

States and Nations

PLT310



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Level of study: [?](#)

Undergraduate Level
3

EFTSL: [?](#)

0.125

Delivery Method: [?](#)

Fully Online

Prerequisites: [?](#)

Yes

Availability: [?](#)

2012:

SP1 - SP3 -

Duration:

13 weeks

Government loans available:

FEE-HELP [?](#)

Domestic student fee:

\$795.00 (AUD)

International student fee:

\$1,020.00 (AUD)

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Description

Why do we often think that the citizens of each state form, collectively, a nation, making their will known through elections? Since 1914 new states have been continuously created and justified on the basis of the principle of national self-determination. We examine the history of the principle, its theoretical justifications and its applications. Issues include: What makes a group of people a nation; how self-determination became a principle of International Law, justifying decolonisation; whether Indigenous peoples have a right to self-determination; whether there is a right to secede, and whether this principle might be abandoned within a united Europe.

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Prerequisites

Students must have successfully completed Level 1 and 2 Politics units before enrolling into this unit.

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Special Requirements

- Audio/Visual equipment
- Broadband access

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Assessment

- Essay — Major (50%)
- Paper 1 — Short (20%)
- Paper 2 — Short (20%)
- Participation — Assessable Discussion (10%)

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this unit students will be able to:

- comprehend complex texts and processes
- think critically
- problem-solve
- communicate their thoughts on-line and in writing
- thinking creatively
- identify and analyse political processes
- engage in comparative analysis
- use social science theories in these tasks
- use theory to identify causal factors
- use normative theory to evaluate and assess

Topics

This unit addresses the following topics.

Number	Topic
1	The urge for independence: an Introduction
2	The state: a story of the centralisation of political power
3	The nation: a story of mass mobilisation
4	Creating states out of nations: the principle of national self-determination from 1789 to 1945
5	Decolonisation as an exercise of self-determination
6	Secession as an exercise of self-determination: Norway and Bangladesh
7	Secession: explanatory theories
8	Secession: normative theories
9	Unregulated and regulated secessions: Yugoslavia and Quebec
10	Self-determination in Australia
11	Secessaion and international law
12	Beyond national self-determination: the European Union - a new form of state organisation?

Study Resources

This unit is delivered using the following methods and materials:

Instructional Methods

- Discussion Forum/Discussion Board
- Standard Media
- Web links

Textbooks

More information on your prescribed textbook will be coming soon. Please check back regularly for updates.

Textbook information for 2012 is currently being finalised and will be available on the Unibooks website from January, 2012.

To locate textbook information for 2011, please visit the OUA section of the [Unibooks](#) website and search for your

unit code and Study Period.

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Relevant Courses

This unit is an approved elective in the following courses:

- [Bachelor of Arts, Macquarie University](#)

This unit may be eligible for credit towards other courses:

- Many undergraduate courses on offer through OUA include 'open elective' where any OUA unit can be credited to the course. You need to check the Award Requirements on the course page for the number of allowed open electives and any level limitations.
- In other cases, the content of this unit might be relevant to a course on offer through OUA or elsewhere. In order to receive credit for this unit in the course you will need to supply the provider institution with a copy of the Unit Profile in the approved format, which you can download here. Note that the Unit Profile is set at the start of the year, and if textbooks change this may not match the Unibooks textbook list.

 [View Detailed Unit Profile](#)

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