This Unit examines how parliaments and legislatures operate and is founded on the basis of theoretically-informed but policy-relevant research. It provides students with a sense of why cultures, traditions and informal relationships matter as much (if not more) than formal procedures. This comparative Unit is offered in association with the Parliament of Western Australia. It represents the first Unit of its kind in Australia and is designed to be of particular value to students considering a career in public service.

Seminars and workshops are delivered in intensive teaching mode (24 hours contact time), which may include evenings and weekends. Students will then complete research assignments independently, in consultation with teaching staff.

Parliaments and legislatures are the decisive arena for legislative change and policy-making. Parliaments fulfil a critical role in terms of linking governments and the governed (not least in terms of democratic accountability), aggregating and representing the diverse interests of society, whilst fulfilling their legislative and scrutiny roles.

This Unit focuses on the principles and practicalities of how parliaments operate, and is founded on theoretically-informed and policy-relevant research. It provides students with a sense of why cultures, traditions and relationships matter as much formal procedures. The Parliament of Western Australia provides the institutional focus for this Unit, with appropriate comparisons to the Houses of Parliament in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth Parliament and other legislatures.

Students will be able to use this comparative approach to situate their analysis within an appreciation of the changing role of parliaments and legislatures and evolving frameworks of multi-level governance. Classes will be held in the WA Parliament and at Murdoch University.

How to enrol
You can select the Unit as part of your Masters Course with the Sir Walter Murdoch School OR enrol only in the Unit: www.murdoch.edu.au/Future-students/Domestic-students/Deciding-what-to-study/Unit-options/

Want to know more?
For more information in this Unit, please contact Professor Matthew Flinders, M.Flinders@murdoch.edu.au