continued this trimester to give students an insight into the workings of today's business and government sectors. Students did want increased feedback on assessment items so the latest trimester includes tutorial discussion of assessment criteria, and an expanded criteria sheet with extended comments for the major assessment item of the essay/business submission.

Your feedback is respected and valued by your lecturers and tutors. You are encouraged to provide your thoughts on the course and teaching, both positive and critical, directly to your lecturer and tutor or by completing course and lecturer evaluations via Griffith College's online evaluation tool whenever these are available.

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## Academic Integrity

Griffith College is committed to maintaining high academic standards to protect the value of its qualifications. Academic integrity means acting with the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility in learning, teaching and research. It is important for students, teachers, researchers and all staff to act in an honest way, be responsible for their actions, and show fairness in every part of their work. Academic integrity is important for an individual's and the College's reputation.

All staff and students of the College are responsible for academic integrity. As a student, you are expected to conduct your studies honestly, ethically and in accordance with accepted standards of academic conduct. Any form of academic conduct that is contrary to these standards is considered a breach of academic integrity and is unacceptable.

Some students deliberately breach academic integrity standards with intent to deceive. This conscious, pre-meditated form of cheating is considered to be one of the most serious forms of fraudulent academic behaviour, for which the College has zero tolerance and for which penalties, including exclusion from the College, will be applied.

However, Griffith College also recognises many students breach academic integrity standards without intent to deceive. In these cases, students may be required to undertake additional educational activities to remediate their behaviour and may also be provided appropriate advice by academic staff.

As you undertake your studies at Griffith College, your lecturers, tutors and academic advisors will provide you with guidance to understand and maintain academic integrity; however, it is also your responsibility to seek out guidance if and when you are unsure about appropriate academic conduct.

In the case of any allegation of academic misconduct made against a student he or she may request the guidance and support of a Griffith College Student Learning Advisor or Student Counsellor.

Please ensure that you are familiar with the [Griffith College Academic Integrity Policy](#); this policy provides an overview of some of the behaviours that are considered breaches of academic integrity, as well as the penalties and processes involved when a breach is identified.

For further information please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy on the Griffith College website – Policy Library.

### *Risk Assessment Statement*

There are no out of the ordinary risks associated with this course.

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