



1. General Course Information

1.1 Course Details

Course Code:	2004GIR
Course Name:	Government Business Relations
Trimester:	Trimester 1, 2020
Program:	Associate Degree in Commerce & Business
Credit Points:	10
Course Coordinator:	Martin Soden
Document modified:	3 December, 2019

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.

Assumed Knowledge

There is no assumed content knowledge for this course. However, students should ensure they have successfully completed Academic and Professional Skills and that they can apply these skills in this course.

1.2 Teaching Team

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

Name	Email
Martin Soden	maso@portal.griffithcollege.edu.au

1.3 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 "Support and Services/Teacher Consultation Times" link.

1.4 Timetable

Your timetable is available on the Griffith College Portal at Class Timetable in Student and Services.

1.5 Technical Specifications

All students must have access to a computer or suitable mobile device.

2. Aims, Outcomes & Generic Skills

2.1 Course Aims

The course explores the impact government and business have 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 cultures 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.

2.2 Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course you should be able to:

- 1) **Discuss** a basic understanding of politics and current events;
- 2) **Critically evaluate** how key political institutions impact on business and society;
- 3) **Synthesise** your understanding of the relationship between government and business and society;
- 4) **Compare** and contrast Australia's system of government-business relationship with those in other countries;
- 5) **Explain** knowledge and understanding of some of the key policy issues confronting businesses.

2.3 Generic skills

For further details on the Generic Skills please refer to the Graduate Generic Skills and Capabilities policy.

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
Knowledge and skills with critical judgement	√	√	√
Communication and collaboration skills	√	√	√
Self-directed and active learning skills		√	
Creative and future thinking skills	√	√	√
Social responsibility and ethical awareness	√	√	√
Cultural competence and awareness in a culturally diverse environment		√	

3. Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Understanding Government Business Relations in an Unpredictable World (2019), Edited by Curran, G. and van Acker, E.

3.2 Recommended Resources

3.3 College Support Services and Learning Resources

The College provides many facilities and support services to assist students in their studies. Links to information about College support resources that are available to students are included below for easy reference.

[Digital Library](#) – Databases to which Griffith College students have access to through the Griffith Library Databases.

MyStudy – there is a dedicated website for this course via MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal.

[Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) - this tutorial helps students to understand what academic integrity is and why it matters. You will be able to identify types of breaches of academic integrity, understand what skills you will need in order to maintain academic integrity, and learn about the processes of referencing styles.

Services and Support provides a range of services to support students throughout their studies including personal support such as Counselling; Academic support; and Welfare support.

Jobs and Employment in the [Student Hub](#) can assist students with career direction, resume and interview preparation, job search tips, and more.

[IT Support](#) provides details of accessing support, information on s numbers and internet access and computer lab rules.

3.4 Other Learning Information

Attendance

You are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials and to actively engage in learning during these sessions. You are expected to bring all necessary learning resources to class such as the required textbook and /or Workbook. In addition, you may BYOD (bring your own device) to class such as a laptop or tablet. This is not a requirement as computer lab facilities are available on campus, however, the use of such devices in the classroom is encouraged with appropriate and considerate use principles being a priority.

Preparation and Participation in Class

In order to enhance learning, prepare before lectures and tutorials. Read the relevant section of your text book before a lecture, and for a tutorial read both the textbook and the relevant lecture notes. If you have been given tutorial exercises, make sure you complete them. Active participation in lectures and tutorials will improve your learning. Ask questions when something is unclear or when you want to bring some issue to your lecturer or tutor's attention; respond to questions to test your knowledge and engage in discussion to help yourself and others learn.

Consultation Sessions

Teachers offer extra time each week to assist students outside the classroom. This is known as 'consultation time.' You may seek assistance from your teacher on email or in person according to how the teacher has explained this to the class. Attendance during consultation time is optional but you are encouraged to use this extra help to improve your learning outcomes.

Course Materials

Lecture notes will be made available to you in MyStudy on the Griffith College Portal and you are advised to either print these out and bring them to each class so that extra notes can be added or BYOD (bring your own device) and add extra notes digitally.

Self-Directed Learning

You will be expected to learn independently. This means you must organise and learn the course content even when you are not specifically asked to do so by your lecturer or tutor. This involves revising the weekly course material. It also means you will need to find additional information for some assessment items beyond that given to you in textbooks and lecture notes, and to construct your own response to a question or topic. All of this requires careful planning of your time. Expect to spend, on average, at least 10 hours per week including class time for each of your courses.

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].

Teacher and course Evaluation

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 evaluation tool whenever these are available.

4. Learning and Teaching Activities

4.1 Weekly Learning Activities

Week	Topic	Activity	Readings	Learning Outcomes
1	Introduction to Government Business Relations	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran, Ch 1	1, 2,
		Tutorial	Current news items in the media	
2	Political Actors	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran, Ch 2	3, 4,
		Tutorial	Student Workbook	
3	Patterns of Government Business Relations	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran, Ch 1 & 2	3, 5
		Tutorial	Student Workbook	
4	Globalisation, Government and Business	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran, Chs 3 & 4	2, 3, 5
		Tutorial	Student Workbook; submission preparation	
5	GBR in Australia, the impact of globalisation	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran, Ch 4	4, 5
		Tutorial	Student Workbook	
6	GBR in Asia	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran, Ch 6 & 7	2, 3, 5
		Tutorial	Team presentations	
7	The United States: Heading for a fall?	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran, Ch 5	2, 3, 5, 6
		Tutorial	Team presentation	
8	Germany and Sweden: social democracy	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran Ch 8	2, 3, 5
		Tutorial	Student Workbook	
9	Business Regulation	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran Ch 9	1, 3, 5
		Tutorial	Student Workbook	
10	Corporate Social Responsibility	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran Ch 10	1, 3, 5
		Tutorial	Student Workbook	
11	Government, Business and the Challenge of Climate Change	Lecture	Van Acker and Curran Ch 10	1, 2, 3, 5
		Tutorial	Workbook completion and collection	
12	Revision and Exam Information	Lecture	Course in review	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
		Tutorial	Exam preparation	

5. Assessment Plan

5.1 Assessment Summary

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

5.2 Assessment Detail

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 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. 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. It is a requirement that all students attend and participate in this feedback activity as this accounts for 5% of the task.

2. Written Business Submission (35%)

This final business submission is an 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.

5.3 Late Submission

An assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension from the Course Coordinator, will be penalised. The standard penalty is the reduction of the mark allocated to the assessment item by 5% of the maximum mark applicable for the assessment item, for each working day or part working day that the item is late. Assessment items submitted more than five working days after the due date are awarded zero marks.

Please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library > Assessment Policy for guidelines and penalties for late submission.

5.4 Other Assessment Information

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.

Requests for extension

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 Student Medical Certificate](#)]. Please refer to the Griffith College website - Policy Library - for guidelines regarding extensions and deferred assessment.

Return of Assessment Items

1. 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).
2. Students will be advised of their final grade through the Student Portal. Students can review their exam papers after student grades have been published (see relevant Griffith College Fact Sheet for allocated times at Support> Factsheets). Review of exam papers will not be permitted after the final date to enrol.
3. Marks for **all** assessment items including the final exam (if applicable) will be recorded in the Moodle Course Site and made available to students through the Moodle Course Site.

The sum of your marks overall assessment items in this course does not necessarily imply your final grade for the course. Standard grade cut off scores can be varied for particular courses, so you need to wait for the official release of grades to be sure of your grade for this course.

6. Policies & Guidelines

Griffith College assessment-related policies can be found in the [Griffith College Policy Library](#) which include the following policies:

Assessment Policy, Special Consideration, Deferred Assessment, Alternate Exam Sitting, Medical Certificates, Academic Integrity, Finalisation of Results, Review of Marks, Moderation of Assessment, Turn-it-in Software Use. These policies can be accessed using the 'Document Search' feature within the [Policy Library](#)

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 an allegation of a breach of academic integrity being 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 Griffith College website - Policy Library > Academic Integrity Policy

Reasonable Adjustments for Assessment – The Disability Services policy

The Disability Services policy (accessed using the Document Search' feature with the [Policy Library](#)) outlines the principles and processes that guide the College in making reasonable adjustments to assessment for students with disabilities while maintaining academic robustness of its programs.

Risk Assessment Statement

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

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