



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME INTP 113: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Study period: 6–9 June 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 10–29 June 2016

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures (Stream 1): Monday, Wednesday and Friday 09:00-09:50, MCLT103

Lectures (Stream 2): Monday, Wednesday and Friday 12:00-12:50, KKL301

Tutorials

Please see the Academic Timetable 2016 www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Joe Burton
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Lecturer: Dr Alexander Bukh
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Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and tutorial programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

This course is an introduction to the principal concepts, issues and theoretical debates within the field of International Relations. Topics covered include: power, diplomacy, the United Nations, arms control, terrorism, developmental politics, civil society and international political economy. Upon completion of the course, students should have a good basic understanding of international relations and a solid foundation for taking upper-level courses on the subject.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate a critical understanding of the core theoretical approaches to international relations;
2. demonstrate a critical understanding of the core actors, events and debates within international relations;
3. develop their capacity for critical engagement with texts and other sources of information;
4. prepare and structure an essay that is cogent and persuasive;
5. conduct independent research;
6. test theories using empirical data.

Teaching format

There are three lectures and one tutorial per week. Tutorials begin in the second week of the trimester. It is important that you prepare for the tutorials so that you are able to contribute constructively to the discussions. This means doing background readings or research on the topic for discussion and preparing presentations when asked. The tutorial questions for each week can be downloaded from Blackboard before each tutorial.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. attend at least 8 out of 10 tutorials. Tutorial attendance is important because it helps to develop communication skills, provides an opportunity to interact and debate with fellow students, and enables tutors to regularly check student understanding of lecture content.
2. make a bona fide attempt at the two essays and submit in hard copy and electronic format by the due date (with the proviso noted below under 'Extensions and Penalties'). These essays are mandatory in order to demonstrate your attainment of Course Learning Objectives 1-6.
3. sit the final examination. This is mandatory, in order to demonstrate your attainment of Course Learning Objectives 1, 2 and 6.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. An approximate indication of the hours to be spent on each component of the course is as follows:

Preparation and attendance at classes – 4 hours per week attendance at lectures and tutorials plus 4 hours per week preparation for lectures and tutorials (4+4x12=96 hours)

Essay 1 – 31.2 hours, including research and writing.

Essay 2 – 31.2 hours, including research and writing.

Examination – 41.6 hours, including reading and revision, essay answer and short answer planning, and sitting the exam itself.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Essay One - 1500-2000 words	30%	1, 4, 5	18 April
2 Essay Two – 1500-2000 words	30%	1-6	16 May
3 Final Examination - 2 hours	40%	1,2,6	Between 10-29 June

Submission and return of work

All work submitted for assessment must be dropped off in HARD COPY at the School Office (MY518) in the slots provided with an essay cover sheet. You must ADD the name of your tutor and the course code. We reserve the right to ask for an electronic copy of any assessable work for checking in Turnitin.com (see www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)

Graded essays will be returned to you in tutorials in the first instance, and then returned to the School Office, MY 518, where they can be collected between the hours of 2.00-3.00 pm, Monday to Friday. We will notify students via Blackboard when graded essays are available (generally between 2-3 weeks after the date submitted).

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

An extension (with no penalty) will be considered on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances. In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of assignments – **a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days.** Work that is more than 10 weekdays late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but may not be marked. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary. Extensions on deadlines for written work will only be granted under exceptional circumstances.

Set texts

Jeffrey Haynes, Peter Hough, Shahin Malik and Lloyd Pettiford, *World Politics*, Pearson 2011.

Copies of this will be available at Vic Books before the course starts: www.vicbooks.co.nz.

Additional readings will be made available on Blackboard and/or E-Reserve.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the second lecture of the course.

Student feedback

Based on student feedback in 2015 we have shortened the length of the exam from 3 to 2 hours and placed more emphasis on developing essay writing skills.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz