

Victoria University of Wellington



MASTER OF STRATEGIC STUDIES PROGRAMME

STRA 504

STRATEGIC ISSUES IN FOREIGN POLICY

(Second Trimester Course – 15 points)

2005 COURSE OUTLINE

Co-ordinator:

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Other Contributors:

Visiting speakers to be announced

Administrator:

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Module Dates, Times and Locations

Module Four:	Wednesday 24 August 2005	8:30am - 6:00pm
Module Five:	Wednesday 12 October 2005	8:30am - 6:00pm
Module Six:	Wednesday 16 November 2005	8.30am - 6.00pm

Locations:

Pipitea Campus.

Rooms will be advised prior to each module.

Course Objectives

The brief course description for this paper stipulates: the theory and practice of strategic studies are used to examine how New Zealand and the states with which it interacts seek to maximize their advantages in an interdependent world. To this end, students will explore existing contrasting approaches to the study of foreign policy formulation and implementation. Students will confront the substantive questions about the nature of strategic choice informed through a study of contemporary New Zealand foreign relations. Six core themes addressed, and related to conceptualizations of New Zealand foreign policy investigate this from:

1. A small state perspective
2. In relation to contrasting forms of asymmetry
3. Through multilateral conduct
4. In response to globalization
5. As a focus for economic determinants
6. As a response to contested values of security

Readings

The key readings are:

- the STRA 504 Course Readings, which includes a full reading list
- Christopher Hill, *The Changing Politics of Foreign Policy* (Palgrave Macmillan 2003)
- Ralph Pettman (ed), *New Zealand in a Globalising World* (Victoria University Press, 2005)

Course Content

Session One: Course introduction and introduction to the study of foreign policy

- Setting study objectives and approaching written assignments
- The strategic setting of New Zealand Foreign Policy: some key determinants
- New Zealand as a small state facing the challenges of asymmetry
- New Zealand and its relations with Australia
- New Zealand and its relations with the Pacific Islands

Session Two: New Zealand in a globalizing world

- New Zealand and its international economic relations

Session Three: New Zealand and the conduct of its multilateral diplomacy

- New Zealand security and the contested values entailed

Mandatory Course Requirements

- Full attendance at each of the three class sessions
- Completion for assessment of all required written assignments for the course

Materials and Equipment

Students are urged to bring a floppy disk to each class for downloading those Powerpoint presentations that they wish to retain.

Communication of Additional Information

Daily course programme, full bibliography and assignment list are available from the Course Administrator from Monday 1 August 2005, as well as distribution on first day of class.

Assessment

Assessment is designed to ensure that you have met the standards of work required for this course and to provide the feedback that assists further study. You are assessed on the basis of individual work and where the essential criteria include written clarity and coherence; grasp of topic; originality; familiarity with essential sources; and the capacity to introduce, develop and conclude a paper effectively. For this course, you are required to write two briefing papers, and three assignments.

A briefing paper must not exceed 400 words and concentrates on conveying essential points, either in brief paragraph or bullet point format. Each briefing paper properly completed automatically gains 5% towards the final grade. Some assistance is provided with sources for briefing papers, but students are normally expected to locate the material that they need unaided. Students must ensure their briefing papers are submitted on or before the date stipulated.

1. **Briefing Paper One** due Wednesday 12 October 2005
2. **Briefing Paper Two** due Wednesday 16 November 2005

1. **Essay One** 1800 - 2000 words, due Wednesday 7 September 2005 (15%)
2. **Essay Two** 2800 - 3000 words, due Wednesday 12 October 2005 (25%)
3. **Essay Three** 4000 - 5000 words, due Wednesday 16 November 2005 (50%)

Please send / hand-in all assignments to:

Francine McGee,
School of Government,
Victoria University of Wellington,
Level 8 Reception,
Rutherford House,
23 Lambton Quay,
P.O. Box 600,
Wellington.

Students should keep a copy of all submitted work.

Penalties

The ability to plan for and meet deadlines is a core competency of both advanced study and public management. Failure to meet deadlines disrupts course planning and is unfair on students who do submit their work on time. It is expected therefore that you will complete and hand in assignments by the due date. Marks will be deducted at the rate of five for every working day by which the assignment is late (weekends and public holidays excluded) and no assignments will be accepted after five working days beyond the date they are due. For out of town students, two calendar days' grace is given to allow for time in the post.

If ill-health, family bereavement or other personal emergencies prevent you from meeting the deadline for submitting a piece of written work or from attending class to make a presentation, you can apply for and may be granted an extension to the due date. You should let your course co-ordinator know as soon as possible in advance of the deadline if you are seeking an extension.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student Administration Office

The Student Administration Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce & Administration and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA 005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office, will be open from 9:00am to 5:00pm during Trimester 2, offers the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- FCA Student Administration forms (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

Please note:

There will be a Student Administration Adviser, from the RWW office, based in EA 005 from Monday 27 June to Friday 1 July (9:00am to 5:00pm) and from Monday 4 July to Friday 22 July (11:00am to 1:00pm).

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

Student Conduct and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student

Administration Office or on the website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct. The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the Associate Dean (Students) of your Faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy which is published on the VUW website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, then please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, telephone 463-6070 or email disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant or the School Prospectus.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, please contact the relevant Course Co-ordinator, or Associate Dean who will either help you directly or put you in contact with someone who can.

The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/ or email student-services@vuw.ac.nz.

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building, telephone (04) 463 - 6983 or (04) 463 – 6984 or email education@vuwsa.org.nz.

Maori and Pacific Mentoring programme (Manaaki Pihipihinga)

This is a free programme of mentoring for Maori and Pacific students doing first year courses within the Faculty of Commerce and Administration. Weekly one hour mentoring sessions: drafting and editing assignments/discussing any questions that you might have from tutorials or lectures and going over every aspect of essay writing, either in small group sessions or on a one-to-one basis.

This includes:

- A computer suite hooked up to cyber commons for students to use to produce their assignments.
- Regular skill-based workshops with a learning adviser from Student Learning Support Services.
- Networking with other Maori and Pacific support groups throughout the university.

For more information please contact:

Melissa Dunlop, Programme Coordinator

Telephone (04) 463 - 6015 or email Maori-Pacific-Mentoring@vuw.ac.nz